

The proclamation went round the town. "Great Egg balancing display today at 1 o'clock by the town gate."

It didn't take long before everyone knew of the great event and that the king himself would be there to watch, as the display was by a great friend of his.

There was great excitement as the allotted time drew near. The king sat astride his favourite horse whilst behind him stood his cavalry in neat orderly lines.

The palace clock struck the hour and out stepped the great egg himself, Humpty Dumpty.

He waddled slowly towards the ladder propped up against the wall and very carefully began a sort of half roll, half climb until he reached the top. Slowly, he rolled himself into an upright position and attempted to sit quite still. For one moment he managed and the crowd gazed open-mouthed in astonishment, but suddenly they gasped as a strong gust of wind suddenly caught Humpty and rolled him ever so slightly to one side. He moved his weight to the other side in an effort to regain his balance but went too far, so tried leaning the other side, then back again,... then to the horror of the crowd he fell off and landed right in front of the king.

His shell shattered. The king jumped off his horse and ordered his cavalry to collect all Humpty's pieces. This they did in great haste but there were dozens of them. They tried them this way and that, they pushed them and shoved them and tried innumerable ways of putting them together but alas all the king's horses and all the king's men, couldn't put Humpty together again.

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