

THE PRINCE, THE PEASANT AND THE TWELVE GRAINS OF CORN

HISTORY HAPPENS IN THE YELLOW KINGDOM
WHERE WEALTH WAS NOT GOLD, SILVER OR
PRECIOUS STONES.

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Children's story that integrates with the natural fantasy and creativity of children and young people, entertaining, educating and adding to the development of character, moral values, citizenship, ecological awareness, family values, culture, knowledge, spirituality, respect for educators, encouragement to study, order and discipline. Book for children and young people who enjoy intelligent, sensitive, cultural, educational readings and themes of social reality. Book with largest literary content, a better reading exercise.

Synopsis:

The book tells the story of the Yellow Kingdom, a kingdom where wealth was not gold, silver and precious stones. The wealth was in the production of corn produced with abundance and quality. The kingdom was governed by King Edward and Queen Silvia. The kingdom was very prosperous, and everyone lived a good welfare. King Edward was very human and fair and had the loyalty and dedication of all his subjects. The royal couple had two children - Princess Lidia, loved by her subjects for her social work, and Prince Claudius, arrogant, insensitive, and hated by his subjects, who just had fun and had no useful or productive activity. With the death of the royal couple, Prince Claudius becomes the new king. And the Yellow Kingdom underwent terrible transformations under his reign, and the subjects knew what poverty and suffering were. The new king no longer encouraged the production of the kingdom's greatest wealth, maize, and spent the accumulated wealth in the silos. When the stocked corn ran out, he found himself in poverty. Finally, the new king was forced to sell the castle to a hard-working, persevering peasant, who made a fortune by planting the twelve grains of corn received as alms from the once arrogant prince. This peasant bought the castle, married Princess Lydia, who was proclaimed the new Queen of the Yellow Kingdom. And peace and prosperity returned to the kingdom. As for the now subject Claudius, the story holds a surprise at the end.

Dedication

I dedicate this work to all those who reserve part of their lives to educate children in some way, as a mission and a belief that in them is the hope of a better world.

In special to parents, teachers and grandparents, the basic triangle of early childhood education.

I thank God for the child that He still allows to exist in me.

João José da Costa

Once upon a time there was a kingdom called Yellow Kingdom.

There was no richness in gold, silver, or precious stones, as could be found in other neighboring kingdoms.

The name of Yellow Kingdom came from another wealth - corn.

In no other kingdom the corn would grow in abundance, quality and quantity as it was planted in the Yellow Kingdom.

And because of the yellow color of the corn, the kingdom received this name.

But there was another great reason for the richness of the Yellow Kingdom - the dedication to work and the faithfulness of all the subject peasants of the kingdom.

The peasants tended the vast cornfields with great care and motivation. They were happy, and so the kingdom prospered.

And this was due to the great spirit of humanity and respect for the neighbor that King Edward and Queen Silvia had for their subjects.

They recognized the hard work of the peasants and sought to repay this dedication by giving them a fair payment for maize production.

And there was yet another reason for this wealth - Nature. It was very generous. The lands were fertile. The sun shone in the Yellow Kingdom every day and refreshing rains watered the crops in the afternoon. Thus, planting and harvesting maize could generally be done twice a year.

The peasants sold all the produce to King Edward. King Edward, in turn, sold corn to neighboring kingdoms.

With the money from the sale of corn, King Edward bought everything that the Yellow Kingdom did not produce in its own kingdom.

So, everyone who lived in the castle and all the subject peasants could find in the shops and workshops of artisans in the kingdom everything they needed to live well.

The production was so great that King Edward kept in the Castle many silos to store the corn grains, which were protected from rain, winds and animals.

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At each harvest, King Edward kept in a special shed the best corn kernels to be used as seeds.

When the time came for planting, corn seeds were distributed free to all peasants.

Several times a week King Edward liked to climb the highest part of the silos and admire the richness of the kingdom:

“Queen Silvia, look at the wealth we have stored here in the castle!”. King Edward said looking down from a silo at the great abundance of the stockpiled corn.

“It is true! And they look and are worth like grains of gold!”. Queen Silvia replied.

And this cycle was repeated every year. And with each cycle, the Yellow Kingdom celebrated the harvest and a new planting with a big party.

King Edward and Queen Silvia had two sons - Prince Claudius and Princess Lydia.

Princess Lydia devoted much of her time to the social works of the Yellow Kingdom.

