

The story of Samson

(Judges 13:1-16:31)

Key words:

Philistines: Hiss

Samson: (sing) Ho Ho Ho – A giant!
(As in the ‘Green giant’ Sweetcorn advertisement)

Delilah: (sing) my my my Delilah – La la la.

For 40 years the Philistines (Hiss) had ruled the Israelites. They treated them very badly and all the Israelites were very miserable. They looked forward to the day when God would hear their cries and send them someone who could defeat the cruel Philistines (Hiss).

A man called Mano and his wife had no children, but one day an angel appeared to Mano’s wife and said: “You will have a son. He will be strong and begin to free Israel from the evil Philistines (Hiss). But you must make sure that he never drinks any alcoholic drinks and never has his hair cut. Then God will be with him and he will always be strong.” Mano and his wife were very excited. They prepared a sacrifice to offer to God and as the sacrifice burned the angel disappeared up into heaven in the flames.

Nine months later Mano’s wife had a baby, a baby boy. They called him Samson (Ho, ho, ho, a giant). Well he wasn’t then, he was only a baby, but he quickly grew up to be tall and strong. His hair was never cut but was beautifully braided, and with his handsome looks and strong muscles, Samson (Ho, ho, ho, a giant) was soon the talk of the whole nation.

One day Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) saw a beautiful woman. He went home and said to his parents: “I’ve seen the girl I want to marry. There was a problem though, the woman was a Philistine (hiss) and this made Samson’s (Ho, ho, ho, a giant) parents very worried. Samson (Ho, ho, ho, a giant) took his parents to meet the woman but on the way, while his parents had gone on ahead, a lion sprang out and started to attack him. Samson (Ho, ho, ho, a giant) summoned all of his strength; he fought the lion and won!

Samson (Ho, ho, ho, a giant) married the Philistine (hiss) woman, but things did not go well. It all ended in a big fight between Samson (Ho, ho, ho, a giant) and the Philistines (hiss). People got hurt, the crops were burned and, although no one could overcome Samson’s (Ho, ho, ho, a giant) mighty strength, in the end he decided to hide in a cave for a bit of peace and quiet.

The Israelites were frightened. They knew the Philistines (hiss) would be even more cruel now because of what Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) had done, so they went to find him. They went to the cave: "What have you done?" They asked. "Now the Philistines (hiss) will kill us all!" They grabbed hold of Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant), and tied him up with two strong ropes. Then they led him out of the cave and handed him over to the Philistines (hiss).

The Philistines (hiss) ran towards Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) screaming, but suddenly Samson's (ho, ho, ho, a giant) muscles grew larger than ever. The ropes snapped like cotton and there was another terrible fight when lots of people got hurt. Well that is Lots of people except Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant)!

Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) went out into the desert to get away from the Philistines (hiss) but he got terribly thirsty, and the more thirsty he got the weaker he got as well. "Am I going to die of thirst here in the desert?!" he called out to God. God heard his call and water started to bubble up out of the ground. He drank and his strength returned.

After that the Philistines (hiss) tried to capture Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant). One day they heard he was in a city called Gaza. It was nighttime and the gates were shut and locked. "We'll capture him in the morning," they thought, "no one can get out at night when the gates are locked." But in the middle of the night Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) got up. He took hold of the great heavy gates of the town and ripped them out of the ground. He carried them away and so escaped from the Philistines (hiss).

A little while later Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) fell in love again. This time with a girl named Delilah (my, my, my, Delilah, La la la). The Philistines (hiss) went to Delilah (my, my, my Delilah, la la la) and said: "There must be some secret to his great strength. Find it out for us and we will reward you." So Delilah (my, my, my Delilah, la la la) said to Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant), "Tell me the secret of your great strength honeybuns!"

He replied: "If I am tied up with seven new pieces of leather I will be as weak as any other man."

When Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) was asleep, Delilah (my, my, my, Delilah, la la la) tied his arms and legs with seven new pieces of leather, then she let some Philistine (hiss) thugs in and shouted: "Help! Help! The Philistines (hiss) are here!" Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) jumped up and snapped the leather like it was spaghetti and chased the Philistines (hiss) away.

The next evening Delilah (my, my, my Delilah, la la la) said: "Please tell me the secret of your great strength Bunnykins!"

"If I am tied up with new ropes that have never been used," he said, "I will become as weak as anyone else." So she waited until he was asleep and then tied him up with new ropes, then she let the Philistine (hiss) thugs in again. "Help! Help!" she called. "The Philistines (hiss) are here!"

But Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) jumped up and snapped the ropes like a spider's web. He soon chased the Philistines (hiss) away.

The next evening Delilah (my, my, my Delilah, la la la) said: "You're playing games with me and making me upset! Tell me the secret of your great strength or I'll begin to think you don't love me."

"If someone were to weave my hair into a loom," he replied, "I'll be as weak as anyone else."

So she waited until he was asleep and then weaved his hair into the loom. Then she let the Philistine (hiss) thugs in again. "Help! Help!" she called. "The Philistines (hiss) are here."

But Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) jumped up and tore his hair out of the loom and soon chased the Philistines (hiss) away.

The next evening Delilah (my, my, my Delilah, la la la) said: "You don't love me! You won't tell me the secret of your great strength!" And she said the same thing the next day and the next day and the next day and every day until.....

"Oh alright!" shouted Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) "I'll tell you! My hair has never been cut, but if someone were to shave my head I would be as weak as a little kitten!"

Delilah (my, my, my Delilah, la la la) waited until he was asleep. Then she got a razor and carefully shaved off his hair. Then she let the Philistine (hiss) thugs in again and shouted: "Help! Help! The Philistines (hiss) are here!"

Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) jumped up and tried to fight but he was weak, as weak as a little kitten. The Philistines (hiss) tied him up and took him captive.

A few weeks later the Philistines (hiss) took Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) to the royal palace. They teased him and bullied him, insulted him and prodded him. But as all this was going on Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) felt his head and realised that his hair was starting to grow again. He was standing between the two great pillars of the palace and he prayed to God: "God make me strong just one more time!" Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) reached out and put his hands on the pillars, and then he pushed. He pushed with all his might and the pillars started to wobble and shake and came tumbling down flattening the whole palace. Samson (ho, ho, ho, a giant) died that day, but he died knowing that God was stronger than anyone. Stronger than him, and certainly stronger than the Philistines (hiss).

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