Once there was a wise old farmer who had a lovely daughter, whom he doted on and tried to be around as much as possible. One day, when he had to go to a distant market to sell his crops due to urgent financial needs, he went to a local blacksmith and bought a small iron dog statue. This statue was said to have magical powers of observing and remembering everything that happened around it. He brought it home and asked his daughter to place it in the living room and take good care of it while he was away. Then he set off.

On his return, he asked the iron dog statue what had happened during his absence. The statue told him some things that made him angry at his daughter.

She thought that one of her neighbors must have been spreading rumors about her, but they told her it was the iron dog statue, and she decided to take revenge on it.

When her father next went away for a day, she told one neighbor to bang on a drum near the statue's base; another to pour sand from above the statue, and a third to hold a bright lantern and swing it in front of its eyes, from top to bottom by the light of a fire. The neighbors did this for part of the night, and did it very well.

The next day when the father came back he asked the iron dog statue what it had seen. The statue replied, "My dear master, the loud noises, the falling sand and the strange light movements disturbed me so much all night long, that I cannot tell you what I have suffered."

The father, who knew that there had been no such disturbances in the night, was convinced that the iron dog statue was not telling the truth, so he took it off the shelf and threw it so roughly on the ground that he broke it. Nevertheless he was sorry afterwards, for he found that the iron dog statue had spoken the truth.