

## **The stupid troll and the fox**

by Peter

12 years old

“Rise” is a type of **troll** and so is also a jutul.

Once upon a time there was a troll who had two hearts, but one of them was false. He boasted about it to a bear, and he said he would not be able to find it. But the bear set off to look for it. He met an old woman who had got her nose stuck in a stump. The old woman said: “Can you help me, I have had no food for a hundred years”. “Yes, if you have had no food for a hundred years then you can wait for a hundred years more” he said and laughed.

He walked on. He met a rabbit who was very happy. He sang: “I am a happy rabbit, trallallallallalla, and I walk here and I am very happy”. “Oh no!” said the rabbit. The bear came towards him and said: “Why are you so happy” (this should have been in the dialect from Strømme). “Actually I got married today.” Now you are in trouble because now I will eat you.” The rabbit runs away and the bear follows. “Oh no, no, the bear will take me” said the rabbit. He stumbled and fell. The bear went closer to the rabbit. “I would not eat you! You know that. I was only joking. Get up. Are you all right?” “Yes I think I am all right” said the rabbit.

The bear went on, he came to a lake. The bear asked two men in a boat: “Can you give me a lift?”. “Oh, have you seen, it is a bear! I will shoot him with my gun (blunderbuss)”, said one of the men in the boat. He loaded the gun and shot the bear. They went home to the inn and grilled the bear and ate him.

One day a wolf came to the troll and the troll told the same to the wolf as he had told the bear. The wolf said: “ I am sure I can find your other heart and smash it and destroy it.” The troll said: “ You will never find it”. The wolf set off. He met an old woman who had got her nose stuck in a stump. The old woman said: “Can you help me, I have had no food for a hundred years”. “If you have had no food for a hundred years then you can wait for a hundred years more”.

The wolf went on. He met a rabbit. The rabbit said “Oh, no!” he did not want to be eaten. He ran along, but fell over. The wolf went up to him and said: “You know I would not eat you”. But he licked his lips.

The wolf went on. He came to the lake. “A wolf!” said one of the men in the boat. “I will shoot him with my gun”. He loaded and shot. Pang! They went home to the inn and grilled the wolf and ate him.

One day a fox came to the troll. He said he had a heart which you can find. “Then you can kill me, but you will not find it”. “I will find it and kill you”. He went off. After a while he met an old woman who had got her nose stuck in a stump. “Hi, old granny”. “Oh! Nobody has said old granny to me in a hundred years. Can you get my nose loose?” “I can use the stick I use to carry my food and break loose your nose.” “ Now I am free. Can you give me your food?” “Yes, here you are” She ate and drank. After eating she said: “ Spiders and leaves and such things make him into a man.” He was a man. “Keep well and good luck!” He went on.

He met a rabbit. “Why are you so happy?”. He could speak the animal language.

“I am so happy because I have got married.”

“That is good”.

“Yes, it is not so good because she was a troll”.

”That was bad”.

“It was not so bad because she had a treasure”.

“That is good”.

“It was not so good because the house caught fire and the treasure was destroyed.”

“That was bad”

“It was not so bad because also the woman died in the fire.”

He came to a lake. He asked the men in the boat to get a lift to the other side of the lake. “Yes all right” said the men. At the other side he went into a forest. There he met an old man.

“Why do you sit here?”

“I have not had any food for a hundred years.”

“Do you want my food?”

”Yes, good. But when you have had no food for a hundred years you may think that you will never have any food. Why are you here?”

“I will look for the other heart of a troll”

“But what do you do here?”

“Could become an ant, a lion and an eagle”

“What do you mean by saying that you could become an ant, a lion and an eagle?”

“You see I met an old woman who used magic to take away my power, so the only way to get it back is to do three tasks”

“Which are the tasks?”

“Have you heard of the gorgons?”

“No, tell me”

“The gorgons are three sisters from the land of the Hesperides. All of them are ugly, but the ugliest is Medusa. Her mouth has stiffened in a diabolic grin, her hair is made from snakes and if you look her into the eyes you get converted into stone.”

”You must fetch Medusa’s head. That is the first task.”

“OK!”

“What is the second task?”

“The second task is to find out what is the meaning of life”

“The meaning of life? How can I find that?”

“You must ask the oracle!”

“Where do I find her?”

“You have to go through 3 gates.

The first gate is two sphinxes. If they open their eyes sometimes if they look at you, you will get all the questions you cannot answer.

The second gate is a mirror where you can see whom you look like. Some have reached the mirror, and those who get so far get mad when they see whom they look like.

The last gate is one which you only can get through if you don’t want to get through. Then you get to the oracle.”

