

Mum: Good Morning cousin!

Cousin: Hello. How are you?

Mum: We are fine, but a little worried.

Cousin: Why?

Dad: Look outside! (Points to the window)

Child: The weather here has been very cold.

Cousin: Yes, I noticed that.

Mum: All the cows are inside.

Grandpa: They have been there many days.

Cousin: And the donkeys?

Dad: One was attacked by a wolf and died.

Child: The other is in the stable, weak from hunger.

Cousin: Oh no!

Dad: Yes

Mum: (Preparing milk for the hot chocolate) Now we farmers will have to work harder come harvest.

Cousin: (looks around room) What do you grow here?

Dad: Normally, turnips and corn.

Cousin: And this year?

Child: (cutting chocolate for his mother to melt) We don't know

Dad: The crops aren't getting enough sunlight or water.

Cousin: What will you all eat?

Mum: That is why we worry. Without these crops, we will all starve.

Child: The animals, too.

Cousin: I hope the weather gets better.

Dad: Yes, some sunlight would be nice.

Cousin: Thank you for the hot chocolate. (He takes a sip)

Mum: You're welcome.

Child: Drink it slowly. Besides the fire, it is what keeps us warm.

In winter days, people from the villages of Cantabria met around the stove in the kitchen to talk and spend the evening together. They drank hot chocolate, prepared the corn to make bread, cooked, listened to stories or talked about the weather, the harvest or their animals.

- Grandpa, tell us the tale of “the very disobedient donkey”, please. It’s so funny.

- Ok, sit around me and listen:

**There was a man who had a donkey and let her go to the hill. Every day he had to be alert, because she was always very late. The man complained: “whenever I tell her off, she just moves her ears but doesn’t pay attention at all”.**

**Each day, he told her: “Come home early, otherwise the wolves are going to eat you!”**

**One night, the donkey didn’t show up. The next morning, the man went to look for her and found her head! The wolves had eaten her, leaving the head only.**

**When the man came across the donkey, he said: “Oh, my friend! I’m glad you have been eaten by the wolves today. Perhaps tomorrow you’ll come home early!**

- Ha,ha,ha!!! You are so good at telling stories, grandpa.