

## A Dog and His Gifts

A certain young dog, finding himself abandoned by his master, set out to seek his fortune in the world. He came at midday to a place where the road forked three ways, one road leading to the south, another to the north and a third to the west.

Remembering some wise words which his master's wife had told him, he set off down the road which led to the west. He had not gone far when he found a bag of gold coins. "Oho," thought the young dog to himself, "this bag of coins is something that my master would like. I will take it home and I shall surely be taken back into the house." He trotted back up the road and laid the bag at the door to the house. But his old master found it, and kicked it away without a word and told the dog to be on its way.

The dog went sadly down the road until he came to the fork. This time, he chose the road to the south. He had not gone far when he found large key. "Aha," said the dog to himself, "my old master would like a key such as this, for it undoubtedly opens a king's treasury!" With that, he picked up the key and trotted cheerfully back to the house. He laid the key at the door, and waited. But when his master came, he took one look at the key, and threw it at the young dog to chase him away.

The dog went sadly down the road until he came again to the fork. This time, he chose the road to the north. He had not gone far when he found a large stick. "Now", said the young dog to himself. "A stick is what my master used to throw for me when he took me to work in the park. I will therefore take this stick and find my master, and he and I will be friends again." With a great hope in his little heart, the dog picked up the stick and set off home. His master received him with every expression of joy and welcome. "Why did you not bring me this great gift before?" he asked kindly. "Now you and I will be the firmest of friends."

It was such a fine dream that the dog slept on past breakfast.