

JOHN RUSKIN



The King of the Golden River

Der König des Goldenen Flusses

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Lesemethode von Ilya Frank

ENGLISCH

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*Aus dem Englischen übersetzt von
Ulrike Wittmann*

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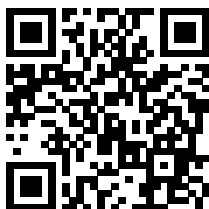
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**HOW THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM OF THE BLACK BROTHERS
WAS INTERFERED WITH BY SOUTHWEST WIND, ESQUIRE**

(wie das Agrarsystem der Brüder Schwarz durch Südwest-Wind, Esquire gestört wurde; *agricultural* [ˌægrɪˈkʌltʃərəl]; *interfere* [ˌɪntəˈfɪə]; *esquire* [ɪˈskwaɪə] — *englischer Höflichkeitstitel*)

IN a secluded and mountainous part of Stiria there was, in old time (in einem abgeschiedenen und gebirgigen Teil der Steiermark gab es in alter Zeit; *secluded* [sɪˈkluːdɪd]; *mountainous* [ˌmaʊntɪnəs]), **a valley of the most surprising and luxuriant fertility** (ein Tal voll überraschender und üppiger Fruchtbarkeit = ein Tal der überraschendsten und üppigsten Fruchtbarkeit; *valley* [ˌvæli]; *surprising* [səˈpraɪzɪŋ]; *luxuriant* [lʌgˈzjʊəriənt]; *fertility* [fɜːˈtɪlɪti]). **It was surrounded, on all sides, by steep and rocky mountains** (es war auf allen Seiten von steilen und steinigten Bergen umgeben; *surround* [səˈraʊnd]; *mountain* [ˌmaʊntɪn]), **rising into peaks** (die zu Gipfeln aufstiegen = emporwuchsen), **which**

were always covered with snow (die immer von Schnee bedeckt waren; *covered* [ˌkʌvəd]) and from which a number of torrents descended in constant cataracts (und von denen etliche Sturzbäche in ständigen Wasserfällen niederfuhren; *a number of...* — *einige, etliche*; *number* — *Nummer, Zahl, Anzahl*; *torrent* [ˌtɒrənt]; *to descend* [drɪˈsend] — *absinken, niederfahren*; *constant* [ˌkɒnstənt]; *cataract* [ˌkætəˈrækt]).

1

IN a secluded and mountainous part of Stiria there was, in old time, a valley of the most surprising and luxuriant fertility. It was surrounded, on all sides, by steep and rocky mountains, rising into peaks, which were always covered with snow and from which a number of torrents descended in constant cataracts.

One of these fell westward (einer von ihnen fiel westwärts; *westward* [ˈwestwəd]), over the face of a crag so high (über die Kante einer so hohen Klippe; *face* — *Gesicht; Kante*), that, when the sun had set to everything else (dass, wenn die Sonne über allem anderen untergegangen war), and all below was darkness (und alles darunter Dunkelheit war = in Dunkelheit gehüllt war), his beams still shone full upon this waterfall (ihre Strahlen immer noch auf den Wasserfall fielen; *waterfall* [ˈwɔːtəˌfɔːl]), so that it looked like a shower of gold (so dass er wie ein Regen aus Gold aussah). It was, therefore, called by the people of the neighborhood the Golden River (er wurde deshalb

von den Menschen aus der Nachbarschaft der Goldene Fluss genannt;
therefore [ˈðɛə,fɔː]; *neighborhood* [ˈneɪbəhʊd]).

It was strange that (es war seltsam, dass; *strange* [streɪndʒ]) **none**
of these streams fell into the valley itself (keiner dieser Ströme in das
Tal selbst fiel). **They all descended on the other side of the mountains**
(sie alle fuhren auf der anderen Seite der Berge nieder), **and wound**
away through broad plains (und wanden sich durch breite Ebenen
davon; *to wind*) **and by populous cities** (und an dichtbesiedelten Städ-
ten vorbei; *by* — *von, vorbei*; *populous* [ˈpɒpjʊləs]).

2

One of these fell westward, over the face of a crag so high,
that, when the sun had set to everything else, and all below was
darkness, his beams still shone full upon this waterfall, so that
it looked like a shower of gold. It was, therefore, called by the
people of the neighborhood the Golden River.

It was strange that none of these streams fell into the valley
itself. They all descended on the other side of the mountains,
and wound away through broad plains and by populous cities.

