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 HELPING THE FARMER AGAIN
 

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Tshe dbang rdo rje ཚེ་དབང་རྡོ་རྗེ། (Caixiangduojie 才项多杰)

The abbess started missing her life in the nunnery after a few months of living with the farmer. At the farmer's home, she had to do many family chores such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, fetching water, and so on. When she was an abbess all these things had been done for her.

So she decided to leave the farmer. Noticing her discontent, the farmer consulted Uncle Ston pa, who taught him three things to say. He suggested that he say the first when she was going to leave the room, the second when his friends asked for the reason, and the third when she was about to leave with their daughter.

One early morning while the farmer and his daughter were playing with some toys in bed, his wife said, "My dear husband, I'm going back to my nunnery now. Please forgive me! I really don't enjoy life here."

The farmer was shocked and didn't know what to say for a bit. Then he remembered Uncle Ston pa's suggestions and said, "Please don't feel sorry, dear. I totally understand you. Let's have a farewell party with my friends."

Happy to hear that her husband was willing to let her go, she agreed and started cooking a big meal. The farmer got up and went to fetch water. On the way, he invited his friends to the party. Soon the food was ready, his friends arrived, and the party began. During the party, one friend asked, "Friend, thanks a lot for the meal. May I ask what the occasion is?"

The farmer then repeated the second sentence taught by Uncle Ston pa, "This is for my dear wife. She gave me a lovely daughter. Today, she is going to leave this home forever!"

All the friends were shocked and asked, "Why?"

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The farmer looked at his wife and they all gazed at her for answer.

She said nervously and sorrowfully, "I... I just miss my old life!"

"Miss your old life? Haha!" the friends laughed. "Won't you miss your lovely daughter if you leave?"

"I'll take her with me!" the wife declared.

All the friends gazed at the farmer expecting him to say that he would miss her. Instead he repeated the final phrase taught by Uncle Ston pa, "Turnips belong to the farmer, not the field after the harvest. Children are the father's, not the mother's after their birth! This is the nature of the world. If anyone violates it, they will go to the darkest part of Hell!"

His wife felt cold fear running through her body and said in a broken voice, "I'm... I'm just joking. I'm not leaving!" From that day on, she never again thought of leaving the farmer. She lived with the farmer and their lovely daughter for the rest of her life.

#### NON-ENGLISH TERMS

ston pa ལྷོན་པ།

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