

HERBERT GEORGE WELLS



The Country of the Blind

Das Land der Blinden

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Lesemethode von Ilya Frank

ENGLISCH

Herbert George Wells

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Aus dem Englischen übersetzt von

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*easy*Original

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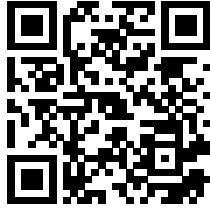
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Three hundred miles and more from Chimborazo (dreihundert Meilen und mehr von Chimborazo), one hundred from the snows of Cotopaxi (einhundert vom Schnee Cotopaxis), in the wildest wastes of Ecuador's Andes (in den wildesten Ödflächen der Anden von Ecuador; *waste* [weist] – *Wüste, Einöde*), there lies that mysterious mountain valley (dort liegt das sagenumwobene Gebirgstal; *mysterious* [mɪ'stɪəriəs]; *mountain* ['maʊntɪn]; *valley* ['væli]), cut off from all the world of men (von der Welt der Menschen völlig abgeschnitten), the Country of the Blind (das Land der Blinden; *blind* [blaɪnd]).

Long years ago (vor vielen Jahren) that valley lay so far open to the world (lag dieses Tal so weit offen für die Welt) that men might come at last through frightful gorges and over an icy pass into its equable meadows (dass Menschen endlich durch schreckliche Schluchten und über einen vereisten Gebirgspass in seine gleichförmigen Auen kommen konnten; *frightful* ['fraɪtful]; *gorge* [gɔːdʒ]; *equable* ['ɛkwəb(ə)l]; *meadow* ['mɛdəʊ]), and thither indeed men came (und

tatsächlich kamen Menschen dorthin; *thither* [ˈθɪðə]; *indeed* [ɪnˈdiːd]), a family or so of Peruvian half-breeds fleeing (eine Familie oder so von peruanischen Mischlingen; *breed* [briːd]) from the lust and tyranny of an evil Spanish ruler (die vor der Gier und Tyrannei eines bösen spanischen Herrschers floh; *lust* [lʌst]; *tyranny* [ˈtɪrənɪ]; *evil* [ˈiːv(ə)l]).

1

Three hundred miles and more from Chimborazo, one hundred from the snows of Cotopaxi, in the wildest wastes of Ecuador's Andes, there lies that mysterious mountain valley, cut off from all the world of men, the Country of the Blind.

Long years ago that valley lay so far open to the world that men might come at last through frightful gorges and over an icy pass into its equable meadows, and thither indeed men came, a family or so of Peruvian half-breeds fleeing from the lust and tyranny of an evil Spanish ruler.

Then came the stupendous outbreak of Mindobamba (dann kam der gewaltige Ausbruch von Mindobamba; *stupendous* [stjuːˈpɛndəs]) when it was night in Quito for seventeen days (als es in Quito für siebzehn Tage Nacht war), and the water was boiling at Yaguachi (und das Wasser bei Yaguachi kochte) and all the fish floating dying even as far as Guayaquil (und alle Fische trieben sterbend auf dem Wasser, sogar bis Guayaquil); everywhere along the Pacific slopes there were land-slips and swift thawings and sudden floods (überall

entlang des pazifischen Tieflandes gab es Erdrutsche und schnelles Abtauen und plötzliche Flutwellen; *flood* [flʌd]), **and one whole side of the old Arauca crest slipped and came down in thunder** (und eine ganze Seite des alten Gipfels von Arauca rutschte ab und donnerte herunter), **and cut off the Country of the Blind for ever from the exploring feet of men** (und schnitt das Land der Blinden für immer ab von den erkundenden Menschenfüßen).

2

Then came the stupendous outbreak of Mindobamba, when it was night in Quito for seventeen days, and the water was boiling at Yaguachi and all the fish floating dying even as far as Guayaquil; everywhere along the Pacific slopes there were land-slips and swift thawings and sudden floods, and one whole side of the old Arauca crest slipped and came down in thunder, and cut off the Country of the Blind for ever from the exploring feet of men.