But the clouds were drawn so constantly to the snowy hills (aber
die Wolken wurden so konstant von den schneeigen Hügeln angezogen;
to draw; *constantly* [ˈkɒnstəntli]), **and rested so softly in the circular**

hollow (und ruhten so sanft in dem runden Talkessel; *circular* ['sɜ:kjʊlə]; *hollow* ['hɒləʊ] — *Höhle*; *Talkessel*), **that, in time of drought and heat** (dass in Zeiten von Dürre und Hitze), **when all the country round was burnt up** (wenn das ganze Land rundherum verbrannt war), **there was still rain in the little valley** (es immer noch ein wenig Regen in dem kleinen Tal gab); **and its crops were so heavy** (und seine Ernte so reich war; *heavy* ['hevi] — *schwer*; *heftig*; *reich*), **and its hay so high** (und sein Heu so hoch), **and its apples so red** (und seine Äpfel so rot), **and its grapes so blue** (und seine Weintrauben so blau), **and its wine so rich** (und sein Wein so stark; *rich* — *reich*; *üppig*; *stark*) **and its honey so sweet** (und sein Honig so süß; *honey* ['hʌni]), **that it was a marvel to everyone who beheld it** (dass es ein Wunder für alle war, die es sahen; *marvel* ['mɑ:v(ə)]; *to behold*), **and was commonly called the Treasure Valley** (und allgemein das Schatztal genannt wurde; *treasure* ['treʒə]).

3

But the clouds were drawn so constantly to the snowy hills, and rested so softly in the circular hollow, that, in time of drought and heat, when all the country round was burnt up, there was still rain in the little valley; and its crops were so heavy, and its hay so high, and its apples so red, and its grapes so blue, and its wine so rich, and its honey so sweet, that it was a marvel to everyone who beheld it, and was commonly called the Treasure Valley.

The whole of this little valley belonged to three brothers (das ganze kleine Tal gehörte drei Brüdern; *belong* [br'ɒŋ]), called Schwartz, Hans, and Gluck (genannt Schwarz, Hans und Glück). Schwartz and Hans, the two elder brothers (Schwarz und Hans, die beiden älteren Brüder), were very ugly men (waren sehr hässliche Männer; *ugly* ['ʌɡli]), with overhanging eyebrows (mit überhängenden Augenbrauen; *eyebrow* ['aɪ,braʊ]) and small, dull eyes (und kleinen, stumpfsinnigen Augen; *dull* — *langweilig, stumpfsinnig*) which were always half shut (die immer halb geschlossen waren), so that you couldn't see into *them* (sodass man nicht in *sie* sehen konnte), and always fancied (und sich immer einbildete; *fancied* ['fænsɪd]) they saw very far into *you* (sie sähen sehr weit in *einen selbst*).

4

The whole of this little valley belonged to three brothers, called Schwartz, Hans, and Gluck. Schwartz and Hans, the two elder brothers, were very ugly men, with overhanging eyebrows and small, dull eyes which were always half shut, so that you couldn't see into *them*, and always fancied they saw very far into *you*.

They lived by farming the Treasure Valley (*sie lebten von der Bewirtschaftung des Schatztals*), and very good farmers they were (*und sie waren sehr gute Bauern*). They killed everything (*sie töteten alles*) that did not pay for its eating (*was nicht für seine Nahrung*

bezahlte). They shot the blackbirds (sie erschossen die Amseln; *to shoot*), because they pecked the fruit (weil sie das Obst anpickten); and killed the hedgehogs (und töteten die Igel; *hedgehog* [ˈhɛdʒ, hɒg]), lest they should suck the cows (aus Furcht, dass sie an den Kühen saugen könnten; *lest* — *dass, damit nicht, aus Furcht, dass*); they poisoned the crickets for eating the crumbs in the kitchen (sie vergifteten die Grillen wegen des Essens der Krümel in der Küche; *poison* [ˈpɔɪz(ə)n]); and smothered the cicadas (und erstickten die Zikaden; *smother* [ˈsmʌðə]; *cicada* [sɪˈkɑːdə]) which used to sing all summer in the lime trees (die den ganzen Sommer in den Limonenbäumen zu singen pflegten; *used to* — *gewöhnt an, etwas zu tun pflegen*).

5

They lived by farming the Treasure Valley, and very good farmers they were. They killed everything that did not pay for its eating. They shot the blackbirds, because they pecked the fruit; and killed the hedgehogs, lest they should suck the cows; they poisoned the crickets for eating the crumbs in the kitchen; and smothered the cicadas which used to sing all summer in the lime trees.