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She accompanied the construction of schools and hospitals, visited the peasants and their families, assisted the nursing homes and orphanages.

Princess Lydia was much loved by the subject peasants of the kingdom.

But the same was not true of Prince Claudius.

Contrary to his sister's example, Prince Claudius sought to devote his time only to fun, horseback riding, and hunting down the poor wild animals of the kingdom.

And Prince Claudius liked to throw many parties at the castle. And he invited only the nobles of the kingdom to his feasts.

When he rode his horse through the cornfields, he ordered his soldiers not to allow the peasants to approach. He gave them no greeting and did not speak a single word to them.

Thus, Prince Claudius lived only the pleasures of life, exercising no productive or useful activity for the kingdom.

No wonder the subject peasants disliked Prince Claudius!

And in the Yellow Kingdom there was a young, handsome, strong and intelligent peasant. His name was Ademir and he was a very simple and humble person.

Ademir had a small area of land and lived in a simple log house. Ademir took care of planting a garden for his survival and raised some chickens and goats. So, he had several vegetables, eggs and milk for his food.

When he wasn't taking care of the garden and its creation, Ademir was dedicated to making saddles, harness, whips, spurs and horseshoes. He became an expert in this work.

From time to time Prince Claudius would bring his best horses to Ademir to change the horseshoes, put a new saddle, or repair the harness.

And on one of these occasions:

“How much do I owe you?”. Prince Claudius asked after the work was done.

“Sir, for all the work done I will only charge three bronze coins”. Ademir answered humbly.

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“Well, I owe you three bronze coins and you owe me three bronze coins in taxes. So, I owe you nothing!”. The arrogant Prince Claudius replied.

Every time Prince Claudius took his horses for Ademir to do some work, the same scene was repeated. He never paid Ademir anything for his services, regardless of his state of poverty.

One day, Princess Lydia had to bring her favorite white horse for Ademir to change the worn brown saddle. And she wanted another red color one.

She heard that Ademir worked very well with leather and knew how to color saddles to the colors desired by the owners.

And on this day, Ademir met Princess Lydia for the first time and she saw Ademir for the first time, too.

They both stood staring at each other for a long time without saying anything. They looked at each other affectionately and deeply as their hearts leapt in their chest of emotion.

They both felt what true love was at first sight.

A little embarrassed, Princess Lydia said:

“Mister Ademir! Good Morning! I have heard a lot about you and the quality of your services! I need you to make me a new saddle for my horse, but I want it red. He's all white and the red saddle will make him even more beautiful!”.

“Good morning, Your Highness! I'm your subject and I'll make the best red saddle I can do!”. Ademir answered, also feeling very shy and embarrassed by the important presence of a beautiful princess in his workshop.

Princess Lydia thanked him and left the place accompanied by her soldiers. But on the way back to the castle, her thoughts were all on Ademir:

“What a strong and handsome man! Besides, he's a true gentleman. Looks like a nobleman!”.

His long sighs betrayed her. She had fallen in love with the young craftsman Ademir!

In the workshop Ademir stood still as he watched Princess Lydia and her soldiers disappear on the dirt road to the castle:

“What a kind woman! Besides being beautiful, she treated me like a person! She has a big heart!”.

His long sighs also betrayed him. He had fallen in love with Princess Lydia!

But Ademir knew that he could hold no hope in this sudden love. On the contrary, it could cost him his life if Prince Claudius knew of his boldness to fall in love by the princess.

“How can a poor subject craftsman fall in love with a princess!”, Ademir thought, feeling his heart tighten. This is an impossible love that will never come true!

After a few weeks, Princess Lydia returned to Ademir's workshop to pick up her order, thinking:

“Ah! I'm curious to see what the new red saddle for Thunder looked like!”.

But her heart wouldn't let her forget that she was happy and thrilled to see Ademir again!

Finally, she arrived at the workshop. From a distance she could see Ademir working hard, with his sweaty face, his long black hair falling over his face. He forged a new pair of horseshoes and felt the heat of the furnace.

“Good morning Mister Ademir!”. The princess said.

Ademir had not noticed the approach of Princess Lydia, and soon sought to wipe his sweat-soaked face and smooth his hair with his hands.

“Good morning, princess!”.

“Did you make my horse's red saddle?”. The princess asked.

“Of course, your highness!”. It was the best saddle I could make to this day! Hope you enjoy it!”.

