

# The Apprentice's Problem

A Narrative Mime based on Rolf Myller's  
How Big Is A Foot?  
Adapted for Narrative Mime

## Cast

**King\*\*Queen\*\*Prime Minister\*\*Chief Carpenter\*\*Apprentice\*\*Optional: Jailer**

## Script

Storyteller: Once upon a time there lived a King and his wife, the Queen. They were a happy couple for they had everything in the world. In fact, the king and queen often said, "We are so happy!"

King and Queen: We are so happy!

Storyteller: However, when the Queen's birthday came near the King had a problem. The Queen happily sang, "My birthday is coming soon!"

Queen: My birthday is coming soon!

Storyteller: The King wondered out loud to himself, "What can I give to someone who has everything?"

King: "What can I give to someone who has everything?"

Storyteller: The King thought and he thought and he thought. Until suddenly, he had an idea! "I will give the Queen a bed!" he said.

King: I will give the Queen a bed!

Storyteller: The Queen did not have a bed because at the time beds had not been invented. So even someone who had everything did not have a bed. The King called his Prime Minister and said, "Please have a bed made."

King: Please have a bed made.

Storyteller: The Prime Minister called the Chief Carpenter and said, "Please have a bed made."

Prime Minister: Please have a bed made.

Storyteller: The Chief Carpenter called the apprentice and said, "Please have a bed made."

Chief Carpenter: Please have a bed made.

Storyteller: The apprentice didn't know how big a bed was because at the time nobody had ever seen a bed. "How big is a bed?" he asked.

Apprentice: How big is a bed?

Storyteller: The Carpenter asked the Prime Minister, "How big is a bed?"

Prime Minister: How big is a bed?

Storyteller: The Prime Minister thought that was a good question. So, he asked the King, "How big *is* a bed?"

Prime Minister: How big *is* a bed?

Storyteller: The King thought and he thought and he thought. Suddenly he had an idea! "The bed must be big enough for the Queen!" he said.

King: The bed must be big enough for the Queen!

Storyteller: The King called to the Queen. He said, “Put on your new pajamas and lie on the floor.”

King: Put on your new pajamas and lie on the floor.

Storyteller: The King took off his shoes and with his big feet walked carefully around the Queen. He counted that the bed must be three feet wide and six feet long to be big enough for the Queen, including the crown, which the Queen sometimes liked to wear to sleep. The king said “Thank you” to the Queen.

King: Thank you!

Storyteller: Then, the king told the Prime Minister, who told the Chief Carpenter, who told the apprentice: “The bed must be three feet wide and six feet long.”

Chief Carpenter: The bed must be three feet wide and six feet long.

Storyteller: The apprentice said, “Thank you.”

Apprentice: Thank you.

Storyteller: He took off his shoes and with his little feet he measured three feet wide and six feet long and made a bed to fit the Queen. When the king saw the bed, he thought it was beautiful. He could not wait for the Queen’s birthday. Instead he called the Queen at once and said, “Put on your new pajamas.”

King: Put on your new pajamas.

Storyteller: Then he brought out the bed and said to the Queen, “Try it.”

King: Try it.

Storyteller: But, the bed was much too small for the Queen. She whined, “It’s much too small!”

Queen: It’s much too small!

Storyteller: The King was so angry that he immediately called the Prime Minister who called the Chief Carpenter who called the jailer. And, the jailer threw the apprentice in jail. “You’ve got to go to jail!” said the jailer.

Jailer: You’ve got to go to jail!

Storyteller: The apprentice was unhappy. Why was the bed too small for the Queen?