They worked their servants without any wages (sie ließen ihre Diener ohne irgendeine Bezahlung arbeiten; *servant* [ˈsɜːv(ə)nt]), till they would not work any more (bis sie nicht mehr arbeiteten),

and then quarreled with them (und stritten dann mit ihnen; *quarrel* ['kwɒrəl]), and turned them out-of-doors without paying them (und setzten sie dann vor die Tür, ohne sie zu bezahlen; *to turn someone out-of-doors* — jemanden vor die Tür setzen; *to turn* — abbiegen; *drehen*).

It would have been very odd (es wäre sehr merkwürdig gewesen), if, with such a farm and such a system of farming, they hadn't got very rich (wenn sie mit so einem Bauernhof und so einem Bewirtschaftungssystem nicht sehr reich geworden wären); and very rich they *did* get (und sie *wurden* sehr reich).

6

They worked their servants without any wages, till they would not work any more, and then quarreled with them, and turned them out-of-doors without paying them.

It would have been very odd, if, with such a farm and such a system of farming, they hadn't got very rich; and very rich they *did* get.

They generally contrived to keep their corn by them (sie brachten es gewöhnlich fertig, ihr Getreide bei sich zu behalten; *generally* ['dʒenrəli]; *contrived* [kən'traɪvd]) till it was very dear (bis es sehr teuer war; *dear* — *lieb, teuer*), and then sell it for twice its value

(und verkauften es dann für den zweifachen Wert; *value* ['vælju:]); they had heaps of gold lying about on their floors (sie hatten Haufen von Gold auf ihren Böden liegen), yet it was never known (trotzdem wurde nie bekannt = hörte man nie) that they had given so much as a penny or a crust in charity (dass sie auch nur einen Pfennig oder eine Kruste der Wohltätigkeit gespendet hätten; *charity* ['tʃærɪti]); they never went to mass (sie gingen nie zur Messe), grumbled perpetually at paying tithes (sie grummelten immer dabei den Zehnten zu zahlen; *perpetual* [pə'pɛtʃuəl]); and were, in a word (und waren, mit einem Wort), of so cruel and grinding a temper (von so grausamen und zermürbendem Temperament; *to grind* [graɪnd] — *abschleifen, zermürben*), as to receive from all those with whom they had any dealings, the nickname of the "Black Brothers" (dass sie von allen, mit denen sie zu tun hatten, den Spitznamen "Schwarze Brüder" erhielten; *receive* [rɪ'si:v]; *dealing* ['di:lɪŋ]).

7

They generally contrived to keep their corn by them till it was very dear, and then sell it for twice its value; they had heaps of gold lying about on their floors, yet it was never known that they had given so much as a penny or a crust in charity; they never went to mass, grumbled perpetually at paying tithes; and were, in a word, of so cruel and grinding a temper, as to receive from

all those with whom they had any dealings, the nickname of the "Black Brothers."

The youngest brother, Gluck, was as completely opposed (der jüngste Bruder, Glück, war so komplett gegensätzlich = war das komplette Gegenteil; *completely* [kəm'pli:tli]; *opposed* [ə'pəuzd]), in both appearance and character, to his seniors (sowohl in Aussehen als auch Charakter, zu seinen älteren /Brüdern/; *both... and* — *sowohl... als auch*; *both* — *beide*; *appearance* [ə'piərəns]; *character* ['kæriktə]; *senior* ['si:njə]) as could possibly be imagined or desired (wie man sich nur vorstellen oder erhoffen konnte; *possibly* ['pɒsəbli] — *möglicherweise*; *nur*; *imagine* [i'mædʒɪn]; *desire* [di'zaɪə]). He was not above twelve years old (er war nicht mehr als zwölf Jahre alt; *above* [ə'bʌv] — *über*; *mehr als*), fair, blue-eyed (hell, blauäugig; *fair* [fɛə]), and kind in temper to every living thing (und freundlich zu jedem Lebewesen; *kind* — *nett, lieb*; *temper* — *Temperament*; *Laune*). He did not, of course, agree particularly well with his brothers (er verstand sich natürlich nicht besonders gut mit seinen Brüdern; *to agree with someone* [ə'gri:] — *mit jemandem einer Meinung sein*; *sich mit jemandem verstehen*; *particularly* [pə'tɪkjələli]), or rather, they did not agree with him (oder eher, sie verstanden sich nicht mit ihm; *rather* ['rɑ:ðə]).

