A valiant knight had a lovely princess, whom he cherished deeply, never straying far from her side. One day, compelled by a sacred quest to retrieve a holy relic, he journeyed to a mystical market where enchanted creatures were traded. There, he acquired a raven, not just any bird, but one gifted with speech and the ability to recount all it witnessed. He presented this raven to his princess, instructing her to keep it in her chamber and tend to it while he was away. With a heavy heart, he departed. Upon his return, he inquired of the raven what transpired in his absence. The raven revealed tidings that distressed the knight, leading him to reprimand his princess.

She, suspecting a traitorous servant had betrayed her, learned it was the raven. Vowing vengeance, she devised a plan.

When the knight next left for a day, she commanded one servant to stoke the hearth’s flames beneath the raven’s cage, another to pour water from above, and a third to wave a polished shield before its eyes, reflecting the fire’s glow. They executed this for part of the night with precision.

The following day, the knight returned and questioned the raven. The bird replied, “My noble master, the tempest of fire, water, and blinding light tormented me all night, leaving me unable to recount my suffering.” The knight, knowing no such storm had occurred, deemed the raven a liar. In his wrath, he seized the bird and cast it to the stones, ending its life. Yet, he later discovered the raven had spoken true, and sorrow filled his heart.