



## **The Brave Little Tailor**

Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys, I'm about to tell you the story of the bravest little tailor in the world; he was the only tailor in the world who could kill...seven at a stroke!!!

Once upon a time, there was a tailor who was working in his shop when, suddenly, his stomach started growling.

"I'm hungry," said he.

And he cut himself a slice of bread and spread some jam over it.

"But before I take a bite, I will finish this jacket," he thought.

So he left the bread on a plate and went on sewing.

In no time at all his whole workshop filled up with flies that were attracted by the smell of the sweet jam.

"Shoo, out of here, you pesky flies!" he cried out in anger as he frightened them away. But the flies kept coming back.

When he lost all his patience, he acted. He took a piece of cloth and struck such a strong blow that he killed seven flies in one stroke.

"You are a very brave tailor," he thought in satisfaction. And then he cut himself a belt, sewed it and embroidered on it in large letters, "Seven at one stroke!"

Since he was a braggart, he told everyone about his deed. He put on the belt and went forth into the world.

After crossing rivers and mountains, the little tailor came upon the gardens of a palace. He was so weary, that he fell fast asleep. Curious passersby approached him to read what was written on his belt.

"Hey," they said, "who is this great warrior capable of killing seven at a stroke?"

Eager to find the answer to this question, they went and told the king about him.

The king was very impressed.

"Hmmm! Seven at one stroke, you say? If that man is so brave, he would be useful in my service. Bring him to me," he ordered.

Some of his pages, escorted the little tailor to the king's throne.

"Your Majesty," he said making a deep bow, "I am here to serve you."

A few days later, the king sent for the little tailor and made him a proposal. Two evil giants lived in a forest in the kingdom. If the tailor killed both of them, the king would give him his only

daughter as a wife and half of his kingdom. One hundred horsemen would go with him to assist him.

The tailor saw this as a great opportunity.

He set forth and when he came to the edge of the forest, he said to the horsemen,

"Wait for me here. I'll kill the giants and be right back."

The little tailor went into the forest and soon found the giants sound asleep under a tree. Wasting no time, he filled his pockets with stones and climbed up to the top of the tree. From there he started throwing stones at the head of one of the giants until he woke up in a terrible mood and began shouting at the other,

"Why are you throwing stones at me?"

"You must be dreaming," answered the other, "I haven't done a thing to you."

Then the tailor got a very big stone and threw it with all his might at the head of the other giant.

"Ouch!" howled the giant while rubbing his head. "Now you'll see!"

And all of a sudden they started hitting each other with such force that they both fell down dead.

"I've finished off the giants," he said to the king and he demanded his promised reward.

But the king refused. He regretted having made the promise and sought an excuse to get out of it.

"Before you marry my daughter, you must perform one more heroic deed," ordered the king. "You must catch the unicorn that is doing much harm to my forest."

"A unicorn? That doesn't scare me at all," said the tailor. "Remember, your Majesty, that I killed seven in one blow."

The tailor went forth into the forest. After a short time, the unicorn appeared and came running towards him.

The tailor did not lose his calm. He waited until the beast was very close to him and then jumped quickly behind the tree. The unicorn barged towards the tree with all its strength and struck its horn so deeply into the trunk that it was trapped there.

"Deed done," said the tailor clapping his hands when he was in front of the king.

"Now I can marry the princess."

But the king refused and made a third demand.

"You must catch a huge wild boar that is bringing the farmers in my kingdom to ruin. Then you can marry the princess."

The tailor went into the forest. When the wild boar saw him, it ran after him, foaming at the mouth, but the tailor ran into a chapel. The huge wild boar ran in after him. Then the little tailor leaped out through a small window, ran to the chapel door and locked the fierce animal inside.

When the news reached the palace, the king had no choice but to keep his promise. So, ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys, this was how a little tailor who killed seven flies became a hero. He was a braggart, but he proved that to become a king it is more important to be smart than strong. The brave little tailor was a good king who reigned for many, many years. And in all those years, he never took off the belt on which he had embroidered, "Seven at one stroke!"

*Script: J.M Hernandez Ripoll*

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