The youngest brother, Gluck, was as completely opposed, in both appearance and character, to his seniors as could possibly be imagined or desired. He was not above twelve years old, fair, blue-eyed, and kind in temper to every living thing. He did not, of course, agree particularly well with his brothers, or rather, they did not agree with *him*.

He was usually appointed to the honorable office of turnspit (er wurde für gewöhnlich zum ehrenhaften Amt des Bratenwenders bestimmt; *appointed* [ə'pɔɪntɪd]; *honorable* ['hɒn(ə)rəbl]; *turnspit* ['tɜːnsptɪt]; *to turn* — *drehen*; *spit* — *Spieß*), when there was anything to roast (wenn es etwas zu rösten gab), which was not often (was nicht oft war); for, to do the brothers justice (denn, um den Brüdern Gerechtigkeit widerfahren zu lassen; *justice* ['dʒʌstɪs] — *Gerechtigkeit*), they were hardly less sparing upon themselves (sie waren kaum weniger sparsam bei sich selbst; *to spare* — *sparen*; *knausern*; *upon* [ə'pɒn] — *darauf*; *bei*) than upon other people (als bei anderen Leuten). At other times he used to clean the shoes (zu anderen Zeiten pflegte er die Schuhe zu reinigen; *used to* — *gewohnt*; *pflegte zu*), floors, and sometimes the plates (die Böden und manchmal die Teller; *floor* [flɔː]), occasionally getting what was left on them (gelegentlich bekam er was auf ihnen übrig war; *occasion* [ə'keɪʒən])

— *Gelegenheit*; **to leave** — *weggehen*; *übrig lassen*), by way of encouragement (als ein Weg der Ermutigung; *encouragement* [ɪn'kʌrɪdʒmənt]), and a wholesome quantity of dry blows (und eine gesunde Anzahl trockener Schläge; **wholesome** ['həʊlsəm] — *heilsam*; *gesund*; *quantity* ['kwɒntəti]; **blow** [bləʊ] — *Schlag*, *Hieb*), by way of education (als ein Weg der Erziehung; *education* [ˌɛdʒu'keɪʃən]).

9

He was usually appointed to the honorable office of turnspit, when there was anything to roast, which was not often; for, to do the brothers justice, they were hardly less sparing upon themselves than upon other people. At other times he used to clean the shoes, floors, and sometimes the plates, occasionally getting what was left on them, by way of encouragement, and a wholesome quantity of dry blows, by way of education.

Things went on in this manner for a long time (die Dinge gingen in dieser Art lange Zeit weiter). At last came a very wet summer (endlich kam ein sehr nasser Sommer), and everything went wrong in the country round (und alles ging schief im Land umher; **wrong** — *falsch*; *schief*). The hay had hardly been got in (das Heu war kaum eingebracht worden; **hardly** — *kaum*; *schwerlich*; *to get in*) when the haystacks were floated bodily down to the sea by an inundation (als die Heustöße gewaltsam von einer Überschwemmung hinunter zum

Meer geschwemmt wurden; *haystack* [ˈheɪstæk]; **to float** — *schweben; schwemmen; bodily* — *körperlich; gewaltsam; body* — *Körper; inundation* [ˌɪnʌnˈdeɪʃ(ə)n]); **the vines were cut to pieces with the hail** (die Weinreben wurden mit dem Hagel in Stücke geschnitten; *to cut*); **the corn was all killed by a black blight** (das Getreide wurde alles von einem schwarzen Mehltau getötet; *corn* — *Mais; Getreide; blight* — *Zerstörung; Mehltau*); **only in the Treasure Valley, as usual, all was safe** (nur im Schatztal war alles, wie gewöhnlich, sicher; *usual* [ˈjuːʒʊəl]).

10

Things went on in this manner for a long time. At last came a very wet summer, and everything went wrong in the country round. The hay had hardly been got in when the haystacks were floated bodily down to the sea by an inundation; the vines were cut to pieces with the hail; the corn was all killed by a black blight; only in the Treasure Valley, as usual, all was safe.

As it had rain when there was rain nowhere else (wie es Regen hatte, wenn sonst nirgendwo Regen war), so it had sun when there was sun nowhere else (so hatte es Sonne, wenn nirgendwo sonst Sonne war). Everybody came to buy corn at the farm (alle kamen um Getreide auf dem Bauernhof zu kaufen), and went away pouring maledictions on the Black Brothers (und gingen, Flüche auf die Schwarzen Brüder ausschüttend, fort; *pouring* [ˈpɔː(r)ɪŋ]; *malediction* [ˌmæɪlˈdɪkʃən]).

