

4. He told her she could only succeed, if she would go begging for him until she had collected a hundred golden florins.

5. When she had done this, she was to take him by the hand and give the money to the poor.

6. The poor lady set out at once to redeem her beloved husband, for she felt (*glauben*) quite sure that he was only rusted outside, but that he was good inside.

7. Before long she met a beggarwoman, and asked if she would give her her dirty, ragged gown and her cloak.

8. She offered the beggarwoman all the money she had in her pocket, as well as her own silken clothes, if she would exchange (*tauschen*) with her.

9. The old woman was very [much] astonished, and said that she was the first person she had ever met with who wanted to be poor.

10. When, however, she saw that the poor lady was in earnest, she gladly exchanged dresses with her, and taught her the beggar's-song.

11. Then the good lady went forth into the wide world to redeem the rusty knight by begging.

12. At last she reached a strange town, where she sat and begged in the neighbourhood of a great church, sleeping on the church-steps at night.

13. But begging is a slow business, and it seemed as though she would never be able to save the money necessary for her husband's release, for at the end of the first year she had only one single florin.

14. She did not despair (*verzweifeln*), however, but determined to hold out to the end, knowing that she would redeem her husband.

15. Now when the knight learned (*erfahren*) that his wife had left him, he knew that she had found-out (*merken*) all.

16. The hermit, of whom he asked advice, told him to do good to the poor and go into all the churches, and he would find his wife again.

17. So the knight rode out into the world, giving money to the poor, and going into all the churches to pray.

18. After he had been travelling about for a whole year to-no-purpose, he came into the town where his wife sat begging at the church-door.