

SAKI



The Story-Teller

Der Erzähler

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Lesemethode von Ilya Frank

ENGLISCH

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Der Erzähler

*Aus dem Englischen übersetzt von
Ulrike Wittmann*

Lesemethode von Ilya Frank

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It was a hot afternoon (es war ein heißer Nachmittag),
and the railway carriage was correspondingly sultry (und
 der Eisenbahnwaggon war entsprechend stickig; *carriage*
 [ˌkæərɪdʒ]; *correspondingly* [ˌkɒrəˈspɒndɪŋli]; **sultry** —
schwül, stickig), **and the next stop was at Templecombe,**
nearly an hour ahead (und die nächste Station war in
 Templecombe, fast eine Stunde entfernt; *nearly* — *beinahe,*
fast; **ahead** [əˈhed] — *voraus, vor, entfernt*). **The occupants**
of the carriage were a small girl (die Insassen des Waggon
 waren ein kleines Mädchen; **occupant** [ˌɒkjʊpənt] — *Bewoh-*
ner, Inhaber, Insasse; **to occupy** [ˌɒkjʊˈpaɪ] — *besetzen,*
einnehmen), **and a smaller girl, and a small boy** (und ein
 kleineres Mädchen und ein kleiner Junge).

It was a hot afternoon, and the railway carriage was correspondingly sultry, and the next stop was at Templecombe, nearly an hour ahead. The occupants of the carriage were a small girl, and a smaller girl, and a small boy.

An aunt belonging to the children occupied one corner seat (eine zu den Kindern gehörige Tante besetzte einen Eckplatz), and the further corner seat on the opposite side was occupied by a bachelor (und der weitere Eckplatz auf der gegenüberliegenden Seite war von einem Junggesellen besetzt; *bachelor* ['bætʃələ]) who was a stranger to their party (der ein Fremder für ihre Gruppe war; *party* — *Partei, Gruppe*), but the small girls and the small boy emphatically occupied the compartment (aber die kleinen Mädchen und der kleine Junge nahmen das Abteil entschieden ein; *emphatically* [im'fætɪkəlɪ] — *ausdrücklich, energisch, entschieden*; *compartment* [kəm'pɑ:tmənt] — *Fach, Abteil*). Both the aunt and the children were conversational in a limited, persistent way (sowohl die Tante

wie auch die Kinder waren auf begrenzte, hartnäckige Art
gesprächig; **both** — beide, sowohl wie auch; **conversational**
— unterhaltend, gesprächig; **conversation** [ˌkɒnvəˈseɪʃən]
— Unterhaltung; persistent [pəˈsɪstənt]; **way** — Weg, Art),
reminding one of the attentions of a housefly that refuses
to be discouraged (sie erinnerten einen an die Aufmerksam-
keiten einer Hausfliege, die sich weigert sich entmutigen zu
lassen; **refuse** [rɪˈfjuːz]; **courage** [ˌkʌrɪdʒ] — Mut).

2

An aunt belonging to the children occupied one corner seat, and the further corner seat on the opposite side was occupied by a bachelor who was a stranger to their party, but the small girls and the small boy emphatically occupied the compartment. Both the aunt and the children were conversational in a limited, persistent way, reminding one of the attentions of a housefly that refuses to be discouraged.

Most of the aunt's remarks seemed to begin with
“Don't” (die meisten Anmerkungen der Tante schienen mit

“Hör auf” zu beginnen; *remark* [rɪ'mɑ:k]; *don't* – *tu nicht, mach nicht, lass das*) and nearly all of the children's remarks began with “Why?” (und fast alle Anmerkungen der Kinder begannen mit “Warum?”). The bachelor said nothing out loud (der Junggeselle sagte nichts laut = er sprach nichts aus). “Don't, Cyril, don't,” exclaimed the aunt (hör auf, Cyril, hör auf, rief die Tante aus), as the small boy began smacking the cushions of the seat (als der kleine Junge anfang auf die Sitzpölster einzuschlagen; *to smack* — *schmatzen, klatschen, einschlagen*; *cushion* [ˌkʊʃən]), producing a cloud of dust at each blow (/und/ bei jedem Schlag eine Staubwolke zu erzeugen; *to produce* — *herstellen, hervorbringen, erzeugen*).

“Come and look out of the window,” she added (komm und sieh aus dem Fenster, fügte sie hinzu).

The child moved reluctantly to the window (das Kind bewegte sich zögerlich zum Fenster; *reluctantly* [rɪ'lʌkt(ə)ntli] — *widerstrebend, widerwillig, zögerlich*). “Why are those sheep being driven out of that field?” he asked (warum werden diese Schafe aus dem Feld getrieben?, fragte er; *driven* [ˈdrɪv(ə)n]; *to drive out* — *ausfahren, austreiben*).

Most of the aunt's remarks seemed to begin with "Don't," and nearly all of the children's remarks began with "Why?" The bachelor said nothing out loud. "Don't, Cyril, don't," exclaimed the aunt, as the small boy began smacking the cushions of the seat, producing a cloud of dust at each blow.

"Come and look out of the window," she added.