They asked what they liked and got it (sie verlangten was sie wollten und bekamen es), except from the poor people (außer von den armen Leuten; *except* [ik'sept]), who could only beg (die nur betteln konnten), and several of whom were starved at their very door (und von denen einige direkt an ihrer Tür verhungerten; *several* ['sevrəl]), without the slightest regard or notice (ohne die geringste Beachtung oder Kenntnisnahme; *regard* [rɪ'gɑ:d] — *Beachtung; Respekt; notice* ['nəʊtɪs] — *Mitteilung; Anzeige; Kenntnisnahme*).

11

As it had rained when there was rain nowhere else, so it had sun when there was sun nowhere else. Everybody came to buy corn at the farm, and went away pouring maledictions on the Black Brothers. They asked what they liked and got it, except from the poor people, who could only beg, and several of whom were starved at their very door, without the slightest regard or notice.

It was drawing towards winter (es zog = *ging* gegen Winter hin; *to draw* — *einen Wechsel ziehen; anlocken; ziehen; towards* [tə'wɔ:dz]), and very cold weather (und sehr kaltes Wetter; *weather* ['weðə]), when one day the two elder brothers had gone out (als eines Tages die zwei älteren Brüder ausgegangen waren), with their usual warning to little Gluck (mit ihrer üblichen Warnung an den kleinen Glück; *usual* ['ju:ʒ(ə)l]; *warning* ['wɔ:nɪŋ]), who was left to mind the roast

(der zurückgelassen wurde um auf den Braten zu achten; *to leave*; *to roast* — *rösten, braten*; *roast* — *Braten*), **that he was to let nobody in** (dass er niemanden hineinlassen sollte), **and give nothing out** (und nichts ausgeben sollte). **Gluck sat down quite close to the fire** (Glück setzte sich recht nahe beim Feuer hin; *to sit*), **for it was raining very hard** (weil es sehr stark regnete), **and the kitchen walls were by no means dry or comfortable-looking** (und die Küchenwände waren keinesfalls trocken oder gemütlich aussehend; *means* [mi:nz] — *Mittel*; *Möglichkeit*; *comfortable* ['kʌmf(ə)təbl]).

12

It was drawing towards winter, and very cold weather, when one day the two elder brothers had gone out, with their usual warning to little Gluck, who was left to mind the roast, that he was to let nobody in, and give nothing out. Gluck sat down quite close to the fire, for it was raining very hard, and the kitchen walls were by no means dry or comfortable-looking.

He turned and turned (er drehte und drehte), **and the roast got nice and brown** (und der Braten wurde schön braun; *nice* — *nett*; *schön*). "What a pity (wie schade)," **thought Gluck** (dachte Glück; *to think*), "my brothers never ask anybody to dinner (meine Brüder laden nie jemanden zum Abendessen ein). I'm sure (ich bin sicher), **when they've got such a nice piece of mutton as this** (wenn sie so

ein schönes Stück Hammelfleisch wie dieses haben), **and nobody else has got so much as a piece of dry bread** (und niemand sonst hat so viel wie ein Stück Brot), **it would do their hearts good to have somebody to eat it with them** (würde es ihren Herzen gut tun jemanden zu haben, der es mit ihnen isst; *heart* [hɑ:t])."

Just as he spoke (gerade als er sprach; *to speak*) **there came a double knock at the house door** (kam ein doppeltes Klopfen von der Haustür), **yet heavy and dull** (doch schwer und dumpf; *dull* — *langweilig*; *dumpf*), **as though the knocker had been tied up** (als ob der Klopfende gefesselt gewesen wäre; *knocker* — *Nörgler*; *Klopfer*) — **more like a puff than a knock** (mehr wie ein Lufthauch als ein Klopfen).

13

He turned and turned, and the roast got nice and brown. "What a pity," thought Gluck, "my brothers never ask anybody to dinner. I'm sure, when they've got such a nice piece of mutton as this, and nobody else has got so much as a piece of dry bread, it would do their hearts good to have somebody to eat it with them."

Just as he spoke there came a double knock at the house door, yet heavy and dull, as though the knocker had been tied up — more like a puff than a knock.

"It must be the wind (es muss der Wind sein)," said Gluck (sagte Glück; *to say*); "nobody else would venture to knock double knocks at our door (niemand sonst würde es wagen doppelt an unsere Tür zu klopfen; *to venture* [ˈventʃə] — *riskieren, wagen*; *venture* — *Projekt, Unternehmen; Wagnis*)."

