

From my Italian Grandmother:

The boy rode on the donkey and the old psychologist walked. As they went along they passed some people who remarked it was a shame the old psychologist was walking and the boy was riding. The psychologist and boy thought maybe the critics were right, so they changed positions. Later, they passed some people who remarked, "what a shame, he makes that little boy walk." They then decided they would both walk. Soon they passed some more people who thought they were foolish to walk when they had a decent donkey to ride. So they both rode the donkey. Now they passed some people who shamed them by saying how awful to put such a load on a poor donkey. The boy and psychologist said they were probably right, so they decided to carry the donkey. As they crossed the bridge, they lost their grip on the animal and the donkey fell into the river and drowned.

The moral:

If you try to please everyone, you might as well kiss your ass good-bye.

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