THE SON OF BAY AND THE SON OF BEGGAR

Asan was born the son of bay and Usen — the son of beggar. They were boys of the same age and used to play together often. Once, as boys were plying beyond the heel, the aul left its old site and went on travel, and no one noticed that boys were left on the place of old site. After some time, they decided to go back to aul, but when they came back there was no aul there, only the place where it had stood before. Asan began to cry loudly and Usen thought for a moment and said, "Your crying won't change anything. We shall better go to look for our aul."

"But where shall we go to look for it, we haven't even seen what direction they took?" Asan replied.

Usen answered nothing, he just took Asan and together they approached their former place of stay. There he found a broken needle and picked it up, then the broken knife and the handful of horsehair and took them as well. After that he started to quickly inspect the site and very soon he discovered the tracks of aul, so the two boys followed them.

After some time they found that tracks were split in two opposite directions. When Asan saw it, he began to cry again, saying "What tracks shall we follow now?"

Usen observed the tracks and said, "See, here are the tracks of nomads having passed today, since the fresh horse manure is left here."

After they walked for some more time, Asan began to cry again because he was hungry. Usen, though, was walking silent. Suddenly, the duck emerged from the grass right in front of them. It flied the little and got down in the grass nearby. Usen searched the place from which she appeared and found six little eggs there. Asan was cheered and wanted to take them, but Usendidn't let him.

"If it happens that we lose the track of aul and will be roaming for very long, we'll need some more food. We have to haunt the duck as well," he explained.

"But how shall we catch it?" asked Asan.

"I saw my father haunting ducks," Usen replied. He weaved a snare from the same horsehair he had found on the site of their former stay, and set it in the duck's nest. Then he called Asan, and together they hid in thick grass beyond the hill waiting for duck to fly back.

Some time passed. The duck returned and, without noticing any presence of people, set on the nest.

Usen waited for a little and came up running to the nest. The duck couldn't fly off and was striking with her wings — it get caught by the snare and struggled helplessly to get out.

Then Asan suggested, "Let's take it alive. We then could play with it."

"No, my father told me that ducks and gooses are free birds; people might haunt them when they need food, but it is a great sin to hold them on a leash. Let's better not make this poor duck suffer and kill it now." After saying so, Usen took the stump of knife he found on place where aul had stayed before, killed the duck and took it with them.

After that they resumed their way. When the sun reached its highest point, Asan and Usen reached the river. There the boys satisfied they thirst with river water.

"Now we have to cook something," said Usen.

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“But we do not have fire, how shall we do it then?” asked Asan.

Usen said nothing, he walked over the river bank and found hard piece of stone. Then he pulled some wadding from his chapanthrough small hole, put it on the stone and began to strike the stone with back of his broken knife. The sparks began to fly out around and the wadding set on fire. Then Used laid some manure around the wadding and began to blow, so that fire could burn up. After that he sent Asan to gather some brushwood. When he came back the fire was fixed. First they have boiled the eggs. After that they pinched up the duck, draw it, skewered it on the stick and began to roast it. When the duck was ready they have eaten to their fill.

When Asan was full, he forgot completely about his misfortune and got running alongside the river bank. Suddenly, he cried, “Usen! Usen! Look! There’s the fish rowing on the shallow!”

Usendidn’t answer Asan’s shouting; he just took the piece of needle and put it into the fire. When, after some time, the needle became red-hot, Usen pulled it out from the fire and began to bend it carefully to make a fish-hook. Then he called Asan and sent him to catch some grasshoppers. In his turn, Usen weaved the horse hair into thread to make the fishing line and found a rode. When everything was ready, he baited one of grasshoppers Asan has brought and put out the rode. The water was as clear as mirror and it was easy to see little fishes rowing and playing in the river. Little morokos were first to come up to the hook. Some fishes come, smelled the bait and rowed back, then the other rowed to the bait and back, and then they all came back to smell it. Suddenly little morokos began to run away every which way. It was a large pike approaching. The pike didn’t pay any attention to the bait and passed by it, waving its tail. When the pike left, little fishes began to gather and play around the bait again. They rowed vividly and chased each other, sometimes hitting the bait or swirling around it. Suddenly, morokos spread out again, and disappeared this time. The shoal of perch emerged. One of them, who was the first to notice the bait, rowed closer to it, seized the bait and swallowed it immediately. Usen pulled the rode and tossed the perch on the bank. Thus, one by one, Usen caught many perches. The boys were so much engaged with fishing, that didn’t even noticed that day was slowly approaching to its end. Usen looked at the sun and said, “Oh, the sunset is close. We have to find the ford and get to opposite bank before the dark.