No, it wasn't the wind (nein, es war nicht der Wind); there it came again very hard (da kam es wieder, sehr hart), and what was particularly astounding (und was besonders erstaunlich war; *particularly* [pəˈtɪkjələli]; *astounding* [əˈstaʊndɪŋ]), the knocker seemed to be in a hurry (der Klopfer schien in Eile zu sein) and not to be in the least afraid of the consequences (und nicht im Geringsten Angst vor den Folgen zu haben; *not in the least* — *in keinsten Weise; keinesfalls; nicht im Geringsten*; *consequence* [ˈkɒn(t)sɪkwəns]). Gluck went to the window (Glück ging zum Fenster), opened it (öffnete es), and put his head out (und streckte seinen Kopf hinaus; *to put out* — *auslöschen; hinausstrecken*) to see who it was (um zu sehen wer es war).

14

"It must be the wind," said Gluck; "nobody else would venture to knock double knocks at our door."

No, it wasn't the wind; there it came again very hard, and what was particularly astounding, the knocker seemed to be in a hurry and not to be in the least afraid of the consequences. Gluck went to the window, opened it, and put his head out to see who it was.

It was the most extraordinary-looking little gentleman (es war der ungewöhnlichst aussehende kleine Herr; *extraordinary* [ɪk'strɔ:d(ə)n(ə)rɪ] — *außergewöhnlich; besonders; ungewöhnlich; gentleman* [ˌdʒentlmən]) that he had ever seen in his life (den er je in seinem Leben gesehen hatte). He had a very large nose (er hatte eine sehr große Nase), slightly brass-colored (leicht messingfarben); his cheeks were very round, and very red (seine Wangen waren sehr rund und sehr rot), and might have warranted a supposition (und hätten die Vermutung gerechtfertigt; *to warrant* [ˌwɔr(ə)nt] — *befugen; garantieren; rechtfertigen; supposition* [ˌsʌpə'zɪʃ(ə)n]) that he had been blowing a refractory fire for the last eight-and-forty hours (dass er die letzten achtundvierzig Stunden ein störrisches Feuer angefacht hatte; *to blow* — *anblasen; anfachen; refractory* [rɪ'frækt(ə)rɪ] — *hitzebeständig; störrisch*); his eyes twinkled merrily through long silky eyelashes (seine Augen funkelten fröhlich durch lange seidige Wimpern; *merrily* [ˌmerɪlɪ]), his moustaches curled twice round like a corkscrew on each side of his mouth (sein Schnurrbart kräuselte sich auf jeder Seite seines Mundes zwei Mal wie ein Korkenzieher herum; *moustache* [mə'sta:ʃ]; *corkscrew* [ˌkɔ:kskru:]; *cork* — *Kork; screw* — *Zieher*), and his hair, of a curious mixed pepper-and-salt color (und sein Haar, von seltsam gemischter Pfeffer-und-Salz Farbe; *curious* [ˌkɔ:kskru:] — *neugierig; seltsam*), descended far over his shoulders (fiel weit über seine Schultern herab; *descend* [drɪ'send]).

It was the most extraordinary-looking little gentleman that he had ever seen in his life. He had a very large nose, slightly brass-colored; his cheeks were very round, and very red, and might have warranted a supposition that he had been blowing a refractory fire for the last eight-and-forty hours; his eyes twinkled merrily through long silky eyelashes, his moustaches curled twice round like a corkscrew on each side of his mouth, and his hair, of a curious mixed pepper-and-salt color, descended far over his shoulders.

He was about four feet six in height (er war ungefähr 1,37 cm groß; *feet* — *Fuß*, auch *Größenmaß*: ein *Fuß* = 30,48 cm; *height* [haɪt]), and wore a conical-pointed cap of nearly the same altitude (und trug eine kegelförmig-spitze Kappe von fast derselben Höhe; *to wear*; **conical** [ˈkɒnɪk(ə)l] — *kegelförmig*; **point** — *Punkt*; *Spitze*; *altitude* [ˈæltɪt(j)uːd]), decorated with a black feather some three feet long (dekoriert mit einer schwarzen Feder, etwa 90 cm lang; *decorated* [ˈdek(ə)reɪtɪd]; *feather* [ˈfeðə]).