But one of these early settlers had chanced to be on the hither side of the gorges (doch einer dieser frühen Siedler befand sich zufällig diesseits des Bergkamms; *chance* – Zufall, Glück) **when the world had so terribly shaken itself** (als die Welt sich so schrecklich schüttelte), **and he perforce had to forget his wife and his child and all the friends and possessions he had left up there** (und er musste notgedrungen seine Frau und sein Kind und alle Freunde und Besitztümer, die er dort oben gelassen hatte, vergessen; *possession* [pə'zɛʃən] - Besitz),

and start life over again in the lower world (und in der tieferen Welt sein Leben von Neuem beginnen).

3

But one of these early settlers had chanced to be on the hither side of the gorges when the world had so terribly shaken itself, and he perforce had to forget his wife and his child and all the friends and possessions he had left up there, and start life over again in the lower world.

He started it again but ill (er begann es wieder, jedoch krank), **blindness overtook him** (Blindheit ereilte ihn; **to overtake** – einholen), **and he died of punishment in the mines** (und er starb durch Bestrafung in den Minen; **punishment** [ˌpʌnɪʃmənt]); **but the story he told begot a legend** (doch die Geschichte, die er erzählte, begründete eine Legende; **to beget** – erzeugen) **that lingers along the length of the Cordilleras of the Andes to this day** (die entlang der ganzen Cordilleras in den Anden bis heute besteht; **to linger** [ˌlɪŋgə] – verweilen, bleiben).

He told of his reason for venturing back from that fastness (er erzählte von dem Grund, aus dem er von jener Festung sich risikoreich wieder entfernt hatte; **to venture** [ˌventʃə] – wagen, riskieren), **into which he had first been carried lashed to a llama** (in welche er zuerst gebracht worden war, an ein Lama gebunden; **llama** [ˌlɑːmə]), **beside a vast bale of gear** (neben einem riesigen Bündel Kleider; **gear** [gɪə]), **when he was a child** (als er ein Kind gewesen war).

He started it again but ill, blindness overtook him, and he died of punishment in the mines; but the story he told begot a legend that lingers along the length of the Cordilleras of the Andes to this day.

He told of his reason for venturing back from that fastness, into which he had first been carried lashed to a llama, beside a vast bale of gear, when he was a child.

The valley, he said (das Tal, sagte er), **had in it all that the heart of man could desire** (hatte alles in sich, was das Herz eines Menschen begehren könne; *desire* [dr'zairə]) — **sweet water, pasture, an even climate** (Süßwasser, Weideland, ein gleichmäßiges Klima; *pasture* ['pɑ:stʃə]; *even* ['i:v(ə)n]; *climate* ['klaɪmɪt]), **slopes of rich brown soil with tangles of a shrub that bore an excellent fruit** (Hänge von reichhaltiger brauner Erde mit einem wild wuchernden Strauch, der hervorragende Früchte hervorbrachte; *tangle* – *Gewirr*; *excellent* ['eksələnt]) **and on one side great hanging forests of pine** (und auf einer Seite große abschüssige Pinienwälder) **that held the avalanches high** (die die Lawinen zurückhielten; *avalanche* ['ævə,lɑ:ntʃ]).

The valley, he said, had in it all that the heart of man could desire — sweet water, pasture, an even climate, slopes of rich brown soil with tangles of a shrub that bore an excellent fruit, and on one side great hanging forests of pine that held the avalanches high.

Far overhead, on three sides (*weit droben, auf drei Seiten*), vast cliffs of grey-green rock were capped by cliffs of ice (*wurden enorme Brocken von grau-grünem Fels von Eisbrocken bedeckt*); but the glacier stream came not to them (*aber der Gletscherstrom kam nicht zu ihnen; glacier* [*ˈglæsiə*]), but flowed away by the farther slopes (*sondern floss drüben bei den weiter entfernten Hängen*), and only now and then huge ice masses fell on the valley side (*und nur ab und zu fielen riesige Eismassen auf die Talseite*). In this valley it neither rained nor snowed (*in diesem Tal gab es weder Regen noch Schnee; neither ... nor — weder ... noch*), but the abundant springs gave a rich green pasture (*doch die üppigen Quellen brachten reiches, grünes Weideland hervor; abundant* [*əˈbʌndənt*]), that irrigation would spread over all the valley space (*diese Bewässerung erstreckte sich über das gesamte Tal; spread* [*spreɪd*]).

