

Peddler's Dream (outline)
as told by Peter Amidon

Peddler with a backpack
scrimshaw, spices, needles, thread, toys

Villagers love having the peddler come.

"One day" Peddler comes to a village.

Little boy sees a toy wooden wagon. 50¢. Peddler gives it to him.

Girl sees ribbons of blue, yellow & green. 50¢.
Peddler gives them to her.

Villagers tell the peddler he should not give things away; he tells them it gives him pleasure.

Peddler, at home, watches animals eat vegetables out of his garden. Neighbors tell him to stop; he tells them it gives him pleasure. "And the birds that sing in my cherry tree sing more beautifully there than anywhere else.

One day peddler finds no goods in his backpack and no gold in his purse. Also no food in his garden. He goes to sleep hungry.

In the middle of the night an angel comes and speaks to him:
"Go to the village, stand by the court house. You'll see what you see and you'll hear what you hear."

The next day peddler instead looks for food, but still goes to sleep hungry

In the middle of the night an angel comes and speaks to him:
"Go to the village, stand by the court house. You'll see what you see and you'll hear what you hear."

The next day peddler tries to get out of bed but is too weak. Later it gets dark and peddler goes to sleep hungry.

In the middle of the night an angel comes and speaks to him:
"Go to the village, stand by the court house. You'll see what you see and you'll hear what you hear."

Peddler rolls off bed, gets on hands and knees, pulls himself up, and walks to the courthouse in the village.

He sees all the village life: travelers leaving the inn across from the courthouse, people going to work (sun moves across the sky), children going to school, folks buy and sell at the marketplace (sun moves across the sky), children get out of school, folks get out of work (sun moves across the sky), travelers arrive at the inn.

Peddler: "So, I've stood in front of the courthouse for the whole day, I've seen things and I've heard things, but I haven't seen or heard anything that I haven't seen or heard before," and, too weak to walk back home, he thinks he might lie down in an alley & never get up again, when the innkeeper comes running out to the peddler, sees how hungry the peddler looks, and invites the peddler in for a free meal.

When the peddler finishes eating the innkeeper asks him why he'd been standing in front of the courthouse all day. "I had a dream," answers the peddler.

"You shouldn't do everything your dreams say. If I did everything my dreams say, I'd be out of work in a week. Why I had a dream last night," said the innkeeper . . .

(and he describes an angel coming into his room and telling him to walk down a long country road to a cottage in the woods where a tree grew in the middle of the garden - if he dug around the roots of the tree he would find gold.)

"Gold?" said the peddler? "Yes, gold! said the innkeeper." "Thank you for the food" said the peddler.

Then the peddler walked back home, got a shovel from his cottage, and dug up a beautiful wooden box from amongst the roots of the cherry tree.

He took the box into his cottage, and when he opened up the box, what do you think he saw? ("Gold"). And the good he did with that gold I don't have the time to tell you.