

# The Bricklayer

There was a bricklayer who fell upon hard times. He had always worked with his hands to provide for his wife, his two sons and his daughter. But now the economy had soured and no one was building any houses. He spent the days searching for work. But there was none to be found. No chimney to be repaired, no garden wall to erect or walk to lay. No need for a bricklayer.

He went home to his wife and told her there was no work to be found. She said to him "Well if there is no work, then there is no money to buy food or clothes, and you are of no use to me." And she left him.

He went out again the following day and searched again, but still there was no work. He tried to find other jobs, hauling trash, washing dishes, cleaning streets. But no one was hiring.

He went home where his sons were waiting. The oldest said to him, "What will we eat? What will we wear if you have no job and no money?" And they left him to go live with their friends.

Again he went out to search for work. He looked high and low. He passed a rich man's house and thought, "I could steal from him and sell his things and bring home the money." But he could not do that, for he was an honest man. But he was sick at heart. He wandered the city until long after dark.

Late in the evening he went home to his daughter. He said to her, "I have no job and no money. I have nothing to give you to eat or drink. I have nothing to buy you clothes to wear." And she said to him, "Don't worry father. I am glad that you are here. And as long as you are here this is my home." And with that, the man felt great joy and his burden was eased.