Far overhead, on three sides, vast cliffs of grey-green rock were capped by cliffs of ice; but the glacier stream came not to them, but

flowed away by the farther slopes, and only now and then huge ice masses fell on the valley side. In this valley it neither rained nor snowed, but the abundant springs gave a rich green pasture, that irrigation would spread over all the valley space.

The settlers did well indeed there (die Siedler kamen gut voran dort; **indeed** [ɪnˈdiːd] – *tatsächlich*). **Their beasts did well and multiplied** (ihre Tiere gediehen und vermehrten sich; *beast* [biːst]), **and but one thing marred their happiness** (und nur eine Sache trübte ihre Freude). **Yet it was enough to mar it greatly** (dennoch war es genug, um sie stark zu trüben; *enough* [ɪˈnʌf]). **A strange disease had come upon them** (eine seltsame Krankheit war über sie gekommen; *disease* [diˈziːz]) **and had made all the children born to them there** (und hatte alle Kinder, die ihnen dort geboren wurden) — **and, indeed, several older children also — blind** (und tatsächlich auch mehrere ältere Kinder – blind gemacht).

7

The settlers did well indeed there. Their beasts did well and multiplied, and but one thing marred their happiness. Yet it was enough to mar it greatly. A strange disease had come upon them and had made all the children born to them there — and, indeed, several older children also — blind.

It was to seek some charm or antidote against this plague of blindness (um irgendeinen Zauber oder ein Gegengift gegen diese Seuche der Blindheit zu finden; *antidote* [ˌæntɪˌdaʊt], *plague* [pleɪɡ]) that he had with fatigue and danger and difficulty returned down the gorge (war er unter Erschöpfung und Gefahr und Schwierigkeiten hinunter in die Schlucht zurückgekehrt; *fatigue* [fəˈtiːɡ]). In those days, in such cases (in jenen Tagen, in solchen Fällen), men did not think of germs and infections (dachten die Menschen nicht an Keime und Infektionen; *germ* [dʒɜːm]), but of sins (sondern an Sünden), and it seemed to him (und es schien ihm) that the reason of this affliction must be in the negligence of these priestless immigrants to set up a shrine so soon as they entered the valley (der Grund für dieses Leiden müsse darin liegen, dass diese Einwanderer ohne Priester es versäumt hatten, gleich nach ihrer Ankunft im Tal einen Schrein zu errichten; *affliction* [əˈflɪkʃən] – *Bedrängnis*; *Leiden*; *negligence* [ˌneglɪdʒəns] – *Vernachlässigung*).

8

It was to seek some charm or antidote against this plague of blindness that he had with fatigue and danger and difficulty returned down the gorge. In those days, in such cases, men did not think of germs and infections, but of sins, and it seemed to him that the reason of this affliction must be in the negligence of these priestless immigrants to set up a shrine so soon as they entered the valley.

He wanted a shrine (er wollte einen Schrein) — a handsome, cheap, effectual shrine (einen hübschen, billigen, wirksamen Schrein; *effectual* [ɪˈfɛktʃuəl]) — to be erected in the valley (im Tal aufstellen lassen); he wanted relics and such-like potent things of faith (er wollte Relikte und ähnlich mächtige Gegenstände des Glaubens; *relic* [ˈrɛlɪk]), blessed objects and mysterious medals and prayers (gesegnete Objekte und geheimnisvolle Medallions und Gebete; *prayer* [prɛə]).

In his wallet he had a bar of native silver for which he would not account (in seiner Geldbörse hatte er einen Barren gedienes Silber, von dem er nichts erzählte; *wallet* [ˈwɒlɪt]; *to account* [əˈkaʊnt] – Rechenschaft ablegen); he insisted there was none in the valley with something of the insistence of an inexperienced liar (er bestand darauf, dass es das im Tal nicht gab, mit so etwas wie der Beharrlichkeit eines ungeübten Lügners; *insist* [ɪnˈsɪst]; *liar* [ˈlaɪə]). They had all clubbed their money and ornaments together (sie hatten alle ihr Geld und ihren Schmuck zusammengelegt; *ornament* [ˌɔːnəmənt]), having little need for such treasure up there (da sie für solche Schätze wenig Verwendung dort oben hatten), he said, to buy them holy help against their ill (sagte er, um sich heilige Hilfe gegen ihre Krankheit zu erkaufen).