“Please don't call me princess, just Lydia!”. The princess asked.

“Ok, princess... Sorry, Lydia. But I ask you another favor - don't call me mister, just Ademir!”. Ademir answered.

They both laughed quietly under the watchful eyes of the soldiers escorting King Edward's daughter.

And the saddle was just wonderful. It fit Thunder's back nicely and had a bright red that contrasted with the total white of the magnificent horse.

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“The saddle is very beautiful, sir ... I mean, Ademir! Thank you! And what is the price for this excellent work?”.

Ademir at first thought of charging nothing. But he felt that this would not be appropriate for the moment. And said:

“It's 10 bronze coins and two silver coins, princess”.

Princess Lydia immediately ordered one of her soldiers to make the due payment. And she said goodbye to Ademir:

“Ademir, just Lydia! And once again, thank you for your beautiful work. Surely my pleasure will be greater in walking with Thunder on the roads of the kingdom. And maybe one day we cross these same roads...”.

“It will take a while for me to get used to calling the princess just by the name Lydia! I thank you princess for the honor of welcoming you to my humble workshop. Go with God's protection and may He make me cross your ways one day, too!”. Ademir answered in a voice choked with emotion.

The soldiers escorting the princess took a return position while she stood watching the Thunder for a few

minutes. She admired the beauty of her horse with the new red saddle.

As she climbed, Princess Lydia dropped her fragrant lace scarf to the door of Ademir's workshop. On the handkerchief were engraved his initials - Y.H.P.L.R.A. (Your Highness Princess Lidia Rodrigues de Alcântara).

Ademir was slowly following the princess's departure from his workshop, then heading for the door to better see her galloping with Thunder on the dirt road toward the castle.

And when she disappeared around the bend in the road, he realized the lace handkerchief Princess Lydia had dropped at his door.

“Did she drop her handkerchief on purpose or was it by chance?”. Ademir wondered.

It was customary at the time for girls to show sympathy to boys by throwing their handkerchiefs on the floor so they could catch them.

So Ademir wanted to know if the princess dropped her handkerchief on purpose or if it happened by chance.

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But his heart led him to believe that the fragrant lace scarf containing Princess Lydia's initials had been thrown on purpose!

Ademir took the handkerchief carefully, sniffed it several times, and took it to a drawer.

He would have to return this handkerchief to the princess someday to make sure her heart had given him the handkerchief...

The following days were of great joy and happiness for Ademir. From afar his neighbors could hear him singing loudly as he worked vigorously, expressing his joy.

The months passed and Ademir no longer saw Princess Lydia.

As a reminder, every day he would take from the drawer the fragrant handkerchief thrown by the princess, contenting himself with the memory the perfume brought.

The great spring feast of Yellow Kingdom was approaching. A large harvest was being celebrated and a new planting of corn would begin.

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All the inhabitants of the kingdom mobilized for the long-awaited party. The streets were adorned with many flowers. Many of them, made with yellow harvested corncobs.

There were many stalls made of corn products such as mush, cured cornmeal cake, boiled corn, corn juice, corn glucose, among many others.

At this party, the Yellow Kingdom welcomed thousands of visitors from other kingdoms.

And Ademir knew he would have an opportunity to see Princess Lydia and perhaps return the handkerchief.

As a tradition of the party, the Royal Family would parade in a carriage by the kingdom's main road.

Ademir sought to stay well ahead where the royal procession would pass, hoping to see and be seen by Princess Lydia.

The sumptuous parade began. At the head of the carriages were dozens of soldiers with spears and kingdom-colored flags. They were yellow and green flags with the Royal Family Crest. In the center of the Royal Family Crest a golden corncob symbolized the true richness of the kingdom.

The gold-yellow carriages, with their seats covered in red velvet, were right behind the soldiers.

In the first carriage came King Edward and Queen Silvia. In the second carriage came Prince Claudius and Princess Lydia. And in the other carriages came the noble visitors from the other kingdoms.

Ademir's heart was pounding like the sound of his hammer forging the iron. Inside the carriage Princess Lydia tried to look at all the subjects, waving at them nonstop.

“Is Ademir around? I can't see him!”. She thought.

And, indeed, neither Ademir saw Princess Lydia nor did she see him among the thousands of subjects lining the royal procession.

She was sitting on the right side of the carriage and Ademir had positioned herself on the left side of the road. Destiny didn't want them to see each other then.

