

The Rattrap

1. The peddler in "The Rattrap" got the idea of the world being a rattrap from his own experiences and struggle for survival. As the peddler wandered around, lonely, poor, and hungry, he thought deeply about the world and came up with this idea:

Just like a rattrap is used to trap rats with bait, the world is like a big rattrap for humans, who are trapped by riches, pleasures, food, and shelter. He saw these temptations as bait in the trap of life, just like cheese in a rat trap.

2. His own life was sad and monotonous. He roamed like a vagabond from place to place. The world had never been kind to him. During his wanderings, this idea became his favourite pastime. He was amused how people let themselves be caught in the dangerous trap and how others were still circling around the bait

3. No, the peddler did not expect the kind of hospitality he received from the crofter. The peddler was used to being treated with rejection, because of his appearance as a poor, homeless wanderer. People usually turned him away or ignored him. So he did not expect such kindness and hospitality from the crofter. Welcomed him into his cottage warmly. Gave him food, tobacco, and shelter for the night and shared details about his life and earnings.

4. – The crofter was an old man without a family, so he had no one to talk to. So, when the peddler came by the crofter became so talkative and friendly with the peddler because he was lonely and longed for a friend. He welcomed him into his cottage warmly. Gave him food, tobacco, and shelter for the night and shared details about his life and earnings.

5.

The crofter told peddler that he had got thirty kronor last month as payment by supplying the milk to creamery. The peddler seemed doubtful about it. So, in order to assure his guest he showed thirty kronor to the peddler. As he was alone, he didn't have anyone else to talk to. He felt excited and proud to share his success with the peddler.

6.

No, the peddler did not respect the confidence reposed in him by the crofter. The crofter trusted the peddler — he welcomed him into his home, gave him food and shelter, and even showed him his money, believing he was harmless. But the peddler betrayed that trust.

7.

He saw the 30 kronor as a tempting bait.

He gave in to the temptation and stole the money, thinking it would make his life better.

After stealing, he tried to escape through the forest, but he got lost. He wandered aimlessly, unable to find his way out just like a rat caught in a trap. He remembered his own words that the world was a rattrap, and people who chased after material things would get trapped by them.

8. The ironmaster spoke kindly to the peddler and invited him home because he mistook him for an old regimental comrade, Captain von Stahle. When the ironmaster saw the peddler at the ironworks, he thought he was Captain von Stahle, an old regimental comrade. He wanted to help his friend. He felt sympathy for his condition and also invited him to his house for the Christmas eve.

9. The ironmaster mistook the peddler for an old regimental comrade and invited him home. The peddler, knowing that he was not the person the ironmaster thought he was, worried that accepting the invitation might expose him. He also thought he might get into trouble for having stolen the crofter's 30 kronor. He thought that it would be like throwing himself voluntarily into the lion's den. He was feeling guilty and frightened. So he declined the invitation

10. Edla Willmansson's genuine kindness, compassion, and respectful behavior, made the peddler accept her invitation. She had a better power of persuasion. She knew he was afraid. So she assured him that no harm would come to him and he would be allowed to leave just as freely as he came. Her friendly manner and hospitality made the peddler feel confidence in her and accepted the invitation.

11. Edla had several doubts about the peddler from the beginning. When Edla went to the iron mill to invite him she noticed that he was frightened. She doubted that the peddler had stolen something or had escaped prison.

She doubted whether he is an educated man from his appearance and behaviour. She doubted that the man might not be trustworthy or even be a criminal. But she showed compassion and treated him with dignity on Christmas Eve.

12. The ironmaster realized his mistake the next morning, when the peddler had cleaned himself up and appeared in proper daylight. He invited the peddler home, thinking he was helping an old friend. But the next morning, when the peddler had bathed, changed clothes, and appeared in better light, the ironmaster realised his mistake.

13.

When it became clear that the peddler was not the person the ironmaster had mistaken him the peddler did not try to deny the truth.

He told the ironmaster that he never pretended to be anything but a poor trader. He said further that he had pleaded and begged to be allowed to stay in the forge. Then he offered to put on his rags and go away. He also expressed a deep sense of bitterness about how the world treated him, saying that the world had never been very kind to him, so he had stopped trusting it

14. Edla still entertained the peddler even after knowing the truth about him because of her kind and compassionate. She felt pity for him. Even though she knew that he was not her father's old regimental comrade she wanted him to enjoy Christmas like a real guest, with dignity and respect. Edla had invited him home for Christmas, and she did not want to go back on her word, even after learning the truth.

15. Edla was happy to see the gift left by the peddler because it proved that her kindness had made a difference in his life. It showed that the peddler had changed: The peddler returned the stolen money and left a letter thanking Edla for treating him like a real human being. This showed that he had transformed into a better person because of her compassion.

16. The peddler signed himself as Captain von Stahle as a mark of gratitude and transformation, acknowledging the honor and dignity with which Edla had treated him. The peddler had never known respect through out his life. For the first time in his life he was honoured and respected as if he were a captain. Although Edla knew the truth, she treated him in a similar way. The way she treated him encouraged him to behave in the same manner. He signed the letter as Captain von Stahle so as to underline the impact of Edla's goodness on him.

17. What made the peddler finally change his ways?

Ans:

The peddler finally changed his ways because of the kindness, compassion, and trust shown to him by Edla Willmansson. Edla treated the peddler with respect and dignity, even after learning he was not a real captain. Edla let him stay and celebrated Christmas with him. This unexpected trust made him feel valued and respected, something he had never felt before.

Edla's treatment made him feel like a real human being, he didn't want to betray the goodness shown to him, which inspired him to rise above his old habits and be a better person.