He wanted a shrine — a handsome, cheap, effectual shrine — to be erected in the valley; he wanted relics and such-like potent things of faith, blessed objects and mysterious medals and prayers.

In his wallet he had a bar of native silver for which he would not account; he insisted there was none in the valley with something of the insistence of an inexperienced liar. They had all clubbed their money and ornaments together, having little need for such treasure up there, he said, to buy them holy help against their ill.

I figure this dim-eyed young mountaineer (ich stelle mir diesen jungen Bergbewohner vor, mit trüben Augen; *to figure* [ˌfɪɡəː] – *schätzen, denken*; *mountaineer* [ˌmaʊntɪˈniə]), *sunburnt, gaunt, and anxious* (sonnenverbrannt, mager und ängstlich; *gaunt* [ɡɔːnt]; *anxious* [ˌæŋkʃəs] – *besorgt; ängstlich*), *hat brim clutched feverishly* (fieberhaft seine Hutkrempe umklammernd; *feverishly* [ˈfiːv(ə)rɪʃli]), *a man all unused to the ways of the lower world* (ein Mann, der kein Bisschen vertraut mit der Lebensweise im Flachland ist), *telling this story to some keen-eyed, attentive priest before the great convulsion* (er erzählt diese Geschichte einem scharfäugigen, aufmerksamen Priester vor dem großen Erdbeben; *convulsion* [kənˈvʌlʃən]); *I can picture him presently seeking to return with pious and infallible remedies against that trouble* (ich kann ihn mir vorstellen, wie er im diesem Moment mit religiösen und unfehlbaren Mitteln gegen jenes Problem

zurückkehren möchte; *pious* [ˌpaɪəs]; *remedies* [ˌremɪdi]), and the infinite dismay with which he must have faced the tumbled vastness (und die unendliche Bestürzung, mit der er auf die zerstörte Ausdehnung geblickt haben muss; *tumbled* – gestürzt; *vastness* – Unermesslichkeit; *vast* – weit) where the gorge had once come out (wo einst die Klamm verlaufen war).

10

I figure this dim-eyed young mountaineer, sunburnt, gaunt, and anxious, hat brim clutched feverishly, a man all unused to the ways of the lower world, telling this story to some keen-eyed, attentive priest before the great convulsion; I can picture him presently seeking to return with pious and infallible remedies against that trouble, and the infinite dismay with which he must have faced the tumbled vastness where the gorge had once come out.

But the rest of his story of mischances is lost to me (doch den Rest seiner Geschichte von unglücklichen Zufällen kenne ich nicht; *lost* – verloren), save that I know of his evil death after several years (mit Sicherheit weiß ich nur von seinem üblen Tod nach mehreren Jahren). Poor stray from that remoteness (armer Irrläufer von jener Abgeschiedenheit; *stray* – vereinzelt, streunend)! The stream that had once made the gorge (der Strom, welcher einst die Klamm auswusch) now bursts from the mouth of a rocky cave (bricht nun aus dem Schlund einer felsigen Höhle hervor; *mouth* – Mund), and the legend his poor,

ill-told story set going (und die Legende, die seine dürftige, schlecht erzählte Geschichte in Gang brachte) **developed into the legend of a race of blind men somewhere “over there” one may still hear to-day** (entwickelte sich zu der Legende von einem Stamm blinder Menschen irgendwo “da oben”, die man bis heute hören kann).

11

But the rest of his story of mischances is lost to me, save that I know of his evil death after several years. Poor stray from that remoteness! The stream that had once made the gorge now bursts from the mouth of a rocky cave, and the legend his poor, ill-told story set going developed into the legend of a race of blind men somewhere “over there” one may still hear to-day.

And amidst the little population of that now isolated and forgotten valley the disease ran its course (und unter der kleinen Bevölkerung dieses nun abgeschnittenen und vergessenen Tals nahm die Krankheit ihren Lauf; *amidst* [ə'mɪdʃt]; *isolate* [ˌaɪsəˈleɪt]). **The old became groping** (die Alten tasteten umher; *to grope* – *tasten, grapschen*), **the young saw but dimly** (die Jungen sahen nur verschwommen; *dimly* – *dämmrig*), **and the children that were born to them never saw at all** (und die Kinder, die ihnen geboren wurden, sahen überhaupt nichts).