His doublet was prolonged behind (sein Wams war nach hinten verlängert; *doublet* [ˈdʌblɪt]; *prolonged* [prəˈlɒŋd]) into something resembling a violent exaggeration of what is now termed a "swallow-tail" (in etwas das einer gewaltigen

Übertreibung dessen ähnelte, was man heute "Schwalbenschwanz" nennt; *resembling* [rɪ'zembliŋ]; *violent* ['vaɪəl(ə)nt] — *gewalttätig; gewaltig; exaggeration* [ɪɡˌzædʒə'reɪʃ(ə)n]; *swallow* ['swɒləʊ]), **but was much obscured by the swelling folds of an enormous black, glossy-looking cloak** (aber war sehr verborgen hinter den üppigen Falten eines enormen schwarzen, glänzend aussehenden Mantels; *obscure* [əb'skjuə]; *to swell* — *anschwellen; blähen; swelling* — *schwellend; üppig; enormous* [ɪ'nɔ:məs]), **which must have been very much too long in calm weather** (der in ruhigem Wetter viel zu lang sein musste; *calm* [kɑ:m]), **as the wind, whistling round the old house** (nachdem der Wind, um das alte Haus blasend), **carried it clear out from the wearer's shoulders to about four times his own length** (ihn deutlich von den Schultern des Trägers in seiner circa vierfachen Länge abhob; *to carry* — *tragen; mitreißen; abheben; clear* — *eindeutig, klar, deutlich; shoulder* ['ʃəʊldə]).

16

He was about four feet six in height, and wore a conical-pointed cap of nearly the same altitude, decorated with a black feather some three feet long.

His doublet was prolonged behind into something resembling a violent exaggeration of what is now termed a "swallow-tail", but was much obscured by the swelling folds of an enormous black, glossy-looking cloak, which must have been very much

too long in calm weather, as the wind, whistling round the old house, carried it clear out from the wearer's shoulders to about four times his own length.

Gluck was so perfectly paralyzed by the singular appearance of his visitor (Glück war so vollkommen gelähmt von der außergewöhnlichen Erscheinung seines Besuchers; *perfectly* ['pɜ:fɪktli]; *paralyzed* ['pær(ə)laɪzd]; *singular* ['sɪŋgjələ] — *einzigartig, außergewöhnlich*; *appearance* [ə'pɪər(ə)n(t)s]; *visitor* ['vɪzɪtə]), that he remained fixed without uttering a word (dass er fix = *wie angewachsen* stehen blieb ohne ein Wort zu sagen; *remain* [rɪ'meɪn]; *utter* ['ʌtə]), until the old gentleman (bis der alte Herr), having performed another and a more energetic concerto on the knocker (/nachdem/ er ein weiteres und energischeres Konzert auf dem Klopfer aufgeführt hatte; *perform* [pə'fɔ:m]; *energetic* [ˌenə'dʒetɪk]), turned round (sich umdrehte) to look after his fly-away cloak (um sich nach seinem davonfliegenden Mantel umzusehen; *to look after...* — *behüten; umsehen*). In so doing (während er das tat) he caught sight of Gluck's little yellow head jammed in the window (erblickte er Glücks kleinen gelben ins Fenster gepressten Kopf; *to catch sight of* — *etwas erblicken, erspähen*; *to catch* — *einfangen, ergreifen*; *to jam* — *stopfen; pressen*), with his mouth and eyes very wide open indeed (mit seinen tatsächlich sehr weit geöffneten Mund und Augen; *indeed* [ɪn'di:d] — *allerdings; tatsächlich*).

Gluck was so perfectly paralyzed by the singular appearance of his visitor, that he remained fixed without uttering a word, until the old gentleman, having performed another and a more energetic concerto on the knocker, turned round to look after his fly-away cloak. In so doing he caught sight of Gluck's little yellow head jammed in the window, with his mouth and eyes very wide open indeed.

"Hollo (hey)!" said the little gentleman (sagte der kleine Herr); "that's not the way to answer the door (dass ist keine Art an die Tür zu gehen; **way** — *Weg; Art*); I'm wet (ich bin nass); let me in (lass mich hinein)."

To do the little gentleman justice (um dem kleinen Herrn Gerechtigkeit widerfahren zu lassen; **to do justice** — *gerecht werden, Gerechtigkeit widerfahren lassen; justice* — *Gerechtigkeit*), he was wet (er war nass). His feather hung down between his legs like a beaten puppy's tail (seine Feder hing zwischen seinen Beinen herab wie der Schwanz eines geprügelten Welpen; **to hang down** — *hinunterhängen, herabhängen; to beat*), dripping like an umbrella (tropfend wie ein Regenschirm; *umbrella* [ʌmˈbrelə]); and from the ends of his moustaches (und von den Enden seines Schnurrbarts) the water was running into his waistcoat pockets and out again like a mill stream (lief das

Wasser in seine Westentaschen und wieder heraus wie ein Mühlbach;
waistcoat [ˌweɪstkəʊt]).

