

## The Giant Who was More than a Match

adapted and recorded on their CD "Words to the Wise" by Tom and Sandy Farley from a story published in *Friends Journal* under the name Aaron Piper, pseudonym for Aaron Shepard. Recorded with his permission. See <www.aaronshp.com/> for his current version.

There was once a small but prosperous country that had two main cities. The Port City sat beside a beautiful bay and the harbor was a busy place of trade. The Capital City lay inland in a fertile valley where fine produce was grown. Nuts and wines were shipped through the port to many places.

There was one road connecting the two cities. It climbed over a pass between two mountains. One day, a giant appeared in the road at the top of the pass. A farmer was leading his donkey with a cart full of strawberries up the road on his way to the port.

The Giant bellowed, "Halt! No one passes this road except by me. Choose your weapon, and I shall be more than a match."

The farmer had no weapon. So, he turned his donkey around and went to the Capital City. There he went to see the Governor. He told her, "There is a giant blocking the road and he won't let me pass. He says I should choose a weapon and he will be more than a match. But I have no weapon and I am no match for a giant."

"I see," said the Governor.

"What am I to do with my strawberries?" the farmer complained. "I get a much better price in the port city."

She had no answer for him.

Meanwhile a merchant was driving a horse and cart up the hill from the Port City, with a load of clothing for sale in the Capital City. The Giant stopped the cart and called out, "Halt! No one passes this road except by me. Choose your weapon, and I shall be more than a match."

The merchant had no weapon. He had never needed one before in this safe country. He turned his horse around and headed back down to the Port City. He went straight to the office of the Port Commissioner.

"Our roads are not safe!" the merchant announced. "There's a big giant who says he'll match what ever weapon you have. I can't fight a giant. What are you going to do?"

The Port Commissioner said, "We will have to look into how to fight giants." So he and his staff consulted the books in the library. They found that Thor had killed giants with a hammer. They asked the Port City's strongest blacksmith to challenge the Giant with his hammer. He was a big man and strong. He gladly accepted the challenge.

The blacksmith went up the road. When he got to the pass, the Giant stopped him and called out, "Halt! No one passes this road except by me. Choose your weapon, and I shall be more than a match."

"I choose the hammer," said the blacksmith.

Instantly the Giant held in his had a hammer that was 5 times bigger than the blacksmith's. He pounded the poor blacksmith to a bloody pulp of broken bones and scrambled brains.

In the Capital City, the Governor had also consulted the library and found that a farm boy named Jack had felled a giant with a hatchet. She sent out word that she wanted a volunteer champion, perhaps named Jack, who could wield an ax.

A young woman named Jacqueline volunteered. "I'm a wood cutter. I am good with an ax. My family calls me Jackie. Can I be the champion?"

The Governor explained the danger and sent her up the road. When she came to the pass the Giant met her and said, "Halt! No one passes this road except by me. Choose your weapon, and I shall be more than a match."

Jackie bravely said, "I choose the ax."

Instantly the Giant held in his hand an ax that was 5 times bigger and 5 times sharper than Jackie's. He swung his giant ax and split Jackie right down the middle, like two fillets of fish.

In the Port City, a rabbi suggested to the Port Commissioner, "You might find a boy who is good with a sling shot. He should aim to hit the Giant between the eyes with a rock. This method worked well for a boy named David who later became king." They asked around and found that no one used sling shots much, but they did meet a young man who threw baseballs very fast and asked if he could throw a rock and hit the Giant in the head. The baseball pitcher said, "Sure! Usually I have to avoid hitting a head, but I have good aim. I can do this."

He put three baseball-sized rocks in his pocket and went up the road. He met the Giant who said, "Halt! No one passes this road except by me. Choose your weapon, and I shall be more than a match."

The baseball player said, "I choose rocks." And before he could get the first rock out of his pocket, the Giant was holding up a huge boulder, a rock as big as small house. He dropped it on the ball player and it squashed him flatter than a pancake.

No one else would volunteer and the Giant still stopped all travelers. The Governor remembered that there was a wise man who lived in a cottage at the base of the mountain. She went and consulted him.

"What does the Giant say exactly?" he asked.

"Halt! No one passes this road except by me. Choose your weapon, and I shall be more than a match."

"Aha! Just as I thought." The wise man said, "I may be able to help. I will need a milk cow, a small cart for her to pull, a stool, a pail, and a cup."