But life was very easy in that snow-rimmed basin (doch das Leben war sehr einfach in diesem schneeumrahmten Becken; *basin* [ˌbeɪs(ə)n]),

lost to all the world (für die ganze Welt verloren), with neither thorns nor briers (mit weder Stacheln noch Dornbüschen; *neither* [ˌnaɪðə]; *brier* [ˌbraɪə]), with no evil insects nor any beasts save the gentle breed of llamas (ohne böartige Insekten oder irgendwelche Tiere außer der sanftmütigen Lamarasse; *breed* [briːd]) they had lugged and thrust and followed up the beds of the shrunken rivers in the gorges up which they had come (die sie gezerrt und geschubst hatten und denen sie gefolgt waren, vertrocknete Flussbetten hinauf in den Schluchten, durch die sie gekommen waren; *luge* [luːʒ]; *shrunken* – *geschrumpft*).

12

And amidst the little population of that now isolated and forgotten valley the disease ran its course. The old became groping, the young saw but dimly, and the children that were born to them never saw at all.

But life was very easy in that snow-rimmed basin, lost to all the world, with neither thorns nor briers, with no evil insects nor any beasts save the gentle breed of llamas they had lugged and thrust and followed up the beds of the shrunken rivers in the gorges up which they had come.

The seeing had become purblind so gradually that they scarcely noticed their loss (die Sehenden waren so allmählich kurzsichtig geworden, dass sie ihren Verlust kaum bemerkt hatten; *purblind* [ˈpɜːblaɪnd]; *scarcely* [ˈskeəslɪ]). They guided the sightless youngsters hither and

thither (sie führten die blinden Jugendlichen dahin und dorthin) **until** **they knew the whole valley marvellously** (bis diese das ganze Tal ausgezeichnet kannten; *marvellous* [ˈmɑ:v(ə)ləs] – *wundervoll*), **and** **when at last sight died out among them the race lived on** (und als schließlich das Sehvermögen ganz ausstarb unter ihnen, lebte der Stamm weiter).

They had even time to adapt themselves to the blind control of fire (sie hatten sogar Zeit, sich zu gewöhnen an die blinde Beherrschung des Feuers), **which they made carefully in stoves of stone** (das sie vorsichtig in Steinöfen entfachten; *stove* [stəʊv] – *Ofen*). **They were a simple strain of people at the first, unlettered** (sie waren ein einfacher Stamm von Menschen anfangs, ungebildet), **only slightly touched with the Spanish civilisation** (nur schwach berührt von der spanischen Zivilisation; *civilisation* [ˌsɪvɪlaɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)n]), **but with something of a tradition of the arts of old Peru and of its lost philosophy** (aber mit so etwas wie einer Überlieferung der Künste des alten Peru und seiner verlorenen Philosophie; *philosophy* [fr'ləsəfi]). **Generation followed generation** (es folgte Generation auf Generation).

13

The seeing had become purblind so gradually that they scarcely noticed their loss. They guided the sightless youngsters hither and thither until they knew the whole valley marvellously, and when at last sight died out among them the race lived on.

They had even time to adapt themselves to the blind control of

fire, which they made carefully in stoves of stone. They were a simple strain of people at the first, unlettered, only slightly touched with the Spanish civilisation, but with something of a tradition of the arts of old Peru and of its lost philosophy. Generation followed generation.

They forgot many things (sie vergaßen viele Dinge); **they devised many things** (sie ersannen viele Dinge). **Their tradition of the greater world they came from became mythical in colour and uncertain** (ihre Überlieferung von der größeren Welt, aus der sie kamen, verfärbte sich mythisch und wurde unsicher; *mythical* [ˌmɪθɪk(ə)l]). **In all things save sight they were strong and able** (in allen Dingen außer dem Sehen waren sie stark und fähig), **and presently chance sent one** (und in jener Zeit gab es zufällig einen unter ihnen; *presently* – *derzeit, gegenwärtig im Sinne von "in jener Zeit"*) **who had an original mind and who could talk and persuade among them** (der einen originellen Geist hatte und der reden und überzeugen konnte; *persuade* [pəˈsweɪd]), **and then afterwards another** (und danach einen Zweiten).

