

"THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE"

Adapted for Audio Drama by

Barrett Kaufman, Zachary Kaufman, and Andy Kaufman

Based on the story retold by Clifton Johnson in
The Book of Virtues

Zurich Radio Theater
www.i-leadonline.com/ZurichRadioTheater

FINAL DRAFT
August 2, 2008

"THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE"

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

HOST	Barrett Kaufman
NARRATOR	Barrett Kaufman
FISHERMAN	Zachary Kaufman
FISH	Nick Stuart
WIFE	Michaela Kapraun

SCENE: OPENING OF DRAMA

Opening music plays

HOST

Hello, I'm Barrett Kaufman, your host for Zurich Radio Theater. The audio drama you are about to hear is entitled, "The Fisherman and His Wife." Originally a German fairy tale collected by Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm, also known as the Brothers Grimm, this presentation has been adapted from the version retold by Clifton Johnson in The Book of Virtues. Join us now as Zurich Radio Theater proudly presents, "The Fisherman and His Wife."

SCENE: NARRATED OPENING

The sound of a gentle sea in the background

NARRATOR

There once was a fisherman who lived with his wife in a poor little hut close by the sea.

One day, as the fisherman sat on the rocks at the water's edge fishing with his rod and line, a fish got caught on his hook.

FISHERMAN

Whoa! This is a big one! This
may be the biggest fish I have
ever caught! Come on now...
Steady... Steady...

The sound of the fisherman grunting and pulling and reeling,
trying to bring the fish in. Include the sound of the fish
flopping when caught.

FISHERMAN

Wow! That is a beauty! I have
never seen anything like it!

FISH

(Pray) Please let me live.

FISHERMAN

What? It talks?

FISH

I am not a real fish. I am a
magician. Put me in the water
and let me go.

FISHERMAN

Hmmm. Well, you need not make so
many words about the matter. I
wish to have nothing to do with
a fish that can talk!

(Sounds of the fisherman taking the fish off the line and
throwing him back into the sea.)

FISHERMAN

There you go. Now swim away as
soon as you please.

NARRATOR

The fish darted straight down to
the bottom of the sea.

SCENE: AT THE HUT

Include the sound of the fisherman walking and opening the door to his hut.

NARRATOR

The fisherman returned to his little hut, where his wife greeted him.

WIFE

Welcome back husband. How was your day fishing?

FISHERMAN

You are never going to believe this, wife. I caught a great fish. But it wasn't a fish at all. It was a magician that spoke to me. When I heard it, I let it go.

WIFE

Did you not ask it for anything?

FISHERMAN

No. What should I ask it for?

WIFE

What should you ask for! You talk as if we had everything we want, but see how wretchedly we live in this dark little hut! Do go back and tell the fish we want a comfortable house.

SCENE: RETURN TO THE SEA

Include the sound of walking and as he gets closer, the sound of the sea.

NARRATOR

The fisherman did not like to undertake such an errand. However, as his wife had bidden him to go, so he went.

When he came to the sea the water looked all yellow and green. He stood on the rocks where he had fished.

FISHERMAN

Oh, man of the sea! Come listen to me; For Alice my wife, the plague of my life, hath sent me to beg a gift of thee!

Sound of the fish coming up from the water... Maybe some light wind as well.

FISH

Well, what does she want?

FISHERMAN

Ah, my wife says that when I had caught you I ought to have asked you for something before I let you go. She does not like living any longer in our little hut. She wants a comfortable house.

FISH

Go home then. She is in the house she wants already.

SCENE: TO THE COMFORTABLE HOUSE

Include the sound of walking, and as he gets closer, the sound of birds, ducks, and chickens.

NARRATOR

So the man went home and found his wife standing in the doorway of a comfortable house, and behind the house was a yard with ducks and chickens picking about in it, and beyond the yard was a garden where grew all sorts of flowers and fruits.

FISHERMAN

How happily we shall live now!

