

The old man, boy and donkey

(Time – 1.29)

An old man and his grandson were leading their donkey to market. They passed a couple of men who said, ‘Look at those idiots, leading that donkey when they could be riding it!’ The old man looked at the boy. They stopped. The boy got on the donkey and they set off.

They passed two women who said, ‘Look at that boy – he rides up there like a king while his old grandfather has to walk!’ The boy looked at the old man. They stopped. The boy got off the donkey and the old man got on. They set off.

They passed a couple; the man said to his wife, ‘Poor lad! Look, see - he’s practically a slave. That old man makes him trudge the roads while granddad lords it on the donkey.’ The old man and the boy looked at one another. They frowned. Then they both climbed on the donkey.

‘Look at the way they treat that poor donkey,’ said the passers-by, ‘It’s staggering under the weight of them.’ The old man and the boy stopped. They climbed down. Then they tied the donkey’s legs together and carried it.

As they crossed the bridge the donkey got a leg free and kicked the boy – the boy dropped the donkey, the donkey fell in the river and drowned. ‘Cor, talk about stupid,’ said a passer-by. ‘What were they thinking of, carrying a donkey?’