The cart and cow were found and the wise man made his way up the road to the pass. There he met the Giant who said, "Halt! No one passes this road except by me. Choose your weapon, and I shall be more than a match."

"I'll have to think about that," said the wise man and he sat down to think.

The Giant tried mightily to think, but he didn't have much practice at that so it was hard.

The cow said, "Moo!" and the wise man got out the pail, brought his stool over beside the cow, and started to milk the cow. He filled a cup with the fresh milk and offered it to the Giant.

"Oh," said the Giant, "You offer me food. Let me offer you something to eat." He spread his hands and a table appeared with dishes of food, bowls of fruit, roast meats, white and yellow cheeses, breads, and wines.

The wise man took a piece of bread a slice of cheese and a piece of fruit. "Thank you, sir," he said.

"Many thanks to you, kind sir," said the Giant.

"Just as I thought," the wise man said to himself. Then out loud he said, "A hundred thanks!"

"A thousand thanks!" replied the Giant.

"I'm going to the Port City. There's room on my cart. May I offer you a ride?" the wise man said.

"No, no. Let me offer *you* a ride." And the Giant picked up the wise man the cart and the cow in his arms and carried them all the way down to the Port City.

From then on, if the Giant challenged anyone on the road, they only had to offer a ride or some other kindness and they would find it multiplied.

## Giant Who was More than a Match -- Lessons

### A. Vocabulary

Match the words in the box with the brief definition below.

<b>Halt</b>	<b>Consulted</b>	<b>Thor</b>	<b>Blacksmith</b>	<b>Hatchet</b>	<b>Wield</b>
<b>Fertile</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>	<b>Squashed</b>	<b>Pail</b>	
<b>Bellowed</b>	<b>Port Commissioner</b>	<b>Fillets</b>	<b>Exactly</b>		

1. \_\_\_\_\_ capable of reproducing, good for growing food
2. \_\_\_\_\_ spoke loudly, in a deep tone
3. \_\_\_\_\_ stop
4. \_\_\_\_\_ person in charge of commerce at the harbor
5. \_\_\_\_\_ looked to for guidance, met to exchange advice
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Norse god of thunder, Thursday's name sake
7. \_\_\_\_\_ iron worker, pounds hot iron into horseshoes & tools
8. \_\_\_\_\_ ax, tool for chopping down trees
9. \_\_\_\_\_ person who does something for no pay, of his own will
10. \_\_\_\_\_ use with skill, particularly a hand weapon
11. \_\_\_\_\_ tender steaks or sides of fish with no bones
12. \_\_\_\_\_ pressed flat, squeezed to a pulp
13. \_\_\_\_\_ precisely, word for word
14. \_\_\_\_\_ backless seat
15. \_\_\_\_\_ bucket, open container for liquid with handle

**B. Using the words** Use the vocabulary words to complete these sentences.

<b>Halt</b>	<b>Consulted</b>	<b>Thor</b>	<b>Blacksmith</b>	<b>Hatchet</b>	<b>Wield</b>
<b>Fertile</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>	<b>Squashed</b>	<b>Pail</b>	<b>Hammer</b>
<b>Bellowing</b>	<b>Port Commissioner</b>		<b>Fillet</b>	<b>Exactly</b>	

1. The soldier made everyone \_\_\_\_\_ at the gate and be identified.
2. On a cold day, the warmest place was by the fire at the old \_\_\_\_\_ shop. It was also noisy there with all his hammering.
3. I don't understand. What \_\_\_\_\_ do you mean by a "nice tip?"
4. Yes, father, I cut down the cherry tree, I did it with my little \_\_\_\_\_.
5. At holiday meals we have to use the piano \_\_\_\_\_ as well as all the chairs.
6. She carried the left-over food and trimmings to the pigs in a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I added compost to the ground to make \_\_\_\_\_ soil for my garden.
8. I need to pound in a nail, hand me the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. He \_\_\_\_\_ a dictionary to check the meaning of the new word.
10. We were scared when we heard the rhinoceros \_\_\_\_\_.
11. All ships entering the harbor must register with the \_\_\_\_\_.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ was seen as an angry god who caused lightning and thunder.
13. Who will go? We need a \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ of sole with almonds was delicious.
15. Zorro was a trained fencer; he could really \_\_\_\_\_ his sword.
16. He stepped on the spider and \_\_\_\_\_ it under his foot.