SCENE: THE NOT SO COMFORTABLE HOUSE

Maybe some transition music, from happy to a bit suspenseful. Include the sound of walking, and as he gets closer, the sound of birds, ducks, and chickens.

NARRATOR

Everything went right for a week or two...

WIFE

Husband, there is not enough room in this house, and the yard and garden are a great deal smaller than they ought to be.

I would like to have a large stone castle to live in. So go to the fish again and tell him to give us a castle.

FISHERMAN

Wife! I don't like to go to him again, for perhaps he will be angry. We ought to be content with a good house like this.

WIFE

Nonsense! He will give us a castle very willingly. Go along and try.

SCENE: BACK TO THE SEA FOR A CASTLE

Maybe some transition music, not so happy a bit suspenseful.

NARRATOR

The fisherman went, but his heart was heavy. When he came to the sea the water was a dark gray color and looked very gloomy.

He stood on the rocks at the water's edge.

FISHERMAN

Oh, man of the sea! Come listen to me; For Alice my wife, the plague of my life, hath sent me to beg a gift of thee!

Sound of the fish coming up from the water... The seas and wind should be heavier than last time.

FISH

Well, what does she want now?

FISHERMAN

(Sorrowfully) Ah, my wife wants to live in a stone castle.

FISH

Go home then. She is at the castle already.

SCENE: TO THE STONE CASTLE

Include the sound of walking, and as he gets closer, the sound of servants and any other sounds that are castle-like.

NARRATOR

So away went the fisherman. Presently he found his wife standing before a great castle.

WIFE

See! Is not this fine?

NARRATOR

They went into the castle, and many servants were there, and the rooms were richly furnished with handsome chairs and tables. Behind the castle was a park half a mile long, full of sheep and goats and rabbits and deer.

FISHERMAN

Now we will live contented and happy in this beautiful castle for the rest of our lives.

WIFE

Perhaps so. But let us consider and sleep on it before we make up our minds.

NARRATOR

And they went to bed.

SCENE: THE CASTLE IS NOT ENOUGH

Include the sound of the fisherman waking up, perhaps some morning birds singing.

NARRATOR

The next morning when they awoke it was broad daylight. The wife jogged the fisherman with her elbow.

WIFE

Get up, husband; for we must be king and queen of all the land.

FISHERMAN

Wife, wife. Why should we wish to be king and queen? I would not be king even if I could be.

WIFE

Well, I will be queen, anyway. Say no more about it! Go to the fish and tell him what I want.

SCENE: BACK TO THE SEA TO BE ROYALTY

Maybe some transition music, not very happy at all.

NARRATOR

So the man went, but he felt very sad to think that his wife should want to be queen. The sea was muddy and streaked with foam.

FISHERMAN

(Crying out) Oh, man of the sea! Come listen to me; For Alice my wife, the plague of my life, hath sent me to beg a gift of thee!

Sound of the fish coming up from the water... The seas and wind should be heavier than last time.

FISH

Well, what would she have now?

FISHERMAN

Alas! My wife wants to be queen.

FISH

Go home. She is queen already.

SCENE: TO THE PALACE

Include the sound of walking, and as he gets closer, the sounds of royalty... perhaps some drums and trumpets.

NARRATOR

So the fisherman turned back and presently he came to a palace. Before it he saw a troop of soldiers, and he heard the sound of drums and trumpets.

Then he entered the palace and there he found his wife sitting on a throne, with a golden crown on her head, and on each side of her stood six beautiful maidens.

FISHERMAN

Well, wife, are you queen?

WIFE

Yes. I am queen.

NARRATOR

He looked at her for a long time.

FISHERMAN

Ah, wife, what a fine thing it is to be queen! Now we shall never have anything more to wish for.

WIFE

I don't know how that may be. Never is a long time. I am queen, 'tis true, but I begin to be tired of it. I think I would like to be pope next.

FISHERMAN

Oh, wife, wife! How can you be pope? There is but one pope at a time in all Christendom.