The subjects applauded and shouted endlessly:

“Long live King Edward! God save the Queen Silvia! Long live Princess Lydia!”.

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But there was no applause for Prince Claudius, who sought to console himself with the thought: “This people is very ignorant and despicable!”.

Once again, the party was a success. The subjects and the visitors were satisfied with all the products made with the precious cereal.

Ademir returned very sad to his house, and the next day began another week of work.

However, his friends and neighbors were surprised that he no longer sang like he used to...

One day, however, Ademir had a surprise. An emissary of King Edward sought him out for a job at the castle. The iron lock on the main gate had broken and needed urgent repairs.

In the kingdom there was no one who could make this repair but Ademir. He was the only subject craftsman who knew how to work iron well and forge new parts.

“This is the opportunity for me to review Princess Lydia!”. He thought.

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He tried to put on his best clothes and look very clean and combed. Wrapped carefully in his pocket, he carried the princess's handkerchief.

On the day Ademir was received by one of the kingdom's soldiers, who immediately took him to the place to repair the lock, as the king had commanded.

While fixing the lock, Ademir watched closely every movement of the people in the castle. Each open window could bring him the long-awaited image of Princess Lydia.

And high on one of the towers, he caught sight of Princess Lydia. She played the piano and her figure was visible through the window of her room.

But Princess Lydia was unaware of Ademir's presence and so continued her piano exercises. At one point she stopped playing and closed the window.

“Will she come down or through the gate? If this happens, I'll be able to see her!”. Ademir thought with great enthusiasm.

But to his sadness, Princess Lydia did not appear and did not leave the castle that morning.

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At the end of the work, the soldier warned Prince Claudius that the artisan had finished repairing the lock so that he could check and make the payment.

Prince Claudius took the large key from the main gate of the castle, opened and closed it, making sure that the lock was properly fixed.

“How much is your pay?”. He asked Ademir.

“Sir, it's only five bronze coins!”. Ademir answered.

“Very well, young man. You owe me five bronze coins in tax, and I have to pay you five bronze coins for the work. So, I owe you nothing!”. Prince Claudius replied, leaving the room with a sarcastic smile.

Ademir was already waiting for this reaction from Prince Claudius. But seeing at times the figure of Princess Lydia in his window was a good pay for him.

The time has passed. And how time goes by fast!

Ademir continued his work in the field and in the workshop. He no longer saw Princess Lydia.

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However, he never forgot her, and every day he remembered her image holding the fragrant scarf thrown by the princess for several minutes.

But the news from the Yellow Kingdom was not good at all.

The royal herald roamed the streets of the kingdom announcing that King Edward and Queen Silvia were not well. Both had contracted a very serious illness.

At that time there was no radio, television or newspapers. Thus, the news was given by the heralds. The heralds roamed the streets of the kingdom, on foot or on horseback, relaying the main events to residents aloud.

All subjects prayed for the recovery of the king and queen they loved so much. For two years there was no traditional spring party - the harvest party and the planting of a new crop of corn.

The whole kingdom was very sad.

But the peasants tried to do their part by dedicating themselves to harvesting and planting with the motivation and dedication they always had to the royal couple.

And unfortunately, on a rainy morning and gray sky, the herald brought the news that nobody wanted to hear:

“King Edward and Queen Silvia could not resist the serious illness and died at dawn!”.

All subjects immediately headed for the castle's main door, eager for more news. And they had confirmation. The Yellow Kingdom was no longer under King Edward's command.

The days that followed were of many tears and sorrow throughout the kingdom. But, as the saying goes, “King dead, King set!”. And Prince Claudius was proclaimed the new king.

The subjects did not receive this news with much enthusiasm. On the contrary, they feared for the destiny and the directions that the kingdom would take thereafter. They did not like and did not trust King Claudius.

And the feelings of the subjects of the kingdom would soon be confirmed.

King Claudius took charge of the Yellow Kingdom and, thinking that the stocks of corn wealth in the castle silos

would never be depleted, began spending the money from selling the corn irresponsibly.

He went on to pompous and costly parties at the castle, where food and drink were consumed with great waste.

And to keep up with this increase in spending, he sold more and more corn to neighboring kingdoms.

When the time came for a new planting, King Claudius had a reaction no one expected. He did not provide the seeds to the peasants to renew the corn planting.

“I already have a lot of corn stored in the castle. I don't need corn anymore!”. He said.

