

## 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 by, 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 volleyballs to play volleyball with. If you wanted to boil some pasta, you couldn't find a pot or a stove anywhere. In fact, there was no pasta, either! There was pretty much nothing.

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

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<sup>1</sup>Unauthorized translation by Victor Elgersma.