18

"Hollo!" said the little gentleman; "that's not the way to answer the door; I'm wet; let me in."

To do the little gentleman justice, he *was* wet. His feather hung down between his legs like a beaten puppy's tail, dripping like an umbrella; and from the ends of his moustaches the water was running into his waistcoat pockets and out again like a mill stream.

"I beg pardon, sir (ich bitte um Verzeihung, /gnädiger/ Herr; *pardon* [ˌpɑːd(ə)n])," said Gluck, "I'm very sorry, but I really can't (es tut mir sehr Leid, aber ich kann wirklich nicht)."

"Can't what (kannst was nicht)?" said the old gentleman (sagte der alte Herr).

"I can't let you in, sir (ich kann Sie nicht herein lassen /gnädiger/ Herr) — I can't, indeed (ich kann tatsächlich nicht); my brothers would beat me to death, sir (meine Brüder würden mich zu Tode prügeln), if I thought of such a thing (wenn ich an so etwas denken würde). What do you want, sir (was wollen Sie, /gnädiger/ Herr)?"

"Want (wollen)?" said the old gentleman petulantly (sagte der alte Herr bockig; *petulant* [ˌpetjələnt]), "I want fire and shelter (ich

will Feuer und Unterstand; *shelter* — *Unterschlupf, Unterstand*); and there's your great fire there blazing, crackling, and dancing on the wall (und da ist dein großartiges Feuer da lodernd, knisternd und an der Wand tanzend), with nobody to feel it (mit niemandem der es spürt). Let me in, I say (lass mich herein, sage ich); I only want to warm myself (ich will mich nur wärmen)."

19

"I beg pardon, sir," said Gluck, "I'm very sorry, but I really can't."

"Can't what?" said the old gentleman.

"I can't let you in, sir — I can't, indeed; my brothers would beat me to death, sir, if I thought of such a thing. What do you want, sir?"

"Want?" said the old gentleman petulantly, "I want fire and shelter; and there's your great fire there blazing, crackling, and dancing on the wall, with nobody to feel it. Let me in, I say; I only want to warm myself."

Gluck had had his head, by this time, so long out of the window (Glück hatte seinen Kopf, zu diesem Zeitpunkt, so lang aus dem Fenster /gestreckt/ gehabt) that he began to feel (dass er anfang zu spüren) it was really unpleasantly cold (dass es wirklich unangenehm kalt war;

unpleasantly [ʌn'plez(ə)ntli]); and when he turned (und als er sich umdrehte) and saw the beautiful fire rustling (und das schöne Feuer knistern sah; *to rustle* — *knistern, rascheln*) and roaring (und prasseln) and throwing long bright tongues up the chimney (und lange helle Zungen den Kamin hinaufwerfen; *tongue* [tʌŋ]), as if it were licking its chops at the savory smell of the leg of mutton (als ob es sich die Lippen lecke bei dem schmackhaften Geruch des Hammelbeins; *to lick one's chops* — *sich die Lippen lecken*; *chops* — *Koteletts; Lippen*; *savory* ['seɪv(ə)rɪ]), his heart melted within him (schmolz sein Herz bei dem Gedanken) that it should be burning away for nothing (dass es umsonst dahin brennen sollte). "He does look *very* wet (er sieht *sehr* nass aus)," said little Gluck (sagte der kleine Glück); "I'll just let him in for a quarter of an hour (ich werde ihn nur für eine Viertelstunde hereinlassen)." Round he went to the door and opened it (er ging zur Tür und öffnete sie; *round* — *rund; herum*); and as the little gentleman walked in (und als der kleine Herr hereinspazierte) there came a gust of wind through the house (kam ein Windstoß durch das Haus) that made the old chimneys totter (der die alten Schornsteine zum Wackeln brachte).

20

Gluck had had his head, by this time, so long out of the window that he began to feel it was really unpleasantly cold; and when he turned and saw the beautiful fire rustling and roaring and

throwing long bright tongues up the chimney, as if it were licking its chops at the savory smell of the leg of mutton, his heart melted within him that it should be burning away for nothing. "He does look *very* wet," said little Gluck; "I'll just let him in for a quarter of an hour." Round he went to the door and opened it; and as the little gentleman walked in there came a gust of wind through the house that made the old chimneys totter.

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