

Wife

It was never more than a poor hut and I detest it.

Fisherman

Oh, *why are* you so discontented? True, we are poor but we're seldom hungry.

Wife

Fish! All we eat it fish - when you catch it. And that's not every day.

Fisherman

Well, perhaps this will be a lucky day, my dear. Fetch me my net and I will do my best.

Wife

(going into the cottage)

Catch a big one we can, *sell*. And don't come home without the money!

Fisherman

If only she would be content...

(She comes out with the net, throws it at him and goes back into the house.)

*He goes out. The house is taken down.
The fisherman re-enters and walks up
and down as the narrator speaks)*

Narrator

The fisherman walked along the shore looking for a good spot to drop his net. He thought to himself: "If I can make a good catch today my wife will be happy." Suddenly he saw something!

(He looks down and starts to lower the net)

The Fisherman and His Wife
A Puppet Play

Fisherman

What is that? A spot of color under the water! If it's a fish it's a most unusual one! I'll drop the net here and see if... OH! I've got it!

(The net is tugged from beneath and the fisherman pulls hard and excitedly)

Fisherman

What a tussle it's giving me! Oh, this will be a fine catch! I mustn't lose it! Now it's coming up...There!

(He lands the fish tangled in the net)

Fish

(shrill voice)

Fisherman, let me go!

Fisherman

(looking around)

Who spoke?

Fish

I! The fish!

(The fisherman whirls and stares down at the fish)

Fisherman

A talking fish?

Fish

Let me go! Let me go!

Fisherman

Let you go? Never! Why, you're the luckiest catch I've ever had! A talking fish can be sold for a high price and my wife will be --

The Fisherman and His Wife
A Puppet Play

Fish

Your wife is a discontented woman who hates being poor!

Fisherman

(astounded)

How do you know this?

Fish

I know because I am a magic fish! If you will let me go I'll grant you any wish you name. I will grant you *three* wishes!

(fisherman ponders)

Narrator

The fisherman thought he must be dreaming ...but then he remembered his poor cottage and how his wife hated it. He decided to take the chance.

Fisherman

Very well, here is my first wish: when I return home, instead of finding my poor cottage, I want to find a castle.

Fish

A castle? It shall be done! Now let me go - that was the bargain-

Fisherman takes off the net and the fish dives down.

Fisherman

(in a sudden panic)

No, no - wait - came back! I've changed my mind! Come back!

(looks down at the net)

An empty net! Did I dream the whole thing?