

## HANDOUT 4.2 A - HERR KORBES

### Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm

Published in 1884

A cock and a hen once wanted to go a journey together. So the cock built a beautiful carriage with four red wheels, and he harnessed four little mice to it. And the cock and the hen got into it, and were driven off. Very soon they met a cat, who asked where they were going. The cock answered,

“On Herr Korbes a call to pay,  
And that is where we go to-day!”

“Take me with you,” said the cat.

The cock answered,

“Very well, only you must sit well back, and then you will not fall forward.”

“And pray take care  
Of my red wheels there;  
And wheels be steady,  
And mice be ready  
On Mr. Korbes a call to pay,  
For that is where we go to-day!”

Then there came up a millstone, then an egg, then a duck, then a pin, and lastly a needle, who all got up on the carriage, and were driven along. But when they came to Herr Korbes' house he was not at home. So the mice drew the carriage into the barn, the cock and the hen flew up and perched on a beam, the cat sat by the fireside, the duck settled on the water; but the egg wrapped itself in the towel, the pin stuck itself in the chair cushion, the needle jumped into the bed among the pillows, and the millstone laid itself by the door. Then Herr Korbes came home, and went to the hearth to make a fire, but the cat threw ashes in his eyes. Then he ran quickly into the kitchen to wash himself, but the duck splashed water in his face. Then he was going to wipe it with the towel, but the egg broke in it, and stuck his eyelids together. In order to get a little peace he sat down in his chair, but the pin ran into him, and, starting up, in his vexation he threw himself on the bed, but as his head fell on the pillow, in went the needle, so that he called out with the pain, and madly rushed out. But when he reached the housedown the mill-stone jumped up and struck him dead.

What a bad man Herr Korbes must have been!

The Project Gutenberg EBook of Household Stories by the Brothers Grimm, by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm. This eBook is for the use of anyone anywhere at no cost and with almost no restrictions whatsoever. You may copy it, give it away or re-use it under the terms of the Project Gutenberg License included with this eBook or online at [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)

Title: Household Stories by the Brothers Grimm

Author: Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm

Translator: Lucy Crane

Release Date: August 17, 2006 [EBook #19068]

Character set encoding: ISO-8859-1

Produced by Suzanne Shell, Melissa Er-Raqabi and the Online Distributed Proofreading Team at <http://www.pgdp.net>