

Who is the husband?

There were once two brothers, one tall and slim, the other short and tubby. The tall slim brother was married; the other, single. One day the two brothers were walking through a forest when they were attacked by a bandit who chopped off their heads. Realising that something was wrong, the wife came looking for them and found their two, blood-stained bodies on the floor. She wept and prayed to the goddess of life to bring the brothers back to the world. The goddess appeared. "Put their heads back on," said the goddess, "and I will do the rest."

And so the wife, still with tears in her eyes, put her husband's head back on. To the wife's amazement the wounds healed and her husband came back to life. She quickly did the same with his brother's head and he too was soon brought back to life.

But when the two brothers stood up, the wife noticed something strange. She'd accidentally put the heads onto the wrong bodies. She looked to her husband's head on top of his brother's short, tubby body. She looked to the brother's head, now on a tall, slim body and wondered "which one is my husband?"

Who do you think is her husband?

For more stories like this, visit www.storymuseum.org.uk/1001stories