

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WORLD

*Storia Universale (from Favole al telefono)*  
by Gianni Rodari<sup>1</sup>

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In the beginning, the Earth was a complete shambles. It took lots of work to make things better. There were no bridges to cross rivers, and no benches to sit on. If you wanted to take a nap, there would be no beds and no bedsheets. There were no shoes to keep your feet warm, nor socks for that matter. If you had blurry vision, there were no glasses to correct it. There were no footballs to play with. And if you wanted to cook some pasta, you couldn't find a stove or a pot. Heck, there wasn't even any pasta! There was absolutely nothing.

There were just people like you and me, who wanted to improve things. Today, there is still plenty of work left to be done: roll up your sleeves, there's work for everyone!

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<sup>1</sup>Unauthorized translation by Victor Elgersma, who was frustrated by the clunky translation by Antony Shugaar