WIFE

Husband! I will be pope this very day!

FISHERMAN

Ah, wife! The fish cannot make you pope and I would not like to ask for such a thing.

WIFE

What nonsense! If he can make a queen, he can make a pope. Go and try!

SCENE: BACK TO THE SEA TO BE POPE

Maybe some transition music, not very happy at all.

NARRATOR

So the man went, and when he came to the shore the wind was raging and the waves were dashing on the rocks most fearfully, and the sky was dark

with flying clouds. The fisherman was frightened, but nevertheless he obeyed his wife.

FISHERMAN

(Calling out) Oh, man of the sea! Come listen to me; For Alice my wife, the plague of my life, hath sent me to beg a gift of thee!

Sound of the fish coming up from the water... The seas and wind should be even heavier than last time.

FISH

Well, what does she want this time?

FISHERMAN

Ah, my wife wants to be pope.

FISH

Go home. She is pope already.

SCENE: TO SEE THE POPE

Include the sound of walking, and as he gets closer, the sounds of perhaps hymn music or boys' choir music.

NARRATOR

So the fisherman went home and found his wife sitting on a throne that was a hundred feet high, and on either side many candles of all sizes were burning, and she had three great crowns on her head one above the other and was surrounded by all the pomp and power of the church.

FISHERMAN

Wife (gazing at all the magnificence), are you pope?

WIFE

Yes. I am pope.

FISHERMAN

Well, wife. It is a grand thing to be pope. And now you must be content, for you can be nothing greater.

WIFE

We will see about that.

NARRATOR

Then they went to bed.

SCENE: BEING POPE IS NOT ENOUGH

Perhaps the sound of tossing and turning in bed.

NARRATOR

But the wife could not sleep because all night long she was trying to think what she should be next. At last morning came and the sun rose.

WIFE

Ha! I was about to sleep, had not the sun disturbed me with its bright light. Cannot I prevent the sun rising?

(Becoming angry). Go to the fish and tell him I want to be lord of the sun and moon.

FISHERMAN

Alas, wife. Can you not be content to be pope?

WIFE

No. I am very uneasy, and cannot bear to see the sun and moon rise without my leave. Go to the fish at once!

SCENE: BACK TO THE SEA TO BE LORD

Maybe some transition music, not very happy at all.

NARRATOR

The man went, and as he approached the shore a dreadful storm arose so that the trees and rocks shook, and the sky grew black, and the lightning flashed, and the thunder rolled, and the sea was covered with vast waves like mountains. The fisherman trembled so that his knees knocked together, and he had hardly strength to stand in the gale.

FISHERMAN

(Calling out) Oh, man of the sea! Come listen to me; For Alice my wife, the plague of my life, hath sent me to beg a gift of thee!

Sound of the fish coming up from the water...

FISH

What more does she want?

FISHERMAN

Ah, she wants to be lord of the sun and moon.

FISH

Go home to your hut again.

NARRATOR

So the man returned, and the palace was gone, and its place he found the dark little hut that had formerly been his dwelling, and he and his wife have lived in that hut to this very day.

Ending music plays into next scene

SCENE: ENDING

HOST

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 12, verse 15, Jesus warns us: "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

It can be very easy to fall into the trap of wanting what we don't have.

How can we avoid the dangers of greed? The Apostle Paul shared his secret in the book of Philippians, chapter 4, in verses 12 and 13.

He says, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

The secret is not in *what* we have. It's *who* we are focused on. That's a message worth thinking about as we wrap up this episode.

The "Fisherman and His Wife" was directed and dramatized by Zachary Kaufman.

Our producer and sound designer was Barrett Kaufman.

The music was composed by Digital Juice.

Our Cast included Zachary Kaufman as the Fisherman, Nicholas Stuart as the Fish, and Michaela Kapraun as the Fisherman's Wife.

The Fisherman and His Wife is a production of Zurich Radio Theater. And my name is Barrett Kaufman thank you for listening.

Ending Music