

Le favole di Calimero



A kingdom in a cake

Once upon a time there lived a handsome young Prince who ruled over the smallest country in the world and fell in love with the daughter of the most powerful Emperor in the world. The Emperor's daughter loved him dearly and keenly looked forward to the day he came to Court to ask for her hand in marriage. But the Emperor had other plans for his daughter's marriage and when the Prince came to Court, the ruler derided him in front of everyone else.

This is the poor Prince. What have you got to offer my dear daughter? Next to nothing."

The Prince answered quickly, "A heart full of love, a castle in the clouds and all the joy in the world."

"These are only words, and you can't eat words. You surely have orchards, cattle and windmills in your realm, don't you?" inquired the Emperor. And the Prince said, "Of course, there are large fields and all kinds of animals and plenty of windmills along the great river,". "Fine," sneered the Emperor. "You will have my daughter's hand only if you bring me all the orchards, cowsheds and mills in your kingdom. That's what I've decided."

The dignitaries and noblemen of the Court burst out laughing when they saw the astonished look on the Prince's face. The Emperor's daughter who had witnessed the scene from behind a screen, burst out crying and sought comfort in her mother's arms. "I shall never be able to marry the man I love." "Love is the greatest force in all the world," her mother consoled her. "You will see, you will be able to overcome this trial as well."

The poor Prince returned to his castle and was now desperate to see his beloved again, when he was met by the cook carrying a huge pie on a silver platter. "I've been trying out a new recipe with vegetables and cheese. Would you like to try a slice?" Suddenly, the Prince's face lit up, and he thanked the cook and grabbed the pie and galloped madly to the Emperor's Castle.

In the throne room, the noblemen were surprised to see this hothead back again, and the ruler hardly acknowledged him, and was too annoyed to look at him. "What more do you want?" asked the Emperor. "I have brought you all the orchards, cowsheds and mills in my tiny realm, Sir," replied the Prince gasping and offering him the pie. "This pie is made from all the ground flour in my country's mills and contains all the vegetables from our orchards combined with all the cheese made in our cowsheds. And all the eggs from our chicken ranges as well."

The Emperor admired the Prince's brilliant genius and granted him his daughter's hand in marriage and the two lovers lived happily ever after.