These two passed, leaving their effects (diese zwei verstarben, hinterließen ihre Spuren), **and the little community grew in numbers and in understanding** (und die kleine Gemeinschaft wuchs zahlenmäßig und an Verständnis), **and met and settled social and economic problems that arose** (und setzte sich mit sozialen und wirtschaftlichen Problemen auseinander, die auftraten, und löste sie; *to settle* – *beilegen; to arise* – *entstehen, aufkommen*).

They forgot many things; they devised many things. Their tradition of the greater world they came from became mythical in colour and uncertain. In all things save sight they were strong and able, and presently chance sent one who had an original mind and who could talk and persuade among them, and then afterwards another.

These two passed, leaving their effects, and the little community grew in numbers and in understanding, and met and settled social and economic problems that arose.

Generation followed generation (es folgte Generation auf Generation). **Generation followed generation** (es folgte Generation auf Generation). **There came a time** (es kam eine Zeit) **when a child was born who was fifteen generations from that ancestor** (als ein Kind geboren wurde, fünfzehn Generationen nach jenem Vorfahren; *ancestor* [‘ænsɛstə]) **who went out of the valley with a bar of silver to seek God’s aid** (der das Tal verlassen hatte mit einem Silberbarren, um Gottes Hilfe zu ersuchen), **and who never returned** (und der niemals zurückgekehrt war). **Thereabout it chanced that a man came into this community from the outer world** (ungefähr zu jener Zeit kam zufällig ein Mann in die Gemeinschaft, aus der Außenwelt). **And this is the story of that man** (und dies ist die Geschichte jenes Mannes).

Generation followed generation. Generation followed generation. There came a time when a child was born who was fifteen generations from that ancestor who went out of the valley with a bar of silver to seek God's aid, and who never returned. Thereabout it chanced that a man came into this community from the outer world. And this is the story of that man.

He was a mountaineer from the country near Quito (er war ein Bergsteiger vom Lande aus der Nähe von Quito), **a man who had been down to the sea and had seen the world** (ein Mann, der zur See gefahren war und die Welt gesehen hatte), **a reader of books in an original way** (ein Bücherleser auf originelle Weise), **an acute and enterprising man** (ein scharfsichtiger und unternehmungslustiger Mann; *acute* [ə'kju:t]; *enterprising* ['entəpraɪzɪŋ]), **and he was taken on by a party of Englishmen** (und er war von einer Gruppe Engländer angestellt worden) **who had come out to Ecuador to climb mountains** (die nach Ecuador gekommen war, um Berge zu besteigen), **to replace one of their three Swiss guides who had fallen ill** (um einen ihrer drei schweizer Führer zu ersetzen, der krank geworden war).

He was a mountaineer from the country near Quito, a man who had been down to the sea and had seen the world, a reader of books in an original way, an acute and enterprising man, and he was taken on by a party of Englishmen who had come out to Ecuador to climb mountains, to replace one of their three Swiss guides who had fallen ill.

He climbed here and he climbed there (er kletterte hier und er kletterte dort; *climb* [klaɪm]), **and then came the attempt on Parascotopetl, the Matterhorn of the Andes** (und dann kam der Versuch, den Parascotopetl zu besteigen, das Matterhorn der Anden; *attempt* [ə'tempt]), **in which he was lost to the outer world** (währenddessen er für die Außenwelt verloren ging).

The story of that accident has been written a dozen times (die Geschichte dieses Unfalls ist dutzendfach niedergeschrieben worden; *accident* [ˌæksɪdənt]; *dozen* [ˌdʌz(ə)n]). **Pointer's narrative is the best** (Pointers Bericht ist der beste; *narrative* [ˈnærətɪv]).

He climbed here and he climbed there, and then came the attempt on Parascotopetl, the Matterhorn of the Andes, in which he was lost to the outer world.

The story of that accident has been written a dozen times. Pointer's narrative is the best.

