



Learn English Through Stories

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## The Demon Who Quit – Version 2

Deep in the hot, fiery underworld known as Hell, the supreme ruler was Dyavol, the Devil himself. He held many fearsome titles: Lord of the Damned, the Ultimate Evil, and the Great Adversary.

One evening, as Dyavol sat at his grand dining table, he dipped his spoon into a steaming bowl of soup.

"Far too spicy, and it lacks salt!" he bellowed down toward the roaring flames of the kitchen pits.

"Apologies, boss!" came the reply from the head chef, Pointee Tail. His dark skin glistened under the intense orange glow, and his sharp tail whipped back and forth. His voice rose above the endless wails of tormented souls.

"Lower the heat! Throw in a few more plump sinners!"

The demon workers chuckled wickedly, jabbing their pitchforks to shove the sinners into the massive bubbling cauldron.

Nearby, another demon named Seytan sat looking miserable.

"I want to quit," Seytan declared. "This job is unbearable now."

"Quit? Impossible! You're my most skilled demon!" Dyavol exclaimed.

"People on Earth no longer fear me," Seytan explained sadly. "Long ago, they trembled at my name. Today, they simply laugh."

"Is it that troublesome priest, Father Vivaldi, causing problems again?" Dyavol asked. "Taste this roasted meat. Lawyers – so tender, since they never did honest labour."

"Seytan bit into it." Yes, Father Vivaldi. Though I prefer bankers; they have a richer flavour.

"Dyavol chuckled. "You've been at this too long; you've lost your touch. We've got fresh arrivals from Wall Street – wealthy executives. We roast them alive for maximum freshness and juiciness!"

"I've attempted every terrifying trick," Seytan sighed. "Speaking backwards, spinning my head completely around, uttering curses, even ridiculous acts. Nothing works – they only laugh harder."

"Did you levitate above the bed?" Dyavol inquired. "Or scuttle across the ceiling like a crab?"

"All my classic moves," Seytan replied. "Useless."

Dyavol shouted downward once more: "Roast them while they're breathing! No dead flesh on my plate!"

"Right away, boss!" Pointee Tail yelled back. "Forget the chainsaw – straight into the pot. Begin with the overweight one in the striped suit."

"Dyavol sighed deeply. "Finding reliable staff is impossible these days."

"When I hovered over the bed," Seytan continued, "the priest merely opened the window and said, 'If you're so powerful, fly away!' Then he burst into laughter when I couldn't."

"Rules are rules," Dyavol reminded him. "We cannot kill the host body. We may only instil terror."

"I understand," Seytan muttered. "But it's exhausting."

"Did the exorcism succeed?" Dyavol asked.

"Everyone was laughing uncontrollably. I fled in shame," Seytan admitted.

"Why can't we end the host's life and be done?"

Dyavol playfully smacked Seytan's bald head. "Fool! Recall the fundamental rule from my own handbook?"

"Which one?"

Smack again. "The Demon's Guide to Human Possession – authored by me!"

He handed over the heavy tome and pointed. "Read aloud."

"Seytan read: "Our strength derives from human fear. As long as mortals dread us, we thrive and grow powerful."

"Precisely!" Dyavol said, chewing thoughtfully before spitting out a piece.

"Politicians taste poisonous, as expected."

They shared a dark laugh over notorious earthly figures who had studied the guide.

"This priest has uncovered our weakness," Dyavol mused gravely. "Laughter neutralises us completely. We cannot combat amusement."

"What shall we do, boss?" Seytan asked worriedly."

Abandon possessions altogether," Dyavol decided. "Perhaps pursue new ventures – promoting democracy, liberty... or absurdly banning festivities!" he added with a wink.

Seytan grinned. "Brilliant plan, boss."

Three years passed. Churches worldwide announced that reports of demonic possession had entirely ceased.

Humanity had discovered that laughter truly is the most powerful weapon against darkness.

### **Glossary:**

- bellowed: shouted loudly
- tormented: suffering great pain
- levitate: float in the air
- scuttle: move quickly with short steps
- instil terror: create great fear
- exorcism: ritual to drive out a demon
- thrive: grow strong and successful
- neutralises: makes ineffective

Moral: This humorous tale illustrates how fear empowers evil forces, while courage and laughter can overcome them.

### **Comprehension Questions**

Question 1: Where does the story mainly take place?

Question 2: Who is the ruler of the underworld in the story?

Question 3: What is the name of the demon who wants to quit?

Question 4: Why does Seytan feel he cannot continue his job?

Question 5: What does Father Vivaldi do when the demon levitates above the bed?

Question 6: According to the handbook, what gives demons their power?

Question 7: Where do the fresh sinners that Dyavol mentions come from?

Question 8: What is the name of the head chef in Hell?

Question 9: What happens to demonic possessions at the end of the story?

Question 10: What is the most important lesson the story teaches?

### **Answers**

Answer 1: The story mainly takes place in Hell (the underworld).

Answer 2: The ruler of the underworld is Dyavol.

Answer 3: The demon who wants to quit is Seytan.

Answer 4: Seytan feels he cannot continue because humans no longer fear him and only laugh at his attempts to scare them.

Answer 5: Father Vivaldi opens the window, tells the demon to fly away, and then laughs when it cannot.

Answer 6: Human fear gives demons their power.

Answer 7: The fresh sinners come from Wall Street (wealthy executives).

Answer 8: The head chef in Hell is Pointee Tail.

Answer 9: At the end, demonic possessions completely stop all over the world.

Answer 10: The most important lesson is that laughter can defeat evil and remove its power (or that fear strengthens evil, but laughter overcomes it).

### **Additional Inference Questions**

Question 11: Why do you think Dyavol gets angry about the food in Hell?

Question 12: What does Seytan's complaint about humans laughing tell us about how demons used to be powerful?

Question 13: Why does Dyavol hit Seytan on the head when he forgets the rule?

Question 14: When Dyavol jokes about "spreading democracy" or "banning festivities," what is he really showing about his feelings?

Question 15: Why do you think the church announces that possessions have stopped three years later?

### **Answers**

Answer 11: Dyavol gets angry because he is the boss and expects everything in Hell to be perfect, even the food for the devils.

Answer 12: It tells us that in the past, demons were powerful because people were afraid of them, but now laughter makes them weak.

Answer 13: Dyavol hits Seytan lightly on the head to show he is frustrated and to remind him that the rule is very basic and important; it is like a playful punishment between boss and worker.

Answer 14: He is really showing that he feels defeated and is trying to hide his worry with dark humour or sarcasm.

Answer 15: The possessions stopped because people learned Father Vivaldi's secret – that laughing at demons takes away their power – and this idea spread around the world.