The child moved reluctantly to the window. "Why are those sheep being driven out of that field?" he asked.

"I expect they are being driven to another field where there is more grass," said the aunt weakly (ich nehme an sie werden zu einem anderen Feld getrieben wo es mehr Gras gibt, sagte die Tante schwach; **to expect** — erwarten, vermuten, annehmen; **grass** [gra:s]).

"But there is lots of grass in that field," protested the boy (Aber da ist viel Gras in dem Feld, protestierte der Junge; **lot** — Menge; **to protest** [ˌprəʊtest] — aufbegehren, protestieren); **"there's nothing else but grass there** (da ist

nichts als Gras). Aunt, there's lots of grass in that field (Tante, da ist viel Gras in dem Feld)."

"Perhaps the grass in the other field is better (vielleicht ist das Gras in dem anderen Feld besser)," suggested the aunt fatuously (schlug die Tante albern vor; *fatuous* [ˈfætjuəs] — *töricht, albern, einfältig*).

"Why is it better?" came the swift, inevitable question (warum ist es besser? kam die schnelle, unvermeidliche Frage; *inevitable* [ɪˈnevɪtəbl]).

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"I expect they are being driven to another field where there is more grass," said the aunt weakly.

"But there is lots of grass in that field," protested the boy; "there's nothing else but grass there. Aunt, there's lots of grass in that field."

"Perhaps the grass in the other field is better," suggested the aunt fatuously.

"Why is it better?" came the swift, inevitable question.

“Oh, look at those cows (oh, sieh dir diese Kühe an; *cow* [kau])!” exclaimed the aunt (rief die Tante aus). Nearly every field along the line had contained cows or bull-ocks (fast auf jedem Feld entlang der Strecke waren Kühe oder Ochsen gewesen; *line* — *Linie, Strecke*; *to contain* [kən'teɪn] — *beinhalten*), but she spoke as though she were drawing attention to a rarity (aber sie sprach als würde sie die Aufmerksamkeit auf eine Besonderheit lenken; *to draw* — *anlocken, lenken*; *rarity* — *Seltenheit, Rarität, Besonderheit*).

“Why is the grass in the other field better (warum ist das Gras in dem anderen Feld besser)?” persisted Cyril (beharrte Cyril; *to persist* [pə'sɪst] – *bestehen, beharren*).

The frown on the bachelor's face was deepening to a scowl (das Stirnrunzeln auf dem Gesicht des Junggesellen vertiefte sich zu einem finsternen Blick; *frown* [fraʊn]; *scowl* [skaʊl]). He was a hard, unsympathetic man (er war ein strenger, unsympathischer Mann; *hard* — *hart, streng*), the aunt decided in her mind (entschied die Tante bei sich; *mind* — *Verstand, Geist*). She was utterly unable to come to any satisfactory decision about the grass in the other field (sie war gänzlich außerstande, zu einem befriedigenden

Urteil über das Gras auf dem anderen Feld zu kommen;
utterly — *absolut, gänzlich*; **unable** — *unfähig, außerstande*;
satisfactory [ˌsætɪsˈfæktəri]; **decision** [dɪˈsɪʒən]).

5

“Oh, look at those cows!” exclaimed the aunt. Nearly every field along the line had contained cows or bullocks, but she spoke as though she were drawing attention to a rarity.

“Why is the grass in the other field better?” persisted Cyril.

The frown on the bachelor’s face was deepening to a scowl. He was a hard, unsympathetic man, the aunt decided in her mind. She was utterly unable to come to any satisfactory decision about the grass in the other field.

The smaller girl created a diversion by beginning to recite “On the Road to Mandalay” (*das kleinere Mädchen schaffte Ablenkung indem es begann, "auf der Straße nach Mandalay“ zu rezitieren*; **diversion** [daɪˈvɜːʃən]). **She only**

knew the first line (sie kannte nur die erste Zeile), but she put her limited knowledge to the fullest possible use (aber sie setzte ihr eingeschränktes Wissen so gut wie möglich ein; *to put sth to use* — *etwas einsetzen, etwas verwenden*). She repeated the line over and over again in a dreamy but resolute and very audible voice (sie wiederholte die Zeile wieder und wieder mit träumerischer aber entschlossener und deutlich vernehmbarer Stimme; *resolute* [ˌrezəˈlu:t]; *audible* [ˌɔːdɪb(ə)l] — *hörbar, vernehmbar*); it seemed to the bachelor as though someone had had a bet with her (es schien dem Junggesellen, als hätte jemand eine Wette mit ihr gehabt) that she could not repeat the line aloud two thousand times without stopping (dass sie die Zeile nicht zweitausend Mal wiederholen könnte ohne zu stoppen; *time* — *Mal, Zeit*). Whoever it was who had made the wager was likely to lose his bet (wer immer es war der die Wette eingegangen war, würde sie wahrscheinlich verlieren).

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The smaller girl created a diversion by beginning to recite “On the Road to Mandalay.” She only knew

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“Come over here and listen to a story (kommt hier herüber und hört euch eine Geschichte an),” said the aunt, when the bachelor had looked twice at her and once at the communication cord (sagte die Tante, nachdem der Junggeselle zwei Mal sie und ein Mal die Notbremse angesehen hatte; *communication cord* — Verbindungsstrang, Notbremse).