He tells how the little party worked their difficult and almost vertical way up (er erzählt wie sich die kleine Gruppe ihren schwierigen und beinahe senkrechten Weg hinaufarbeitete) to the very foot of the last and greatest precipice (zum Fuß des letzten und größten Steilhangs; *precipice* [ˌpresɪpsɪs]), and how they built a night shelter amidst the snow upon a little shelf of rock (und wie sie ein Nachtlager errichteten inmitten des Schnees auf einem kleinen Felsvorsprung), and, with a touch of real dramatic power (und, mit einem Hauch von wirklich dramatischem Effekt; *dramatic* [drəˈmætɪk]; *power* – Kraft), how presently they found Nunez had gone from them (wie sie bald feststellten, dass Nunez von ihnen gegangen war). They shouted, and there was no reply (sie riefen und es kam keine Antwort); shouted and whistled (riefen und piffen; *whistle* [ˈwɪs(ə)l]), and for the rest of that night they slept no more (und für den Rest dieser Nacht schliefen sie nicht mehr).

He tells how the little party worked their difficult and almost vertical way up to the very foot of the last and greatest precipice, and how they built a night shelter amidst the snow upon a little shelf of rock, and, with a touch of real dramatic power, how presently they found Nunez had gone from them. They shouted, and there was no reply; shouted and whistled, and for the rest of that night they slept no more.

As the morning broke they saw the traces of his fall (bei Tagesanbruch sahen sie die Spuren seines Falls). It seems impossible he could have uttered a sound (es scheint unmöglich, dass er einen Ton geäußert haben könnte). He had slipped eastward towards the unknown side of the mountain (er war östlich in Richtung der unbekannten Bergseite abgerutscht; *towards* [tə'wɔ:dz]); far below he had struck a steep slope of snow (weit unten war er auf einem schneebedeckten Steilhang aufgetroffen), and ploughed his way down it in the midst of a snow avalanche (und hatte seinen Weg nach unten mitten durch eine Lockerschneelawine gepflügt; *plough* [plau]; *avalanche* ['ævə,lɑ:ntʃ]).

His track went straight to the edge of a frightful precipice (seine Spur führte geradewegs zur Kante einer furchteinflößenden Schlucht), and beyond that everything was hidden (und dahinter war alles verdeckt). Far, far below, and hazy with distance (weit, weit unten und aufgrund der Entfernung trübe; *distance* ['distəns]), they could see

trees rising out of a narrow, shut-in valley (konnten sie Bäume sehen, sie aus einem engen, eingeschlossenen Tal aufragten; *narrow* ['nærəʊ]) — the lost Country of the Blind (das verlorene Land der Blinden).

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As the morning broke they saw the traces of his fall. It seems impossible he could have uttered a sound. He had slipped eastward towards the unknown side of the mountain; far below he had struck a steep slope of snow, and ploughed his way down it in the midst of a snow avalanche.

His track went straight to the edge of a frightful precipice, and beyond that everything was hidden. Far, far below, and hazy with distance, they could see trees rising out of a narrow, shut-in valley — the lost Country of the Blind.

But they did not know it was the lost Country of the Blind (doch sie wussten nicht, dass es das verlorene Land der Blinden war), nor distinguish it in any way from any other narrow streak of upland valley (noch konnten sie es in irgendeiner Weise von einem der anderen schmalen Streifen Hochland unterscheiden; *distinguish* [dr'stɪŋɡwɪʃ]; *streak* [stri:k]). Unnerved by this disaster (verunsichert durch diese Katastrophe; *disaster* [dr'zɑ:stə]), they abandoned their attempt in the afternoon (gaben sie ihren Versuch am Nachmittag auf; *abandon* [ə'bændən]; *attempt* [ə'tempt]), and Pointer was called away to the war (und Pointer wurde zum Kriegsdienst einberufen) before he could

make another attack (bevor er einen weiteren Vorstoß unternehmen konnte; *attack* [ə'tæk] – *Angriff*). **To this day Parascotopetl lifts an unconquered crest** (bis zum heutigen Tag erhebt Parascotopetl seinen unbezwungenen Gipfel; *conquer* ['kɒŋkə]), **and Pointer's shelter crumbles unvisited amidst the snows** (und Pointers Lager verfällt unbesucht inmitten des Schnees).

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But they did not know it was the lost Country of the Blind, nor distinguish it in any way from any other narrow streak of upland valley. Unnerved by this disaster, they abandoned their attempt in the afternoon, and Pointer was called away to the war before he could make another attack. To this day Parascotopetl lifts an unconquered crest, and Pointer's shelter crumbles unvisited amidst the snows.

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