Without the precious seeds, the peasants could not do the planting and were leaving the fields. Many peasants moved to neighboring kingdoms for lack of work.

The abandoned lands were taken over by the bush and were beginning to lose their fertility.

Poverty, lack of produce in the market, hunger began to take over the kingdom.

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The subjects began to experience many needs. The peasants had nothing to plant and the artisans had no buyers for their produce.

Thus, many subjects of the Yellow Kingdom began to abandon their homes, moving to neighboring kingdoms.

But in the Castle, King Claudius continued his opulent and spent life. Meanwhile, corn stocks in the silos were dwindling by the day.

Relations between King Claudius and his sister Princess Lydia deteriorated. Princess Lydia argued with her brother and disagreed with his manner of ruling and his decisions.

She warned him about the risks of the Yellow Kingdom becoming a realm of poverty and loneliness.

But King Claudius despised her, and when relations reached an extreme point, he ordered the soldiers not to let his sister leave her room.

In other words, Princess Lydia became a hostage in the castle and remained trapped in her rooms every day, with only her piano as a consolation.

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She could no longer see or ride the Thunder, which roamed the castle fields in search of food.

Ademir, like the other peasants, was in need. He no longer had work as a craftsman. No one came to him for saddles, harness, or horseshoes.

He survived on some eggs, vegetables from his garden, and milk from his goats. This was enough for him. However, Ademir began to share his small production with his friends who had nothing to eat.

Over time, too, Ademir no longer had enough for his survival. But he was unwilling to withdraw from the Yellow Kingdom.

So, he thought of asking King Claudius for help. He had done many services for King Claudius and was never paid for his services.

He imagined that now King Claudius would help him in this difficult time.

And Ademir decided to look for King Claudius in the castle and ask for his help.

The soldier took his request to King Claudius who replied:

“Subjects must learn that they must survive now at their expense. They cannot depend on their King! But considering all this peasant has done for my horse, give him twelve grains of corn!”.

“Twelve grains of corn, sir?” The soldier asked, one of the few who stayed in the castle.

“Yes! That's what I can offer right now. My corn stocks are too low!”. King Claudius answered.

The soldier retreated with the twelve grains of corn while King Claudius rocked in his chair lazily, laughing in mockery.

“This is the contribution of our king!”. The soldier said to Ademir, placing in his hands the twelve grains of corn.

Ademir bowed his head in sadness and disappointment and withdrew without a word. In his hands he held firmly the twelve grains of corn given to him.

In the castle, the servants left work for the lack of payment from King Claudius. He no longer had women at his disposal to cook his food, wash his clothes, make his bed, and clean the castle.

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And his poor sister was forced to do all these jobs, becoming her brother's maid. If she disobeyed, she could be trapped in her room again.

The years have passed. The bush of the kingdom came to the castle gates. King Claudius, always trusting in the richness of corn in the silos, continued his life of abundance and worthlessness, neglecting his future.

Although King Claudius never imagined, one day all the silos were empty! There was no other grain of corn that King Claudius could sell to pay his expenses.

At this moment, King Claudius realized that he was in misery and had never worked, he was in no mood to throw himself into some work that might give him an income.

Nor had he learned to do anything useful and productive. He had lived exclusively by the wealth that his father, King Edward, and the peasants of the kingdom had generated.

But now this wealth no longer existed!

King Claudius' cry echoed throughout the castle. But his sorrow was heard only by poor Princess Lydia, the only one who still insisted on remaining by the king's side.

The following days were of great deprivation to King Claudius, now poor and abandoned by all. The food pantry was practically empty. In the cellar was no longer the wines that King Claudius liked so much.

King Claudius was experiencing for the first time what it was to be in need, and hunger prowled the castle.

The days of suffering and anguish lived by King Claudius extended and he found no way, no solution to his problem.

One day King Claudius was surprised that someone was knocking at the castle door. This did not happen long ago. And hurried to see who it was. When he opened the door, he came across a finely dressed man riding a black horse with a white saddle.

“Who are you, stranger? If you are looking for contributions, I can offer you nothing!”. King Claudius said, threatening to close the door.

“Hang on!”. The man said.

And continued:

“I came to make you a good offer to buy the castle. I hear our king is in trouble!”.

“You? Buy my castle? He is worth a lot of money and you will not be able to pay his price!”. The king answered.

“Make the price!”. The man said confidently.

