The Golden Goose.

Mother Third daughter

Father Parson

First son Clerk

Second son Workers

Dummling King

Dwarf Queen

Landlord Princess

Landlady Doctors

Guests Servant (s)

First daughter Clowns

Second daughter Acrobats

*A room.A father is reading a paper.His face is hidden. Two sons are asleep leaning against each other.In the back is Dummling , the third son. A mother enters the room carrying an empty basket.*

Mother:

Look , all the wood for the oven is gone.

Take your axe and bring some wood home.

*The father puts down the paper, sighs, makes a long nose at his wife, stands up and goes to seek the axe. He leaves the stage and we hear a lot of noise. He returns with the axe , sees his ( first ) son, gives him the axe ,adresses him and sits down. He takes up the paper again and his face can not be seen anymore.*

Father: All our wood for the oven is gone,

Take your axe and bring some wood home.

*Father sits down again. Son looks at the axe in amazement. Mother returns with a bag.*

Mother: *( to father)*

Here you have a bottle of wine

And also a pasty, tasty and fine.

*Father lowers his paper, makes a long nose at the mother, stands up sighing and goes to the son with the axe , who still staring at it. When the father has spoken, he sits down again.*

Father: (*to first son*):

Here you have a bottle of wine

And also a pasty, tasty and fine.

First son: ( *sighs and speaks very slowly*)

I am ready to go

I will be back in an hour or so.

*Everybody leaves the stage. The stage becomes a wood. A tree can be seen. The dwarf pushes the tree on the stage and hides behind it. Birds begin to sing. When the First son enters, he looks annoyed. He doesn’t like the sound of the birds at all. A voice is heard:*

Quiet please!

*The “birds ` stop singing immediately. Except for one. The first son looks “at the trees”*

*Stops at the tree with the dwarf, raises the axe and suddenly halts in the movement.*

First son*:*

I am hungry.

*He lowers his axe and looks for a place to sit down to eat. A rock enters the stage by itself.*

*The son has difficulty to sit down because the rock moves to and fro. When he tries to sit down for the third time ,he does so heavily. The rock shouts:* Ouch! *He opens his bag and begins to eat. The dwarf is vissible in the background and approaches.*

Dwarf:

Give me a piece of meat

Since long I have had nothing to eat.

And only a little wine will do.

Then, I will be most thankful to you.

First son:

Give you wine to drink and meat to eat?

I am hungry myself and thirsty as well.

Why should I feed an ungly gnome?

Go away and leave me alone.

*He continues to eat as if the dwarf was’nt there. The dwarf tries to steal from the bag. The son bites in the hand of the dwarf. They both shout. Then the dwarf makes a “ magic sign” and hides again behind the tree. The First son finishes eating and goes to the tree. Shortly after he starts to cut the dwarf is seen for a moment. After this the son hits his leg and leaves the stage making a lot of noise. The noise dies downs and the tree is moved from the stage by the dwarf. When this is done, the room returns with the players and the sound of the screaming son becomes louder .When the mother hears the screaming, she runs to help the son who stumbles on stage. The mother looks for a place to sit the son and pushes the father aside. She uses his tie to bind the wound.*

Mother: *( to son)*

I will have your wound dressed.

Sit down boy, you will have to rest.

Mother : ( to father)

Now you go into the wood.

Cut with your axe, quickly and good.

*Father puts down the paper, makes a long nose at the mother, sighs, stands up and goes to the second son.*

Father : ( to second son)

Now you go into the wood.

Cut with your axe, quickly and good.

*Second son looks very annoyed. Mother returns with a bag.*

Mother: ( to father)

I have wine for you.

And a pasty too.

*Father goes to the second son and repeats these words. After having done so he returns to his chair and sits down again. When the second son has left the stage, everyone leaves and the stage is changed into the wood. The son is not pleased, birds sing untill a voice is heard: quiet please. Birdsounds stop immediately except for one. The second son reases his axe and suddenly stops and says: I am hungry.He looks for a place to sit the scene with the rock is repeated and he begins to eat. The dwarf appears.*

Dwarf:

Good day young man fine.

Could you spare some of your wine?

And something to still my hunger.

I can’t stand it no longer.

Second son:

All I have is all I keep.

Go elsewhere for food to seek.

*The second son continues to eat and the dwarf hides behind the tree. When he begins to cut, the dwarf shows up and makes a “magic” sign. The second son hits his leg and leaves the stage screaming and stumbling. The sound of the screaming becomes less and less. The wood changes into the room again.*

*When the room is ready the screaming becomes louder. The mother reacts at the sound and runs to help the son.*

Mother:

Sit down poor boy of mine.

