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| The Legend of Smok Wawelski  |

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| Many, many years ago, when Krakow was still the capital of Poland,there lived in the castle on the Wawel mountain King Krak with his daughterWanda. All the citizens in Krakow loved their kind-hearted King and the lovingWanda. For many years everyone lived peacefully and provided for the well-being of their town. Amongst them lived one of the cobbler's family, a capableand hard-working apprentice by the name of Dratewka. One day the in a cave in the Wawel mountains, an evil dragon hadsettled. He had three heads and his body was covered in scales. When hewas angry he went into such a rage that the mountains shook and he breathedfire and smoke from his mouth. He made the whole town afraid. In order tocalm him down the people put a sheep in front of his cave everyday. But thiswas not enough for him. Once a year even a small girl had to be sacrificed. Many of the citizens tried to fight against the dragon. However, no-onewas able to beat him. The council of elders spent days and nights trying to finda solution but they couldn't find one. At long last there were no more girls leftin Krakow, only Princess Wanda. The dragon became more and moreimpatient. Since there were no other girls to be found everyone knew that itwas the king's daughter's turn.There was great mourning all over Krakow. The king announced to thewhole country that he was looking for a brave knight who could defeat thedragon. Many courageous knights came and fought without success againstthe beast. Most were killed in their fight. When all hope had been abandoned,the cobbler's apprentice, Dratewka, appeared before the King. He asked forpermission to fight the dragon. The king listened and agreed to what he wasintending to do. The young man got to work on his plan straight away. From the butcher he got himself a sheepskin. From all the citizens hecollected brimstone, salt, pepper and pitch. He filled the sheepskin with theseand sewed it up tightly so it looked like a real sheep. At night he put the"sheep" in front of the entrance to the cave. The next morning the hungrydragon came out of the cave and ate up the sheep straight away. Shortlyafterwards he felt a terrible burning all over his body. He tried to stop theburning by drinking massive amounts of water. He drank so much that the bedof the river Wisla could be seen. He carried on drinking until eventually heexploded with an enormous bang. There was great joy throughout Krakow.Dratewka married Wanda and they lived happily together for a very long time to come.  |