Once upon a time there were three frogs. They lived in a swamp. They had a good time there. A troll too lived in the swamp. The troll was moody lazy toad, ugly as a tree and grumpy as an old woman. The frogs were in fact three princes who had been bewitched after they had eaten fungi. The only thing which could make them princes again was an egg cracked by a dragon high up in a large mountain far up in the sky.

Askeladden from Trysilskogen in Alvdal came to search for a girlfriend. He met the three frogs. They told him that they had been bewitched and that the only thing which could save them, was an egg cracked by a dragon. Askeladden went to search for the dragon. After a while he met an old man. The man asked whether he please could have some food. I have not eaten in a hundred days. Yes, but I only have a oatcake, and a drop of flat beer.

The old man asked what are you going to do? I am going to find a dragon in a mountain high up in the sky far, far away. The old man says: since you have been so kind to me and given me your food you can have three wishes.

I wish that the mountain is not so far away. Then you must cut a chip off the stick you use to carry your food and put the chip back where it was. I wish that the mountain is not so high. Then you have to cut out two chips and put them back. The last is that I want to be look better than when I came. Then you have to cut out three chips and put them back where they have been.

He started to go and it was not far to the mountain, the mountain was not high. When he came up he saw a large cave. In the cave there was a dragon who was tied up, but there was also a troll who watched the dragon. He had three heads and a gigantic beard. His cloths were jeans with braces. The first head had a patch over the left eye. The second head had a patch over the right eye and the last head had a patch over the left eye.

The troll came rushing towards me. I climbed the mountain. There was a well and a bucket. I took the bucket and hit the troll with it. He fell over the edge of the mountain and died. I found the egg, but the dragon was angry because I cheated it. It flew up and dived down towards Askeladden. Askeladden jumped onto the dragon and managed to tame it.

He went to the swamp where he met the frogs. He cracked the egg over them, and they were converted into princes again and they told him that they were his brothers. He was so happy that he spilled milk. He got better clothes but he did not find a girlfriend. Then they gave me milk in a bottle, put me into a bottle, corked it and shot me right here so I could tell what happened.

End