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MACEDONIA – TRADITIONAL TALE

A SALARY ACCORDING TO WORK

Once there was a man, a very clever man. He had three servants. One of them received two hundred coins a year, the other – five hundred, and the third one thousand coins a year. They constantly quarreled with each other:

“Why should you take a thousand coins? You are a man, and I am a man also!”

The one who received two hundred coins said:

“But why should I take two hundred? And I am a man like you!”

Once, the master heard them and didn't say anything, but decided to prove them to understand how much they were worth.

One winter night he had guests. Then, he told the servant who took two hundred coins:

-“Bring one stump!”

The servant brought the stump and gave it to the master, saying:

“Where should I put it?”

“Good – said the master, -leave it there and wait a bit here!”

Then he told the other servant who took five hundred coins:

“Bring a stump!”

He went, brought the stump and left it in the middle. The master also told him to wait a bit. Then he told the third servant who took thousand coins to bring one stump. The servant brought a stump, entered in the chamber where the guests were, saw that the wicks of the

candles were almost faded. He blew out them quickly, then set the stump right on fire, where it was supposed.

“So, -said the master,- you are quarreling about how much coins each of you took, and why one took more and the other one less. You see now how much each of you is worth? This is why one takes more and the other less! This is the last time you argue about it!”

In this way, the clever man gave the servants a lesson to understand how much they were worth.