“The castle could be sold for fifty thousand gold coins!”. The king answered.

“I agree to pay this amount in cash!”. The man confirmed.

King Claudius did not believe what he was hearing. But if the outsider's proposal was true, with this money he could live the rest of his life, living in a luxurious house in the kingdom. And of course, without working! After all, the castle was too big for him.

But King Claudius was intrigued by this man. His face was no stranger to him. He was sure to have seen him in the kingdom on several occasions.

Still a little suspicious of the unknown man's proposal, King Claudius agreed to the sale of the castle:

“Bring the fifty thousand gold coins and I will give you the castle with everything I have in here”.

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After a few days the man knocked again on the castle door, mounted on his black horse, accompanied by a peasant with a wooden chest containing the gold coins.

Beside his black horse, the man also had a white horse with a red saddle!

King Claudius answered the door and came across the man who wanted to buy his castle.

“I’m here, sir! I bring the fifty thousand gold coins as I promised”. The man said.

King Claudius asked him to enter, taking him to the noble hall of the castle. There King Claudius spread the gold coins on a large oval table and counted them one by one.

King Claudius looked like a child who had just opened his piggy bank. He laughed, counted, mound the coins, tossed some in the air and picked them up again, laughing like crazy.

“Well, I agree with the sale of the castle”. It will only take me five days to make my move and find a new home in the kingdom!”. King Claudius confirmed.

King Claudius wanted to know more about that man:

“But who are you, and how did you manage to accumulate such wealth in gold coins?”.

And the unknown man finally revealed himself:

“Sir, indeed, who helped me initiate this wealth was Your Highness!”.

“What? King Claudius asked surprised.

“Do you remember the craftsman who used to do services to your horse and one day, hungry and needy, knocked on your door for help?”.

“Yes, now I remember!”. King Claudius answered.

“Your name is Ademir, isn't it? But how does this explain your fortune?”. The king insisted.

And Ademir took a few minutes to tell his story and how he came out of poverty and hardship to become a rich man:

“At that time, you gave me twelve grains of corn. I came home, desolate and sad. But as I opened my hands, I saw that the corn grains glowed like gold. It was raining a lot. I then decided to plant the twelve grains of corn. After six months, I harvested 24 corncobs. Each

corn cob had about 360 grains of corn. So, in the first harvest I got 8,640 corn grains. As the rains continued to abound, I planted these 8,640 corn grains. After six months, I had the second crop that yielded 6,220,800 corn grains. In the third harvest, there were 4,478,976,000 corn grains! And every year I planted all the corn grains I could get from the previous harvest. So, I was able to hire more peasants and we planted corn across all the abandoned fields”.

Pausing and looking deep into King Claudius' eyes, Ademir finished his explanations:

“There was a shortage of corn in the neighboring kingdoms and everyone wanted to buy my harvests and paid in gold coins! It was thus, sir, that I amassed my wealth from the twelve grains of corn I received for your generosity!”.

King Claudius listened to the story of Ademir with a mixture of disbelief and surprise.

“Well, in five days you can take over my castle!”. King Claudius said.

“What about Princess Lydia?”. Ademir asked.

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“What do you know about her and why do you ask?”.
The king wanted to know.

“I made the saddle red for her Thunder horse. I know she still lives in the castle and would like to see her!”.
Ademir answered.

“Princess Lydia will go with me after the sale of the castle. After all, she takes care of all my things!”. The king answered.

“But I insist on seeing her sir. Otherwise, we will cancel our business!”. Ademir answered firmly.

King Claudius, afraid of losing the sale of the castle, asked Princess Lydia to come to the noble hall.

And immediately she recognized Ademir. He now looked indeed a nobleman!

“Mister Ademir! I thought you were no longer in the kingdom!”. Princess Lydia said excitedly.

“I’ve always been here, princess! Princess Lydia, I have a gift to give you! In the courtyard of the castle is Thunder waiting for you! I bought it back. The poor fellow was being used by carters for a hard job. But it is still handsome and with its saddle red!”. Ademir said.

Princess Lydia did not wait a second and ran toward the castle courtyard to review Thunder!

She hugged him crying and it whinnied, demonstrating that it had recognized her.

“Sir, I have one more request! A very special request for my life!”. Ademir said.

“One more request? You are already taking the castle with everything I have inside. What more can I give you?”. King Claudius answered indignantly.

