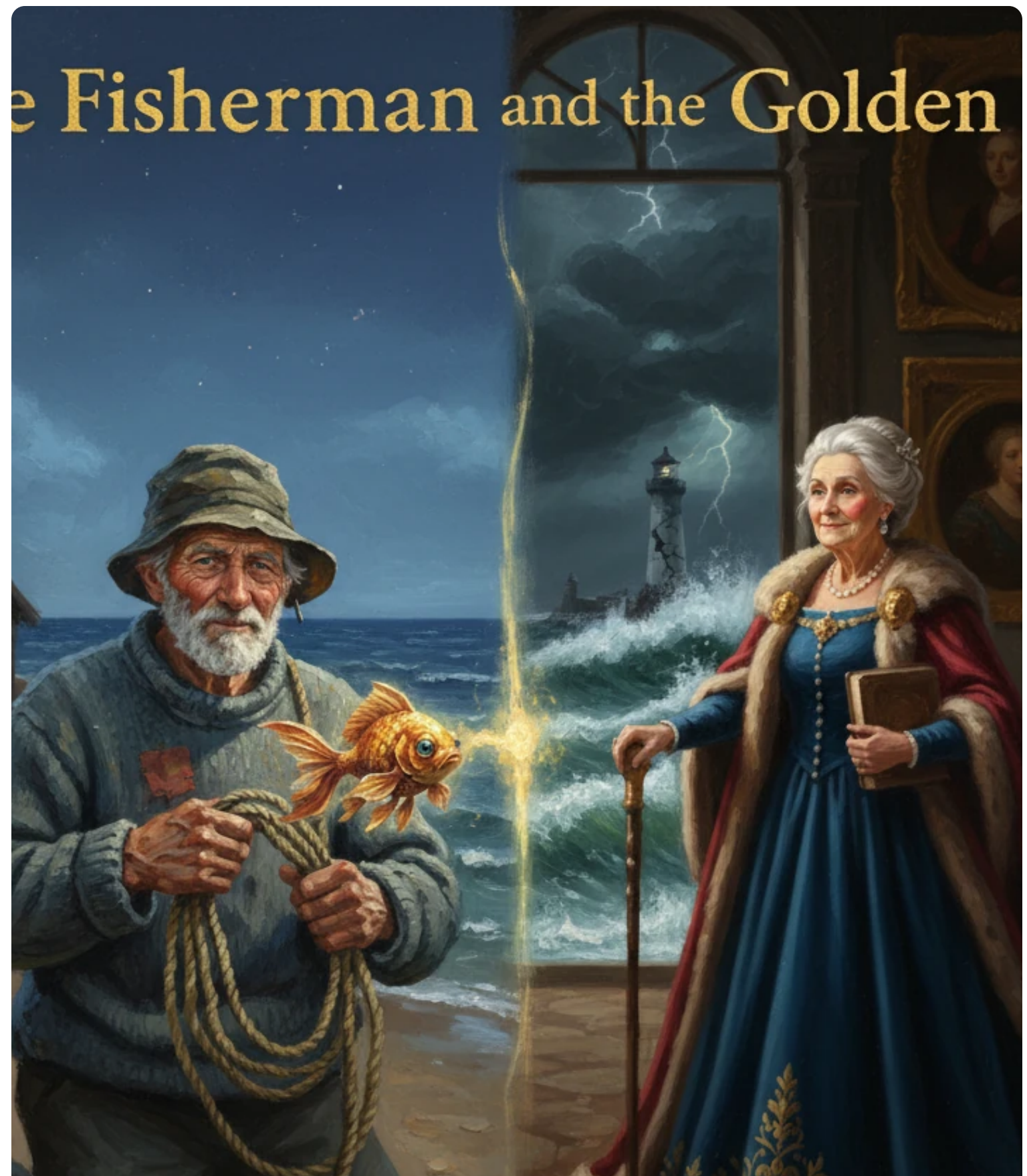


The Fisherman and the Golden



The Fisherman and the Golden Fish

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A Timeless Tale of Greed and Gratiuade



An old fisherman lives with his wife in a tiny, weathered hut right by the edge of a vast and sparkling blue sea. Every morning, he takes his net to the shore, living a quiet life of simple hard work while the waves gently lap at the sand.



One day, his net feels unusually heavy, and he pulls up a beautiful fish with scales that glow like pure gold in the sunlight. The fish speaks in a gentle, human voice, begging to be released and promising to grant any wish in return for its freedom.



The kind fisherman is surprised but asks for nothing, simply choosing to set the magical fish free back into the deep blue waves. He watches the golden shimmer disappear beneath the water and then returns home to tell his wife about the amazing encounter.



His wife is not impressed by his kindness and angrily demands that he go back to ask for a new wooden trough to replace their broken one. The fisherman returns to the shore, calls for the fish, and find a brand-new trough waiting for him at home.



• THE FISHERMAN'S CHOICE •

Soon, a new trough is not enough, and the wife demands a large, sturdy house with a tiled roof and a garden. The fisherman calls to the fish again, and he returns to find a beautiful new home standing where their old shack used to be.



The wife's greed continues to grow, and she insists on becoming a wealthy noblewoman with fine silk clothes and many servants. As the fisherman speaks to the fish, the sea begins to turn a restless, dark green, reflecting the changing mood of the story.



Next, the wife demands to be a powerful queen, ruling over a grand kingdom from a magnificent stone palace. The fisherman is worried as he sees the waves growing taller and more turbulent, but the Golden Fish grants the wish once more.



Finally, the wife demands to be the Mistress of the Sea, wanting the Golden Fish to serve her personally at the bottom of the ocean. The fisherman approaches the shore with a heavy heart as a violent storm begins to howl and the sky turns black.



The fisherman calls out to the Golden Fish one last time to deliver his wife's final, arrogant demand. The fish does not respond with words; it simply splashes its tail and dives deep into the dark, churning water, leaving the fisherman alone in the rain.



When the fisherman returns home, the palace and the servants have all vanished into thin air as if they were never there. He finds his wife sitting in front of their original, broken hut, with the same old cracked trough by her side, just as things were in the beginning.