

Tale of the Stonecutter

The tale is told of a stonecutter who once delivered a slab of stone to a merchant. Seeing all his wonderful goods, he said, "I wish I was a merchant and had such things." In the twinkling of an eye, his wish was granted.

Then one day, he saw a parade pass his store window. He saw a prince marching in splendor, and he said, "I wish I was a prince." And immediately he became a prince ... until the day the hot sun beat down upon him, and he said, "I wish I was the sun, greater than any man."

And he became the sun and was happy ... until a cloud came between him and the earth. He said, "That cloud overshadows me. I wish I was a cloud." Again, his wish was granted. He rained down on the earth to his heart's content until he came to a mountain, which wouldn't let him pass. He said, "That mountain is greater than I. I wish I was a mountain." Instantly, he became a mountain and he thought, "Now I am the greatest of all."

But one day, a little man climbed up the mountain and with a hammer and chisel began to tap away at it. The mountain, unable to stop him, said, "That little man is greater than I. I wish I was a man who cut stone."

Once again, his wish was granted and he became a stonecutter. He lived a long and useful life, and everyone marveled at how happy he was.

The story leads us to conclude: The grass may look greener on the other side, but it still has to be mowed.

--Beecher Hunter