“I want to ask for your sister Princess Lydia's hand in marriage!”. Answered Ademir.

“What? Do you want to marry sister, Princess Lydia?”. King Claudius asked.

“Yes, Your Highness!”. Ademir confirmed.

King Claudius looked at Ademir and somehow admired him. He saw him as a new court member.

That man, who knew how to fight for life, honest, hardworking and who managed to accumulate wealth with his perseverance and work, would be his brother-in-law!

This new fact comforted on his decision to sell the castle his parents loved so much. If Princess Lydia agreed to the marriage, the castle would remain in the hands of the Royal Family.

Although arrogant, insensitive to other people's problems, selfish and opting for an easy life, King Claudius had this rare and unique moment of reflection and maturity.

He showed common sense for the first time and was carried away by this feeling of emotion...

But then it returned to its normal personality:

“I have nothing to oppose! If my sister agrees to marry a simple subject craftsman, this is her decision alone! Despite your money, you lack title of nobility, you will always be a peasant!”. King Claudius answered.

“Your Highness, anyway I appreciate it. And I am not ashamed that I have no title of nobility. On the contrary, I am very proud to be a peasant! And if Princess Lydia agrees, we'll get married and live in the castle. And Your Highness can live with us if you want!”. Ademir said, always with his heart open to forgiveness.

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“Thanks, but I don't accept the invitation. I have always lived among nobles. I would not feel well sharing the environment with the craftsman who took care of my horses! With this money, I will enjoy life even more!”. King Claudius answered, departing.

“As you wish, Your Highness!”. Ademir replied, maintaining his control despite the humiliations he received.

And before King Claudius left, Ademir had a retribution to make:

“Your Highness get your twelve grains of corn back. And store them with love. You may need them someday...”.

King Claudius looked down at the twelve grains of corn but put them in his pocket, retreating forever.

Princess Lydia returned happy after finding Thunder:

“Mister Ademir, thank you very much for the surprise. Thunder has suffered some mistreatment but remains very elegant and handsome. But where is King Claudius? And what is this card on the table?”.

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King Claudius signed the letter of his abdication to the throne. As expected, he gave up being the King of the Yellow Kingdom.

King Claudius had wondered: “What king am I? No castle, no soldiers, no court, no servants?”.

And Ademir answered the princess's question:

“Princess Lydia, your brother will leave the castle, and I believe I could be good company to you!”.

“As well?”. The princess replied.

A little unsure and embarrassed, Ademir returned the scented handkerchief to the princess and dared to make a question:

“I kept your scented handkerchief years ago. Your scent still lingers on it, just as you have always remained in my heart. I didn't know if you dropped your handkerchief carelessly or...”

“Ademir, you don't have to call me princess anymore... And as for the handkerchief, I dropped it on purpose, hoping someday to get it back by your hands!”. The princess replied.

“Well... hmm... hmm, sorry! But I have a question for you Lydia... Would you accept, I mean, would you... I mean... Would you imagine marrying me? But if you don't want please be honest... I'll understand... I know I'm not noble... I may well continue my peasant life... I always will be your loyal subject... I know I'm being cheeky... I'll always be by your side for whatever you need... I can keep taking care of Thunder... Sorry again...”.

Princess Lydia listened and was amused by Ademir's embarrassed manner and, interrupting his chattering and nervous manner of speech, gave him a soft kiss of love!

It was a way of saying yes to Ademir's marriage proposal.

The five days passed. Former King Claudius moved to a location far from the castle, where he bought a beautiful house, carrying his 50,000 gold coins and the 12 grains of corn.

Princess Lydia was proclaimed the Queen of the Yellow Kingdom, and she was to rule over all affairs of the kingdom.

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Queen Lydia followed all the teachings of her dear and late father, King Edward. She treated all subjects with justice and humanity. In addition, she gave full support to the production of the kingdom's greatest wealth - maize.

The kingdom gradually returned to its splendor. Cornfields were spreading across the fields, commerce was back in business, artisans had a lot of work to do.

The peasants who had moved to other realms returned to their homes, happy to return to the kingdom they loved so much.

All subjects were invited to Queen Lydia's grand coronation party at the castle.

Joy and happiness returned to the homes of the peasants and subjects of the kingdom.

And it was at the coronation ceremony that Queen Lydia surprised everyone with the news:

“Dear citizens of Yellow Kingdom! I would like to announce that I have accepted Ademir's wedding invitation! He will be the new King Consort!”

