



Fly in a Two-Headed Drum

Synopsis

Persa, a wise woman in the village of Arz-End, wants to kill her husband, Shitbrain, so she can get her neighbour Bonniebod - so long as Bonniebod loses his dodginess and gains wisdom. Bonniebod's wife, Voola, is also keen on killing her husband because of his dodginess, and she hopes she could copy Persa's methods. However, Bonniebod comes to Shitbrain's rescue. Persa then advises Voola how to get rid of her husband. She has to let a fly into the house and then Bonniebod would have no choice but to run to Persa to rescue him and that would be the death of him.

Bonniebod traps Bugga, the fly lured by Voola, into his two-headed drum and tells her she must play to his beating. Then he wants to slaughter his wife but Voola tells him that according to Persa, he too is a fly in a drum. Bonniebod gets experimental proof of this claim. Then Persa tells him that until he finds out how he came to get inside the two-headed drum, who he is and where he's going to when he dies, he'll be no more than a fly buzzing in a drum. Persa knows the answers to all these questions but she wants him to figure them out on his own. If he does, she will reward him with her love.

Bonniebod decides he will go into the big world of Arz-End in search of the answers and then he will tell Persa he has figured them out on his own. Voola is delirious with joy as noone, who has ventured out into Arz-End, has come back alive. Persa tricks Shitbrain into following in Bonniebod's steps in the hope that he will find his death there. As the two men reach the fork in the road, Bonniebod takes "Nitwit Way" and Shitbrain takes "Bigwit Way".

Bonniebod arrives at the cemetery in the village of Nitwit Croft. There is a live man, Rottencrotch, lying in a coffin there. He's fed up with life on earth and wants to see what it is like in heaven. His wife, Lusta, is looking for someone to bury him and go to bed with her. Bogbaler, King Guilyfart the Great's volunteer bouncer, is willing to oblige. While Bogbaler is burying Rottencrotch, Lusta goes looking for a lover. She manages to snare King Guilyfart the Great himself, who had gone out disguised as a common Arz-Ender to find out how his subjects felt about their King.

Lusta drags Guilyfart into her bed and Bonniebod hides under the bed in the hope that spying will help him find answers to his questions. He forgets to hide his drum though and the worried Bugga's buzzing upsets the amorous couple. They think there is a piss-key in the drum. Lusta goes to fetch her axe to kill the piss-key. The king runs for his life and hides on the roof. The fly appeals to Bonniebod to rescue her and reveals to him that he is her God and her master. Lusta drags King Guilyfart down onto her bed. Bogbaler starts knocking on the door to demand his pay. Lusta gets the King to hide under the bed.

The bed breaks under Lusta and Bogbaler, the King whines in pain. Lusta and Bogbaler think he is the piss-key and set him on fire. The King runs away in flames with Bogbaler in pursuit. Bonniebod then pretends he is the piss-key, gets Lusta to lie face down, gives her a right old smacking while making her sing and runs away. On returning, only to see Lusta with her pants down, Bogbaler gives her a right old smacking while making her sing as well.

Shitbrain arrives at the village of Bigwit Croft. There's an Arz-Ender running around there with his tail on fire - Guilyfart the Great himself. Queen Orgya rushes in to Guilyfart's rescue and makes him jump into a well. But when he is ready to be pulled out, she pretends she's not there. When Shitbrain asks her if she has no fear of God, she explains that they have no God in Arz-End. And with Guilyfart gone, she can be both God and King to herself and reign supreme in her pub, mill and kingdom.

The King's volunteer bouncer, Bogbaler, arrives at the well and tells the King to keep quiet for fear of turning himself into the laughing stock of the village. Orgya reprimands Bogbaler for not doing his duties at the mill. Bogbaler cannot see why anybody should work at the mill, now that there is no King there. Orgya tells him that king or no king, Arz-Enders need bread on their tables. So she harnesses Bogbaler to pull the mill wheel.

Shitbrain realises that Orgya is a much better catch than his supposedly clever wife Persa. If he manages to bridle Orgya, he'll have the whole of Arz-End in his pocket. Orgya overhears Shitbrain's musings and proceeds to harness him into pulling the mill-wheel, while dispatching the bouncer to take care of her pub. In the meantime King Guilyfart climbs out of the well and gets back to Queen Orgya.

Bonniebod realises that the village of Nitwit Croft is the King's village. Bugga tricks the King into answering Bonniebod's questions. The King accepts the gift of the clever fly so he can use her as his advisor and rewards Bonniebod by getting Bogbaler to cane him. In order to spite the king, Bonniebod refrains from groaning and falls asleep.

Shitbrain arrives at a pub in the village of Bigwit Croft. The owner of the pub is King Guilyfart the Great himself. The King refuses to serve Shitbrain for free and Shitbrain threatens to hang himself in the pub in retaliation. He digs out Rottencrotch from his grave to hang instead. Rottencrotch tries to resist and Shitbrain coerces him by defecating in his grave. His turd immediately turns into a tri-headed vampire by the name of Turdl'ead.

Shitbrain takes Rottencrotch to the King's pub, followed by Turdl'ead. While Shitbrain is looking for a rope to hang the corpse, Turdl'ead hides him and takes his place.

The King enters and in his turn hides Turdl'ead. Shitbrain then accuses Guilyfart of making his brother hang himself. Turdl'ead turns into a swine.

Shitbrain walks away with the swine and arrives at the cemetery. Lusta snares him and takes him home with her. Turdl'ead follows, turning into a turd again and demands to be treated as Shitbrain's son. Shitbrain feeds him to the swine. From within the swine's stomach the turd sets the swine up to gobble Shitbrain's wellies. Shitbrain refuses to give up his wellies and the swine throws itself into the well. Devastated by his loss, Shitbrain throws himself into the well too.

Bugga carries the limp Bonniebod to the Nitwit cemetery. They see Rottencrotch there, sitting by his gaping grave. Rottencrotch's anger with Shitbrain for digging him up and distracting him from his life in heaven is keeping him alive. Bonniebod advises him to grant Shitbrain forgiveness so he can go back to being dead again. Rottencrotch grants Shitbrain forgiveness and expires before Bonniebod gets a chance to ask him where he's going.

Bugga prompts Bonniebod to seek answers to his questions from God himself. Bonniebod asks God to confirm if he is right in believing that Arz-Enders must have come from some really crowded place because the moment they land into the two-headed drum of Arz-End all they do is fight over some speck of land or blade of grass. God's only response is to drum back when Bonniebod drums.

Bonniebod continues down Nitwit Way until he reaches his own house. He sees Bogbaler there polishing his cane. Bogbaler is married to Bonniebod's wife Voola. Finding himself free, Bonniebod takes the upper hand with Persa and demands that she reveals the answers to the questions for which she had sent him on a quest. Through love and caring Persa leads the way out of the rut of their lives of petty strife but King Guilyfart quickly traps them into the two-headed drum of Arz-End again. With Bugga's help they manage to climb out on top and get a revelation from God - by walking away from slavery, man attains immortality through the song born by freedom.