



THE STORY OF
HENNY-PENNY

English "Folk-Lore"

Joseph Jacobs

1854 - 1916

One day Henny-penny was picking up corn in the cornyard when—whack! something hit her upon the head.

"Goodness gracious me!" said Henny-penny; "the sky's a-going to fall; I must go and tell the king."

So she went along and she went along and she went along till she met Cocky-locky. "Where are you going, Henny-penny?"

says Cockey-locky. "Oh! I'm going to tell the king the sky's a-falling," says Henny-penny.

"May I come with you?" says Cockey-locky. "Certainly," says Henny-penny. So Henny-penny and Cockey-locky went to tell-the king the sky was a-falling.

They went along, and they went along, and they went along, till they met Ducky-daddles. "Where are you going to, Henny-penny and Cockey-locky?" says Ducky-daddles. "Oh! we're going to tell the king the sky's a-falling," said Henny-penny and Cockey-locky.

"May I come with you?" says Ducky-daddles. "Certainly," said Henny-penny and Cockey-locky. So Henny-penny, Cockey-locky and Ducky-daddles went to tell the king the sky was a-falling.

So they went along, and they went along, and they went along, till they met Goosey-poosey, "Where are you going to, Henny-penny, Cockey-locky and Ducky-daddles?" said Goosey-poosey.

"Oh! we're going to tell the king the sky's a-falling," said Henny-penny and Cockey-lock and Ducky-daddles.

"May I come with you," said Goosey-poosey. "Certainly," said Henny-penny, Cockey-locky and Ducky-daddles. So Henny-penny, Cockey-locky, Ducky-daddles and Goosey-poosey went to tell the king the sky was a-falling.

So they went along, and they went along, and they went along, till they met Turkey-lurkey. "Where are you going, Henny-penny, Cockey-locky, Ducky-daddles, and Goosey-poosey?" says Turkey-lurkey.

"Oh! we're going to tell the king the sky's a-falling," said Henny-penny, Cockey-locky, Ducky-daddles and Goosey-poosey.

"May I come with you?" said Turkey-Lurkey. "Why, certainly, Turkey-lurkey," said Henny-penny, Cockey-locky, Ducky-daddles, and Goosey-poosey.

So Henny-penny Cockey-locky, Ducky-daddles, Goosey-poosey and Turkey-lurkey all went to tell the king the sky was a-falling.

So they went along, and they went along, and they went along, till they met Foxy-woxy, and Foxy-woxy said to Henny-penny, Cockey-locky, Ducky-daddles, Goosey-poosey and Turkey-lurkey: "Where are you going, Henny-penny, Cockey-locky, Ducky-daddles, Goosey-poosey and Turkey-lurkey?"

And Henny-penny, Cockey-locky, Ducky-daddles, Goosey-poosey, and Turkey-lurkey said to Foxy-woxy: "We're going to tell the king the sky's a-falling."

"Oh! but this is not the way to the king, Henny-penny, Cockey-locky, Ducky-daddles, Goosey-poosey and Turkey-lurkey," says Foxy-woxy; "I know the proper way; shall I show it you?"

"Why certainly, Foxy-woxy," said Henny-penny, Cockey-locky, Ducky-daddles Goosey-poosey, and Turkey-lurkey.

So Henny-penny, Cocky-locky, Ducky-daddles, Goosey-poosey, Turkey-lurkey, and Foxy-woxy all went to tell the king the sky was a-falling. So they went along, and they

went along, and they went along, till they came to a narrow and dark hole. Now this was the door of Foxy-woxy's cave.

But Foxy-woxy said to Henny-penny, Cocky-locky, Ducky-daddles, Goosey-poosey, and Turkey-lurkey: "This is the short way to the king's palace you'll soon get there if you follow me. I will go first and you come after, Henny-penny, Cocky-locky, Ducky daddles, Goosey-poosey, and Turkey-lurkey."

"Why of course, certainly, without doubt, why not?" said Henny-Penny, Cocky-locky, Ducky-daddles, Goosey-poosey, and Turkey-lurkey.

So Foxy-woxy went into his cave, and he didn't go very far but turned round to wait for Henny-Penny, Cocky-locky, Ducky-daddles, Goosey-poosey and Turkey-lurkey.

So at last at first Turkey-lurkey went through the dark hole into the cave. He hadn't got far when "Htrumph," Foxy-woxy snapped off Turkey-lurkey's head and threw his body over his left shoulder.

Then Goosey-poosey went in, and "Htrumph," off went her head and Goosey-poosey was thrown beside Turkey-lurkey.

Then Ducky-daddles waddled down, and "Htrumph," snapped Foxy-woxy, and Ducky-daddles' head was off and Ducky-daddles was thrown alongside Turkey-lurkey and Goosey-poosey.

Then Cocky-locky strutted down into the cave and he hadn't gone far when "Snap, Htrumph!" went Foxy-woxy and Cocky-locky was thrown alongside of Turkey-lurkey, Goosey-poosey and Ducky-daddles.

But Foxy-woxy had made two bites at Cocky-locky, and when the first snap only hurt Cocky-locky, but didn't kill him, he called out to Henny-penny. So she turned tail and ran back home, so she never told the king the sky was a-falling.

The End

Note: The above is the original 1800's story. It is the version I heard as a child. I've taken the liberty to give you another ending. You may want to tell this ending if your child would be frightened by the original.

So at last at first Turkey-Lurkey went through the dark hole into the cave. He hadn't got far when "Hrump," Foxy-woxy tried to snap off Turkey-Lurkey's head.

But, Turkey-Lurkey was too quick for Foxy-woxy and ran further into the cave and found a secret opening. Turkey-Lurkey ran out of the cave and hid behind a big rock.

Then Goosey-poosey went in, and "Hrump," Foxy-woxy tried to snap off Goosey-poosey's head. But, Goosey-poosey was too quick for Foxy-woxy and ran further into the cave and found a secret opening. Goosey-poosey ran out of the cave and hid behind a big rock next to Turkey-Lurkey.

Then Ducky-daddles went in, and "Hrump," Foxy-woxy tried to snap off Ducky-daddles' head. But, Ducky-daddles

was too quick for Foxy-woxy and ran further into the cave and found a secret opening. Ducky-daddles ran out of the cave and hid behind a big rock next to Turkey-Lurkey and Goosey-poosey.

Then Cockey-locky went in, and "Hrump," Foxy-woxy tried to snap off Cockey-locky's head. But, Cockey-locky was too quick for Foxy-woxy and called out to Henney-penny and told her to run. Then Cockey-locky ran further into the cave and found a secret opening. Cockey-locky ran out of the cave and hid behind a big rock next to Turkey-lurkey, Goosey-poosey, and Ducky-daddles.

Henney-Penny turned tail and ran as fast as she could toward home. As she past the big rock Turkey-lurkey, Goosey-poosey, Ducky-daddles and Cockey-locky joined her and they all ran home together. They never told the King the sky was a-falling.

By the way...they never saw Foxy-woxy again!

The End

Moral: Choose your friends wisely.