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## Sirko

Once there was, a Sirko-dog, He lived with a man, And he had a job. He looked after the cattle and kept the wolves away from it. And in the daytime, he ate and then laid down to sleep. Our Sirko was lazy. He was sleeping for a day and night.

And while he was sleeping, the wolves could steal either a goose or a calf. But Sirko did not care for it, He laid down to sleep again. One day some thieves came and took all the commodity from the house, The man said to Sirko , "Hey Sirko, do not sleep!. You have to earn your bread."

Our Sirko was angry with his master. "If so, I will go into the world to seek for a better fate!" Then he ran out of the yard and ran to the forest, there he met a wolf. "Hello, brother Wolf! Let's stop quarreling. I am sick and tired of people. Let's live and get food together and every day we'll have fresh food. I know where to go, where the lambs live, and the calves, the geese and the pigs will be ours".

The Wolf was glad to make friends with Sirko. And as soon as the night came, they went to the village together. They came there quietly. People were sleeping. The Wolf and the Dog came to the barn together: "We will have some food!" The Wolf said: "You know everything here, Creep to the barn, and throw me a couple of lambs!"

And Sirko was very happy. He crept and threw out a sheep. The wolf caught the sheep and ran away. Our Sirko crept out of the barn and looked around. There was no wolf! He cried, "You have cheated me! You just wait, Wolf, I will eat without you". Then Sirko jumped into the barn again. But there were some people there. And Sirko was caught in the barn. And people shouted, "Wolf! We have caught you! Let's beat him not to creep into the barn to kill our sheep".

Sirko shouted: "I'm not a wolf! I'm, a dog!" But it was for nothing! "If you're a dog," they said, "so do not make friends with the wolves!" They began to beat him with big sticks.

And he became hard-working: He didn't sleep and he always took care of the barn and cattle and kept the wolves away.

*Borys Grinchenko*