Saying so, he gathered all the fish he caught and wrapped it into his chapan. He took also rode, firestone and piece of knife leaving nothing behind. After that boys took up and went to look for ford.

Usen strode directly to the place where tracks they followed approached the water. In that place they crossed the river and got to the other side.

When they had passed some distance, the sun set, it began to get dark and tracks were not visible any more. As the night was coming closer, two of boys began to fear. Despite it, Usen said they had to stop for a night; otherwise they might lose the tracks. He stopped, gathered some more manure and made a fire. Little time after, Asan, who got really weary and tired during that day, fell asleep. Usen remembered words his father used to say, “Where there are people, there are the thieves; where there is prairie, there are the wolves”. This is why he decided not to go to sleep and began to roast the fish he caught during the day. It was easier to stay awake doing something. He saw the herd of saigas passing by. They glared scaredly on their fire and disappeared suddenly frightened by something in the night. After some time, the herd of kulans appeared with young kolts. On the head of herd the stag was running. Now and then he raised his head and tail and snorted, and the kolts gave him curious looks. Suddenly they also took a run in different direction. After thatUsen heard the wolf howling nearby and bittern calling somewhere afar.

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Usen was cold from fear and kept on sitting silent, frighten he looked back for once and hold tightly his rode. Sitting so, he saw many little animals, insects, butterflies, beetles and the thought came to his mind: why do all these beetles and butterflies fly together into the fire, if there is only death they find there? Keeping to those thoughts, he stayed awake until the dawn came. When the first beams of light appeared, spreading throughout the sky, and the scarlet color of dawn began fading, Usen started wakening Asan. He jounced him saying, "Wake up, it's time to go."

Asan forgot that he was in the prairie, and stayed sleeping as though he was still at home; he murmured something through his sleep and was not like to get up. ButUsen didn't give in, at last he managed to waken Asan, and together they carried on their journey.

When the sun was close to midday, the tracks became less visible, for the land under their feet became hard and rocky. Boys stopped, looking around and not knowing where to go next.

Suddenly, on the top of the hill they saw the large kurgan. Then Usen recalled the other words his father told him "If one day you get lost in prairie, remember, that where the kurgans are, the water is. And where the water is, the people shall be found".

So, following father's lesson, Usen lead Asan to the kurgan. When they got closer, they heard gees gaggling. Then Usen was sure that there is a lake nearby, because no geese live where there is no water. They climbed the hill where kurgan was located and on its top they saw great lake with lot of animals around it. Over the lake banks, on the green meadow covered with the high grass they saw few herds of horses and ships grazing. Some horses entered the lake and plucked young green bulrush, on the other side, the camels lay on the salt marshes. When boys saw this, they realized that it was the cattle from their aul. Shepherds, who saw the boys, were very happy they came back, and some of them instantly went to tell their parents good news and get some suyunshi from them. The others put children on horses and rode them to aul. On the way shepherds told children that, as soon as it was discovered that they had left on the old site, the men were sent to search for them.

It was only close to midday when the kids were safely delivered back in aul and met their parents finally.

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Тапсырмалар:

True or false:

1) Did Asan and Usen find the way?

2) can a duck caught on the road be taken away without slaughtering it?

3) were they afraid when the dark began?

4) Didn't they send people to search for Asan and Usen?

Questions:

1) How many eggs did Usen find while looking for a way? 6

2) "Hey, sunset is almost here. We have to find a way and reach the opposite bank before dark.'' Usen

3) why didn't they sleep in the cave? Because of fear

4) where did they leave the cave? Mound

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