

aloud, "Lord of Strength, come forth and make me strong!" he would grow as sturdy as the other young people of the village.

14. He had never forgotten this; and so now he set off, intending to climb to the summit of the mountain, and try if the spell of those words would bring him any good luck.

15. It was a long, weary climb, some part of the way through blinding snow and against a piercing, bitter wind. Then the cold grew even keener; but the force of the wind was lessened, and his greatest trouble was to find foothold on the slippery, frost-bound rocks.

16. At length the crest was reached; and weary, but full of triumph, Kasagu raised his arms to the skies, and cried, "Lord of Strength, come forth and make me strong!"

17. Having uttered the spell, he waited; but all remained still and silent amid the mountains, and he feared that what his stepmother had told him was naught but a fable.

18. Very sadly, therefore, he now turned to descend the mountain; but, ere he had taken a dozen steps downward, he heard a rustling and the thud of heavy outfalls. Turning again, he saw a huge animal in the shape of a wolf, although three times the size of any wolf he had ever seen; and it was coming towards him.

19. At this sight, all the tales he had ever heard of the dreadful great beasts of the moun-