

## Animal Helpers in English and Uzbek Fairytales

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**Abstract:** *There are several types of helpers in folklore. The article deals with animal helpers that assist the protagonist in English and Uzbek fairytales. The genesis of helpers is also analyzed in this article.*

**Keywords:** *Fairytales, folklore, character, donor, helper, motif, animal helper, genesis.*

**Introduction.** Helpers associated with the names of totems (ancestral animals) and cult animals that humans worship are common in the tales of the peoples around the world. They can also be found in English and Uzbek fairy tales. They include animals such as wolves, horses, camels, lions, bears, monkeys, dogs, cats, fish, frogs, ants, rabbits, mice, birds and others.

**Main part.** Helpers play a vital role in resolving the conflict or assisting the main hero in need. There are several types of helpers in fairytales. An American scientist Donald Haase states assistance may come in the form of animal helpers. He also adds that a magic helper is a character, whether supernatural, human, or animal, who renders an extraordinary kind of assistance to heroes or heroines in folktales and other related narrative forms. The role played by magic helpers is a favorite building block in many fantastic oral stories.

A Russian scholar and folklorist Vladimir Yakovlevich Propp identified a donor character in fairytales, which tests the hero, questions, sets tasks first, only then assists or gives advice if the hero succeeds. Other supernatural characters, humans, magic beings, talking animals, elves, fairies, brownies, boogies, etc. can also help the hero in a fairytale.

Both in English and Uzbek fairytales the hero often meets the vital helper in the woods. Talking animals are often the hero's helpers, perhaps more than any other type. The most common motivation of the animals is gratitude, after protection, receiving food, or less commonly, settling a quarrel between several animals.

In the classical fairy tale, the “donor” or animal helper is a crucial element to the survival and success of the main hero, since they are typically animals that provide assistance in the journey or quest. This form of intervention is an important aspect of the animal helper's role in guiding the hero towards self-realization. The animal helper also supports the notion of a heroic human protagonist, which helps to promote the individuals' progress through acts of good deeds and support throughout the tale. These are interlocking parts of the relationship between the animal helper and the human hero, which provide a cooperative foundation for achieving a certain goal in fairy tales.

The horse and the dog appear as helpers in Chinese fairytales whereas; the horse, the dog, the cat, the fish, etc. are helpers in German and English folk tales. Totem (animal) helpers are found in many European and Uzbek fairy tales, as well as in the tales of other nations of the world. In European fairy tales, animals such as horses and wolves appear as totems. However, animal cult can be observed in both folk tales. In Uzbek folk tales there is a cult of bears, rabbits, fish, camels, birds, etc., in English there is a cult of animals in the form of fish and birds.

In the English fairytale “How Jack went to seek his fortune” Jack comes across a cat, a dog, a goat, a bull, a rooster turn by turn and agrees to join him in the search of fortune. Further he gets help from each of them while gaining the treasure. In the Uzbek fairytale “Botir” (“Brave”) 40 camels help the hero to carry food for his starving mother.

The cat's skin helps the main hero to hide her own appearance in an English fairytale “Catskin”. Its motif is similar to Cinderella tales and famous around the world.

The patronage of the fish is mentioned in the Uzbek fairy tale "Sohibjon and Ahmadjon". In this tale, Sohibjon takes pity on the child of the fish and releases him. In return, Ahmadjan helps Sohibjan many times and saves his life. The tale depicts a fish transformed into a human being.

Similarly, the fish is a helper in an English fairytale “The Fish and the Ring”. The ring found inside the fish saves a girl's life and she marries a rich man.

In the Uzbek folk tale "Father's Will", black horse flies from the sky to the youngest son, who has been waiting for three days at his father's grave? The horse goes around the grave three times; she leaves the young man a fiber. The youngest son conquers the forty-storied palace, to marry the princess and gains a half-kingdom.

In the fairy tale “The Witch” (“Yalmogiz kampir”) the calf is a helper. A young man runs away with a horse, a donkey, a camel and a calf. The calf creates a fog and hides all of them from the enemy. He kidnaps the king's daughter and brings her to the boy. Then he says to the boy, "Kill me and bury my two eyes in one place and my whole body in another." When the boy and the girl awoke, the calf's two eyes were turned into two calves, and his body into a big yard. Based on this motif, it can be said that people used ox skins to build houses for themselves in ancient times.

The frog is a helper in the English fairytale “The Well of the World's End”. It helps a girl to carry water from a distant well and asks her one day as a reward. The frog appeared to be enchanted and the girl rescues him.

The patronage of a talking bear is reflected in an Uzbek fairy tale “The Hero of the Sun”. This patronage is reflected in the image of the mother bear. The genesis of this motif is linked to beliefs about the cult of the bear. Belief in the cult of the bear among Uzbeks is still preserved in the use of bear oil in folk medicine, the use of bear skin for bedding, the organization of a bear game show. It is believed that watching the game of animals such as horses and bears gives a person good mood and happiness.

Sometimes there may be three donors, distinguished by the fact that the first two are unable to help and so send him on to the next. A common motif is that one can consult all the beasts, the next all the fish, the third all the birds, and only the last can discover what the hero needs. As in “Jack and his golden snuff-box”, the three little men help him in need, as well as all the mice, all the frogs try to assist in finding the castle Jack needs, at last, the birds succeed. In the English fairytale “Nix Nought Nothing” all the beasts in the wood appear as helpers to the protagonist. They cope with difficult tasks that a person cannot fulfill. Fowls also help the main hero to clean a seven-miles-long and seven-miles-broad stable that was not cleaned for seven years. The giant's daughter is a key figure to call all the beasts, fowls and fish for help.

In other cases, each of the three may give the hero or heroine something, but only the third has the information necessary to them.

This magical helper is often faithful to the hero; the hero may fail many times after the initial test, often by not respecting the helper's advice. The helper may declare that the hero does not deserve his help after his disobedience, but still aids him.

In general, the fairy-tales of the world contain a number of animal helpers such as horses, rams, deer, deer, wolves, fish, camels, dogs, snakes, lions, which are interpreted as zoomorphic helpers who help the protagonist in crucial moments. The protagonist is motivated to save their lives. In return for this human help, they also support the protagonist when necessary. The protagonists often receives help from these animals either to rescue a loved one from magic, or to capture some magical object, and so on.

**Conclusion.** To sum up, fairy tales can include magic, talking animals, or a touch of realism. Fairy tales don't always contain a moral or lesson, they can be pure entertainment, but often teach about consequences and values like kindness and patience. Animal helpers can be seen in most fairytales throughout the world. They may have different characteristics, specific features as they belong to different nations. However, the motif is similar —to give support, advice or a hand to people in need.

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