### C. Expressions: The Giant's Challenge

"Halt! No one passes this road except by me. Choose your weapon, and I shall be more than a match." is what the Giant says. "Except by me" means only with my permission. He is saying you have to get past me to continue. Here are some similar expressions of denial:

- |                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| "No way!"           | "Never, in a million years!" |
| "Not on your life!" | "Adults, only"               |
| "Like heck I will!" | "Over my dead body!"         |

1. No one may get to the boss \_\_\_\_\_ passing his administrative assistant. [except by/no way/Adults, only]
2. You want me to stand and speak to 500 people? \_\_\_\_\_! [except by me/not on your life/ Adults, only]
3. He's no good. You can't marry him! If you insist on marrying him it will be \_\_\_\_\_ [like heck I will/over my dead body/no way]

"Choose your weapon." These are the words that precede a duel. Men who would fight for their honor might choose swords or pistols. The expression is used today much more lightly. "Choose your weapon" might be said looking at a choice of forks. Still, weapon usually means something capable of inflicting harm. List some weapons you know.

_____ <u>sword</u> _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

"More than a match" means equal or better. A match, when it is not a fire starter, is a pair or a mate to something. "A matched set of 6 teacups." Pablo met his match in Fernando; their skills were equal. They competed 12 times, and each won 6. Who is your match?

1. In height \_\_\_\_\_
2. In age \_\_\_\_\_
3. In weight \_\_\_\_\_
4. In athletics \_\_\_\_\_
5. In English knowledge \_\_\_\_\_
6. In wisdom \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Grammar: More/less/ -er**

When we compare two things we use "more" or "less," or we use an adjective with the -er ending.

The Giant's ax was five times **sharper**.

The bay was **bluer** and **more beautiful** than any he had seen.

My brother is **younger** and **less intelligent** than I am.

Form sentences making comparisons.

John/old/Jane John is older than Jane

1. My car/new/his car \_\_\_\_\_

2. Vienna/beautiful/Cairo \_\_\_\_\_

3. Cairo/old/Vienna \_\_\_\_\_

4. Carrots/delicious/beets \_\_\_\_\_

5. This jet/fly/fast/that jet \_\_\_\_\_

6. Dogs/loyal/cats \_\_\_\_\_

7. Giant/strong/farmer \_\_\_\_\_

8. John's costume/ridiculous/Alan's costume \_\_\_\_\_

9. Hurricanes/frightening/earthquakes \_\_\_\_\_

10. I/happy/I was yesterday \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Expression: flatter than a pancake**

Flatter than a pancake is a colorful comparative expression. A pancake is a flat breakfast bread and its flatness is a well known characteristic. If we want to emphasize a quality we compare it to something familiar, known for the quality. "Meaner than a junk yard dog." "Sweeter than honey." "Faster than a speeding bullet." See if you can create some colorful expressions.

Hotter than \_\_\_\_\_

Colder than \_\_\_\_\_

Sillier than \_\_\_\_\_

Crazier than \_\_\_\_\_

Deader than \_\_\_\_\_

More helpless than \_\_\_\_\_

Less noticeable than \_\_\_\_\_

Sharper than \_\_\_\_\_

More nervous than \_\_\_\_\_

Duller than \_\_\_\_\_

More confused than \_\_\_\_\_

Less welcome than \_\_\_\_\_

**F. Culture:** [Read and respond or discuss]

When the Port Commissioner and the Governor consult books about Giants, what kind of books do they look in? Where would they find the story of Thor? Where would they find the story of "Jack and the Bean-stalk"? Are these books in the fiction or non-fiction section of the library? Do you know these stories? Do you know the story the rabbi told? Where would you find it? Do you know other stories about people defeating Giants?

**G. Concept: Matching attitude:** [Read and discuss, then write]

When the Giant asks for weapons, people come armed. They come with weapons and with their minds ready to fight. This creates a situation where people get killed.

1. What is the blacksmith's attitude when he meets the Giant?  
[aggressive/friendly/brave/fearful/happy/welcoming]
2. How does the Giant respond?
3. What is the Wise man's attitude when he meets the Giant?
4. What "weapon" does the wise man use?
5. How does the Giant respond?
6. How is the outcome different when the wise man meets the Giant?

Write a comparison of how people with different attitudes might confront the same problem. Describe a problem and show two or three different attitudes that people might bring to the problem. Then show how that might affect how the problem is resolved.