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By the rules of the nobility of the Yellow Kingdom, the Queen's husband would be called King Consort if this ever happened.

Everyone applauded and supported the new royal couple. Queen Lydia's marriage to King Consort Ademir was held in spring, resuming the traditional annual celebration of the harvest and planting of a new corn crop.

And the two were happily ever after, along with two children born of this marriage - Prince Charles and Princess Tatiana.

And seven years have passed. Prince Charles and Princess Tatiana grew healthy and intelligent. And they were very good children, following the kind and humane education of their parents. They learned to be noble, but with humility and true values of life.

One afternoon, Queen Lydia and King Consort Ademir watched their two sons play on the castle grass:

“You know, Ademir. When I see our two children playing, growing up healthy, I feel great and fulfilled as a mother!”. The queen said.

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“It is true. They like each other very much, get along well. Prince Charles will be a great king in the future!”. The king consort answered.

“In these moments, I remember my brother Claudius. My parents Edward and Silvia were very proud of him. They used to sit right here where we are and have fun with our games. And he said exactly what you just said - Prince Claudius will be a great king one day!”. The Queen continued.

“Lydia, what was your little Claudius brother like?”. Ademir wanted to know.

“He was always a good boy. He was cheerful, intelligent, he liked to study, was kind to people, and cared for the animals in the castle”. The queen replied.

“But how could he have changed so much?”. Ademir asked, intrigued.

“He began to change in his teens and especially when he came of age. He met other boys, princes and nobles, from other kingdoms, good and bad people. But he developed friendships with the evil princes and nobles. Over time, he forgot his origins, becoming disinterested in his studies. He just wanted to know how to have fun. He turned increasingly to a futile life. He learned to be

arrogant, to despise people who were not noble. He just wanted to know about parties, drinking lots of wine and getting drunk, horseback riding, gambling money and even hunting down the kingdom's poor wild animals. So, he got lost more and more and became the person you met”. The queen answered, not hiding her sadness.

“Now I understand! He let himself be contaminated by bad fellows! I can imagine the sadness of your parents!”. Ademir concluded.

“My father and mother suffered a lot from this. They did everything to change this behavior of Claudius but failed. But I miss him a lot anyway. I haven't heard from him in recent years, he doesn't know his nephews, he hasn't come to me anymore!”. The queen said.

And as for the former King Claudius, word began to spread in the kingdom that he continued to spend his fortune from selling the castle with parties, luxury, travel, entertainment, maintaining a useless and unproductive life, confirming the popular saying - “Stick growing crooked, dies crooked!”.

He spent inordinately and his 50,000 gold coins were coming to an end.

This news came to her sister Queen Lydia:

“Ademir, we need to find out where my brother Claudius is and try to help him! Maybe he'll listen and better follow my advice now!”.

King Consort Ademir asked the soldiers to search the whole kingdom and find out the whereabouts of former King Claudius.

As soon as they had news, Ademir and Lydia went looking for him.

After a few hours of travel in their royal carriage, followed by several soldiers, the royal couple came close to a simple log house.

They got out of the carriage in a little way from the log house, and walked towards it, asking the soldiers to stay close to the carriage.

They wanted to be alone with former King Claudius.

And Queen Lydia and King Consort Ademir had a great surprise that left them in shock!

They found former King Claudius dressed in peasant clothes, living a simple life and in poverty. He had spent all his gold coins and even sold his new home. Again, he lost everything he had in life.

Ignoring the presence of his sister and brother-in-law, the now peasant Claudius was tilling the land and planting the twelve grains of corn he had received from Ademir. His sister Lydia wanted to shout his name, warning him of her presence. But, was advised by Ademir not to call for him and leave him alone:

“Lydia, Claudius, has now taken his first steps to know the true values of life. Let him get on with his work. I am sure he will have perseverance and will reap many grains of corn from his plantation. He is managing to earn bread with the sweat on his face. He will value the fruits of his labor and will surely accumulate his gold coins. One day, he will come back to buy his own castle...”.

Queen Lydia shed tears of sadness from her blue eyes. But she agreed with Ademir. Slowly, the two returned to the carriage and set off towards the castle. From afar they could hear Claudius tilling the land, planting his corn seeds, and singing so loudly that even the birds fell silent”.

“You know, Lydia. Life is like that. It's like another saying goes - “If you don't learn from love, you learn from pain”.

The End