The children moved listlessly towards the aunt’s end of the carriage (die Kinder bewegten sich lustlos ans Waggonende der Tante). Evidently her reputation as a story-teller did not rank high in their estimation (offenkundig reichte ihr Ruf als Geschichtenerzähler in ihrer

Einschätzung nicht weit; **evidently** — *offenbar, offenkundig*; **to rank** — *einstufen, reichen*; *estimation* [ˌestrɪˈmeɪʃən]).

7

“Come over here and listen to a story,” said the aunt, when the bachelor had looked twice at her and once at the communication cord.

The children moved listlessly towards the aunt’s end of the carriage. Evidently her reputation as a story-teller did not rank high in their estimation.

In a low, confidential voice (*mit leiser, vertraulicher Stimme*), interrupted at frequent intervals by loud, petulant questionings from her listeners (*in kurzen Abständen von lauten, bockigen Fragen ihrer Zuhörer unterbrochen*; **frequent** [ˌfriːkwənt] — *häufig, kurz*; **petulant** [ˌpetjʊlənt]), she began an unenterprising and deplorably uninteresting story about a little girl (*begann sie eine nicht unternehmungslustige und bedauernswert uninteressante Geschichte über ein kleines Mädchen*; **deplorably** [dɪˈplɔːrəblɪ]) who was good, and made friends with everyone on account

of her goodness (das tugendhaft war und auf Grund ihrer Tugend mit jedem Freundschaft schloss; *good* — gut, tugendhaft; *goodness* — Güte, Tugend), **and was finally saved from a mad bull by a number of rescuers** (und schließlich von einer Anzahl an Rettern vor einem wütenden Stier gerettet wurde; *mad* — verrückt, wütend; *rescuer* [ˌreskjuːə]) **who admired her moral character** (die ihren moralischen Charakter bewunderten; *character* [ˌkærəktə]).

8

In a low, confidential voice, interrupted at frequent intervals by loud, petulant questionings from her listeners, she began an unenterprising and deplorably uninteresting story about a little girl who was good, and made friends with everyone on account of her goodness, and was finally saved from a mad bull by a number of rescuers who admired her moral character.

“Wouldn’t they have saved her if she hadn’t been good (hätten sie sie nicht gerettet, wenn sie nicht tugendhaft gewesen wäre)?” demanded the bigger of the small girls

(fragte das ältere der kleinen Mädchen). **It was exactly the question that the bachelor had wanted to ask** (das war genau die Frage, die der Junggeselle hatte stellen wollen; *exactly* [ɪgˈzæktli]).

“Well, yes,” admitted the aunt lamely (nun, ja, gab die Tante zögerlich zu), “but I don’t think they would have run quite so fast to her help (aber ich denke nicht, dass sie ihr gar so schnell zu Hilfe gekommen wären) if they had not liked her so much (wenn sie sie nicht so gern gehabt hätten).”

“It’s the stupidest story I’ve ever heard (es ist die dümmste Geschichte, die ich je gehört habe; *stupid* [ˈstjuːpɪd]),” said the bigger of the small girls, with immense conviction (sagte das ältere der kleinen Mädchen mit immenser Überzeugung; *immense* [ɪˈmens]).

“Wouldn’t they have saved her if she hadn’t been good?” demanded the bigger of the small girls. It was exactly the question that the bachelor had wanted to ask.

“Well, yes,” admitted the aunt lamely, “but I don’t think they would have run quite so fast to her help if they had not liked her so much.”

“It’s the stupidest story I’ve ever heard,” said the bigger of the small girls, with immense conviction.

“I didn’t listen after the first bit, it was so stupid (ich habe nach dem ersten Teil nicht zugehört, es war so dumm; **bit** — *bisschen, Stück, Teil*),” said Cyril.

The smaller girl made no actual comment on the story (das kleinere Mädchen machte keine eigentliche Anmerkung zu der Geschichte; **actual** — *derzeitig, eigentlich*; **comment** — *Kommentar, Anmerkung*), **but she had long ago recommenced a murmured repetition of her favourite line** (aber sie hatte schon längst wieder mit einer gemurmelten Wiederholung ihrer Lieblingszeile begonnen; **long ago** — *vor langer Zeit, längst*; *murmur* [ˌmɜːmə]).

“You don’t seem to be a success as a story-teller (sie scheinen keinen Erfolg als Geschichtenerzähler zu haben),” said the bachelor suddenly from his corner (sagte der Jungeselle plötzlich aus seiner Ecke).

The aunt bristled in instant defence at this unexpected attack (die Tante reagierte gereizt in sofortiger Abwehr bei diesem unerwarteten Angriff; *bristle* [ˌbrɪs(ə)l] — *Borste*; *to bristle* – *sträuben, hochgehen, gereizt sein*; *defence* [drɪˈfens] — *Verteidigung, Abwehr*).

10

“I didn’t listen after the first bit, it was so stupid,” said Cyril.

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