To ease the pain I will give you wine.

Mother helps the second son uses the same handkerchief. She pushes the second son away.

When this is finished, Dummling jumps up.

Dummling:

Now it´s my turn to go

I will be back in an hour or so.

Father:

If you go to the wood.

We will loose you for good.

Dummling:

I will be back as quick as I can.

And I will show you how skilful I am.

Mother:

Here is some bread and a bottle of beer.

Now go to the wood and bring it here.

*Father shrugs his shoulders.*

*Change of scene. Dummling enters the wood. Birds whistle. Dummling smiles and whistles too. There is question and answer. He finds the tree, puts down the axe and wants to eat something. The “rock” enters the stage and Dummling sits downs and opens the bag. He smells…*

Dummling:

Sour beer I brought from home

And a crust of bread, as hard as a stone. *( he tries to bite)*

*Dwarf approaches from behind the tree.*

Dwarf:

Give me some bread to eat.

And a little beer to drink.

I haven’t eaten for days.

And searched for food in many ways.

Dummling:

I only have a crust of dry bread and sour beer.

If that will suit you, sit down here.

*They eat. Dummling is surprised by the taste of the beer and the bread.*

Dummling:

This sour beer tastes like the sweetest wine.

And I have never had a crust of bread so fine.

Dwarf:

As you were willing to spare.

I too have something to share.

Go to the old tree there for the wood

Cut it down quickly and look

Between the roots.

*The dwarf disappears and Dummling begins to cut. He suddenly stops and looks surprised.*

*He kneels down and begins to dig with his hands.*

Dummling:

I see something glitter and shine.

It looks like gold, would that be mine?

*He finds the golden goose and lifts it up.*

Dummling:

A golden goose is what I see.

A treasure true is now for me.

*Dummling leaves the stage. The scenery changes into an inn. There are guests who quietly talk.*

*When Dummling enters the inn, he hides the goose under his cloack, but the goose is still visible.*

Dummling:

A good place for the night

Will be paid with gold.

*The talking of the guests immediatly stops at the word “gold”. The all repeat the word and come to have a closer look. Dummling shows a golden feather.*

Dummling:

And for all present here.

I want wine red and old.

*The guests react with enthousiasm. Wine is served and the guests bring a toast out to Dummling.*

*The tree daughters begin to stare at Dummling.*

Guests:

To your health young man.

Daughters:

To your health young man.

Dummling:

To your health.

And drink as much as you can.

*The guests nod eagerly.*

Dummling:

I am ready for bed.

I drank more wine than I ever had.

Good night!

Guests:

Good night young man.

Daughters:

Good night young man.

*Dummling looks surprised at the daughters.*

Dummling: *( when he has left the stage, drowsily)*

Good night.

*The guests begin to leave the inn, the landlord studies the golden feather. The tree daughters stand side by side and seem to be paralysed. They stare with a heavenly smile on their faces.*

Landlord:

He must be from afar.

I have never had a guest who laid gold on my bar.

*He leaves. When the stage is empty, the daughters come to live.*

Daughters:

He looked at me.

*They begin to qaurel, repeat the words, changing the emphasis “me”, and leave the stage fighting.*

*The stage changes into a bedroom. Dummling goes to bed, holding the goose in his hands. He begins to snore. When it has been silent for some time, the First daughter becomes visible. She walks on tiptoe. She approaches the bed. When she touches the golden goose, she cannot let go anymore.*

*She looks bewildered. At this moment the second daughter appears.*

Second daughter:

What are you doing here?

First daughter:

I only wanted to look.

Second daughter:

Only wanted to look!

That’s the best story I have ever been told.

Look at the goose that you hold!

*She takes her sister by the arm and tries to pull het away. She cannot let go anymore. This goes on for some time. The third daughter enters. When they see her, the want to warn her.*

Two daughters:

Keep away, keep away!

Third daughter:

Keep away, keep away!

If there is gold for the two of you.

There will be gold for me too!

*She tries to pull her sisters away and cannot let go anymore. This goes on for some time. We hear a cock crow and dummling awakes. When he sees the sisters, he looks surprised, rises and finds out that the three sisters have to follow him. They leave the stage. The stage is empty.*

*Mother enters the stage. She begins to sweep the floor. Dummling enters with the three sisiters.*

Mother:

Where do you think you are taking my daughters three?

Dummling:

I am not taking them anywhere.

They just seem to follow me!

*Mother tries to pull her daughters away and cannot let go anymore. They begin to scream :*

*Let go, let go, and leave the stage. The sound of the shouting dies down. A parson appears reading a small bible. When he hears the sound of the shouting ( which becomes stronger) he looks up and sees the mother and her three daughters following Dummling.*

Parson:

Good Lord in Heaven!

