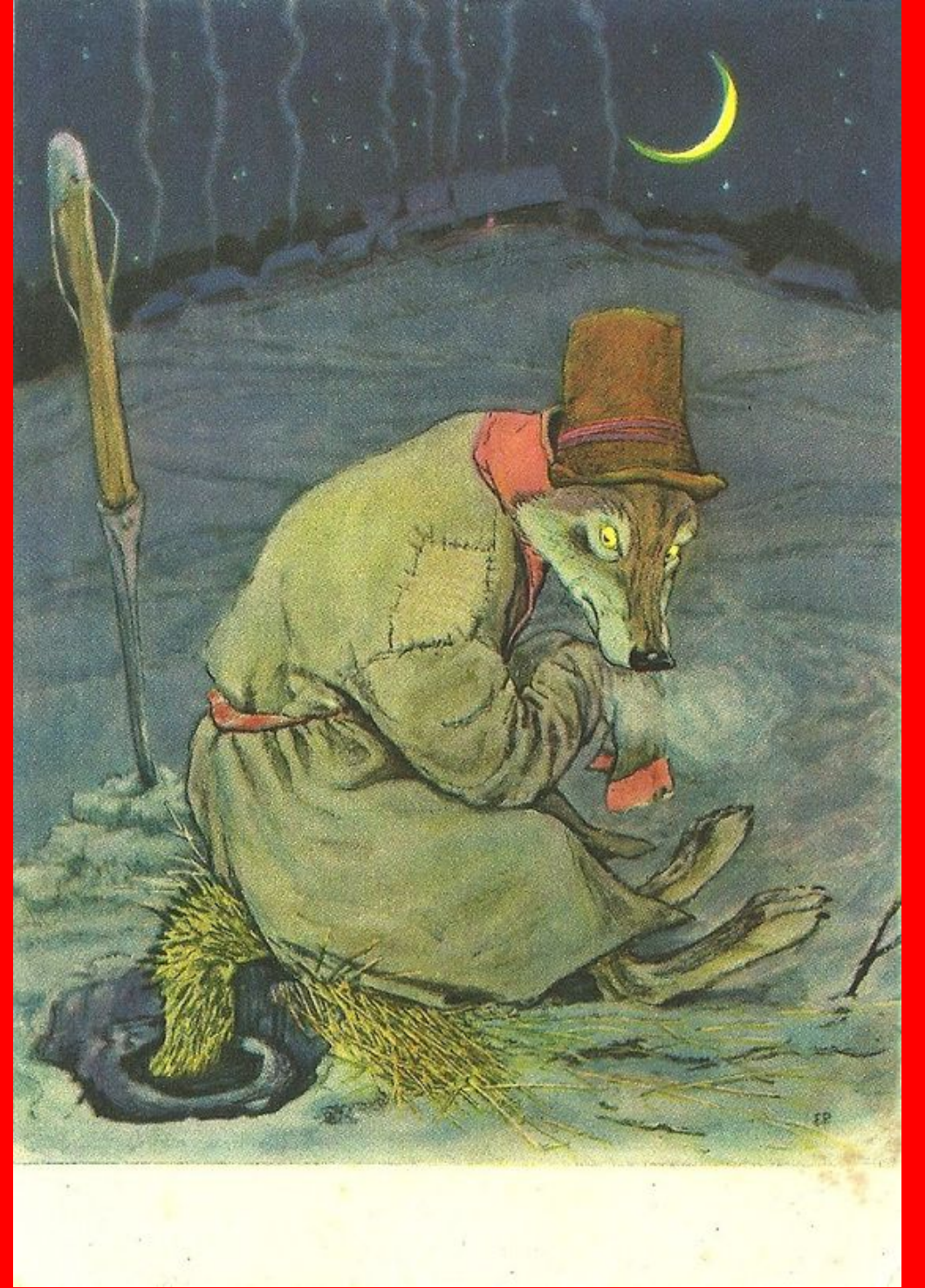# Russian Animal Fables

Russian animal fables are often tales of comedie yet cruel trickery with the use of stock animal characters. The fox, while there are others, is the most common of the trickster figures. Similarly, the wolf is one of the most popular fool character. They often appear together in stories like "Sister Fox and the Wolf." Sister Fox tricks a peasant and steals his fish and the hungry wolf comes asking for some. Sister Fox then strings him along, performing many cruel tricks on him (see image right). Another common character is the cast out domestic animal who survives in the forest through trickery, like the dog or tomcat (see image below right).

The wolf is fooled by Sister Fox into sticking his tail in the lake to catch fish.

The fox tricking some peasants out of a cock.

A few stories involve a tomcat tricking or forcing a fox into marrying him.

One interpretation of these stories is that they act as guides for social behavior. They demonstrate the dangers of trusting people from outside your in-group. Anthropomorphized animals act as simple subjects to graft abstract cultural ideas onto.

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