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Once upon a time, there was a very honest shoemaker couple who lived on the outskirts of the town.

They were poor and their business was not going well. They barely earned enough to live on. Things were so bad that they decided to close their store after making their last pair of shoes.

“Ah, I’m going to miss this. So, this is our last pair....”

“It can't be helped. There's nothing else we can do. So let’s finish making these shoes tomorrow morning.”

They cut the leather into shapes that would be made into shoes, and leaving them on the table, they turned off the lights in their workshop.



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When the couple went into the workshop the next morning they couldn't believe their eyes.

The shoes they were going to make were already completely finished!

And what wonderfully well-made shoes they were!

"What happened here?!"

"I can't believe this...."

They held the shoes and looked them over in wonder.

Those shoes were sold, and they fetched a very good price.



むかし、とある まちはずれに、しょうじきものの  
くつやの ふうふが すんでいました。

くつやは まずしく、  
しょうばいも うまくいって いなかったので、  
あと いっそくだけ くつを つくったら、  
おみせを しめることに しました。

「ああ、さみしいなあ。

これが さいごの しごとか・・・」

「しかたありませんよ。

あしたの あさ、しあげに とりかかりましょう」

ふたりは、くつの かたち に きった かわを  
テーブルの うえに おいて、  
しごとばの あかりを けしました。



よくあさ、しごとばに はいった ふたりは、  
めをうたがいました。

なんと、くつが すでに  
できあがって いたのです。  
それも、とてもすばらしい、  
りっぱな くつでした。

「これは いったい どういうことだ・・・」  
「まあ、信じられないわ・・・」

ふたりは くつを てにとり、  
めをまるくしました。

その くつは、とても たかい ねだんで  
うれしました。