I see four women follow one man across the fields.

Stop, you sinners four in heaven’s name!

And repent on end in deepest shame.

*He begins to pull and cannot let go anymore. They all shout. At this sound the clerk appears.*

Clerk:

O dear, the day of dome is here!

The parson has run into a wicked women’s web.

Stop- all of you.

Don’t move another step!

*Clerk begins to pull etc.*

*Workmen enter the stage.*

Parson:

If you want your souls to be saved.

Then use the strenght the good Lord gave.

*They begin to pull, cannot let go anymore and begin to shout. Everyone shouts and pulls. They make a round on the stage and leave. The sound of the shouting dies down.*

*The stage is empty. After a while king and queen enter, followed by the princess, who looks very bored. A servant is standing in the background.*

King:

Never once my daughter did laugh or even smile.

Is this an illnesss that will end or last a longer while?

Queen:

We will have the doctor’s examine her.

King:

Call for the doctors and make them come fast.

So that this illness not one more day may last.

*Servant bows and goes away. The king pases up and down. The servant returns with the doctors.*

King:

Never a laugh on her face has been seen.

Examine her thoroughily and prove that you are keen.

*The doctors begin to examine the princess and look in a book, saying* : Yes, yes. Aha*. Etc. This changes* *into* : “ o no, o no, not at all. *They study the book and begin to sway their heads*. *The king pases up and down and becomes visibly impatient and annoyed. The doctors stop and begin to speak.*

Doctors:

We looked in our book from A to Z.

And all my colleages here ( they nod), agree with me ( they nod).

That no cure for this illness can be found ( they nod).

As sure as your majesty’s castle is standing on solid ground.

King:

Away with you , you bunch of pillmongers!

You chatter and tattle, infants alike.

When I am well, you talk me into a disease.

And when I need you, you always fail to please.

*The doctors leave. They look indignant. The king is still furious.*

King:

Send for clowns at any price.

They will set to fire, what is as cold as ice.

*He looks at the princess. The servant leaves*

*Clowns enter and perform tricks. From time to time they look at the princess’ face.*

*She doesn’t show anything. The king and the queen laugh. The king sighs and makes a hopeless gesture.*

Princess:

We are not amused.

*Acrobats preform tricks. Everyone shouts in amasement. They look at the princess.*

Princess:

Boring!

*Princess beckons the clowns and acrobats to leaves.*

Clown:

Good Lord! To make her laugh.

Is like frying an egg on a frozen lake.

*The king bursts out.*

King

And NOW my patience has come to an end.

I will have messengers to all parts of my kingdome send.

They will read out these lines *(shows proclamation).*

That the one who succeeds in making the princess laugh.

Will have this daughter of mine.

*Messengers step forward and begin to read as if in a Marketplace.*

Messengers:

We, William the Second, hereby proclaim

That the person who succeeds in making the princess laugh

Will win her hand.

And, when we have passed away

Will reign over this land.

*This could be repeated at a different place in the audience.*

*At this moment the train with Dummling and his “followers” is heard, shouting and pulling.*

*The princess begins to laugh.*

King:

A miracle has come true.

Young man, my daughter is for you.

*Everybody shouts and yells.* Huray, huray.

*Suddenly the princess looks annoyed again. Everybody looks alarmed and becomes silent.*

*Someone says:*

Is she ill again*?*

*It is absolutely silent. The king looks beaten. The princess looks at the train with Dummling.*

Princess:

Do I have to marry all of them?

*The train begins to shout. Some shout : o, yes, o, yes, eagerly.*

*The parson shouts:* For Heaven’s sake no.

*The dwarf enters the stage and goes to Dummling and his train.*

Dwarf:

Please forgive me my impudience

Of being here. I have to settle a little matter.

*He makes a magic sign and everyone is free. Some say:” It’s a pity” or” free at last”.*

*Some say:* Thank God. *The king puts the hand of the princess in the hand*

*Of Dummling. Everyone is touched ( tears).*

Messengers:

Long live the king. ( Long live the king)

Long live the Queen. (Long live the Queen)

Long live the princess. (Long live the princess)

Long live ( after a moment of hesitation): the golden Goose.

Long live the Golden Goose!

Dwarf ( *who steps forward to the front of the stage)*

And now our little play

Has come to an end.

We certainly hope.

It has been to your content.

*( He makes a bow and all players follow him)*

*Curtain.*

*J.Verhulst.*

*Badant*

*July 2011.*