



### **Greed**

On this special long-awaited day, the Little Mouse awoke very early. “It is a holiday today! That is great! – This was the first thought crossed his mind. – What should one do on holiday? Of course, it is great pleasure to eat!” But he could not find any food in his burrow. The holiday mood was soon replaced by low spirits, and he felt sad. Suddenly he hit on a wonderful idea: “What if I pay a visit! But to whom? For example, to Bunny!” Bunny was a friend of the Little Mouse, a big lover of sweet carrots and cabbages. “He is very generous, kind, and most importantly, not greedy”. The Little Mouse quickly got ready and went to the Rabbit.

- Good day, Brother Bunny.
- Hello, Little Mouse.





– Happy holiday!

– And you too! You are welcome to stay for breakfast. Please help yourself.

The Little Mouse ate carrots and cabbages till he was full.

– Thank you, brother. It is time for me to go... I have yet to visit the Stubby.

After the farewell he went to Stubby – a small, round sparrow, famous as a fast and agile flier.

– Hello, Sparrow!

– Hi...

They feasted on appetizing grasshoppers and worms. Having forgotten that he had recently eaten so many carrots and cabbages, the Little Mouse ate all the food on the table...





Leaving the table, he wondered if he could visit somebody else.

“I will drop on my neighbor Wooly! He has a large manger”, – he decided.

After the greeting, he did not even wait for the invitation to come in and started to gnaw in the manger. He was especially pleased to eat a fresh juicy water-melon rind. Only when he had completely gnawed it, then he came out.

To his great surprise, he saw Puss, waiting for him to get out. Puss was a pet cat of this very home, and he did not like sponger rats and mice, but loved them as food.

The mouse was ready to flee but he got so fat that he could not run. When he hardly reached his burrow, his full stomach did not fit and got stuck in his narrow hole.





"I will meet my end now", – mouse was squeaking, when suddenly there was a loud barking of a big dog Buddy.

As he heard dog's growl approaching, Puss took to his heels.

Buddy went up to the Mouse, sniffed at it and said in disgust:

– Eh, you, glutton! "Big mouthfuls often choke!" as the old saying goes!

And so Little Mouse narrowly escaped death.

I wonder if he has stopped being such a glutton since then.

*Translated from Uzbek into English by Arofat Akhundjanova*