“What is the last task?”

“This is the most difficult task. You must sacrifice me to a Cyclops”

“No, I can’t”

“But, you know, after you have given me away, you shall cut the head off the Cyclops.”

“OK, then you will survive.”

“Yes I will.”

“Grand! But how can I do this, and where do I find him?”

“On Crete, 12 degrees north and 64 degrees east. I have a sword which belonged to Athena, who is the goddess of freedom, and a shield, which also belonged to Athena and a helmet which belonged to Atlas, the god who holds the sky.”

“Ok and I can use these to do the tasks. I’ll set off.”

He thought: “First I go to Crete with a boat.” What is this? There was a gale without hissing in the trees. “I am the god of the winds and you should know that I can take you across the sea. “How?” “I have a lot of wind power” “Ok”. I arrived. “Here are the sandals of Hermes” “Look, they have got wings” “That is the point” “How?” “Hermes is the god of fluent speaking (eloquence) and of merchants and villains. He is also the messenger to the gods and he is leading the dead to the land of the dead. For that he needs sandals which he can use everywhere.”. “Thanks for your help” “You are welcome” “Thank you”

I flew north to the end of the world. It was cold there. I was in the air. Then I heard somebody sing a husky song. I landed. “Are you grine?” “Yes we are” I saw that they had one tooth and one eye between them. “What do you want? – man with christian blood” “I want to know where the land of the hesperidins is” “Hush, right sister? Yes, give me the tooth and the eye so I can bite him and look at him” He snatched the eye and the tooth from her hands and said: “If you don’t tell us where the land of the hesperidins is, I will throw the tooth and the eye in the sea.” “No” said the sisters: “We will tell you where the land is.” “Good, here is the eye”

When they had told him where it was, he went on. I landed in the land of the hesperidins. Medusa was standing on a rock. Now it is important to be smart. Suddenly something passed him in a hurry. He saw that Medusa’s head had been chopped off. He saw a horse with wings. The rider had a long cloak and a black hood. The cloak was also black. He held an axe in his hand. “Who are you?” “I am the black watcher of heaven. I saved you because you look like a warrior. Do you want me to take you somewhere?” “Yes please, to the pine forest.” “Ok, get onto my horse” “What is his name?” “Wind”.

We arrived. We landed by the man who could become a lion, an eagle and an ant. “Show me Medusa’s head” He got it out of the pocket of his haversack. “Here is Medusa’s head.” Bang! It was a thunder. He fell “But he is not a stone” said the fox “No I am not” said the man who could become a lion, an eagle and an ant. “We must hurry on to the entrance for the first test.” “What is the first test? Isn’t that what you have done?” “The first test to get to the oracle.” “Oh, Then I must get back to heaven.”

We came to the two sphinxes who look at each other. “What is this?” said the fox. “This is the first gate you have go through” “The gate you have to pass!” said the fox. “Do you remember what you have to do?” “Yes” said the fox and walked towards the sphinxes. He ran. Suddenly they opened their eyes. Both sent a beam of light from both eyes towards him. He jumped. They met and a stone exploded.

He ran further on towards the second gate. The man who could become a lion, an eagle and an ant, said that the second gate was even more difficult. He ran towards a mirror. This must be the second gate. He walked up to the mirror He saw the man who could become a lion, an

eagle and an ant. He turned round. Nobody was there. He rubbed the tip of his nose against the mirror. He fell through the mirror.

There was a gate in front of him. He walked round to the other side of the gate. There was only rock. He returned to the entrance of the third gate. There was no door handle. What do I do now? . The man who could become a lion, an eagle and an ant, said that the third gate is a gate which you can only enter if you are not interested in entering it. He was thinking of the nest of the fox (winter lair) and what he should do after killing the troll. The gate opened up and he entered. He stood in front of a castle and walked up the stairs. He saw a new door and went in. He saw a lady made from silvery mist. "Are you the oracle?" "Yes I am the one who answers, ask your question!" "Ok, what is the meaning of life?" "It is to do what has to be done in this fairytale" "Thank you" He stood by the sphinxes and he said that the meaning of life is to do what has to be done in fairytales. "Now I can change into a lion and an eagle. We will fly to the island of the Cyclops"

We were on an island near Crete. The Cyclops stood in front of the man who could become a lion and an eagle. He was tied to a pole which was stuck in the earth. The Cyclops kicked his tummy. He was dead, he opened his eyes, he became an eagle. He put him on his back and they flew away.

Now they stood in front of a muddy, slimy castle. He shuddered by the thought of going inside. "Can you become an ant?" "Yes I can" "Fetch the heart of the troll" He returned out with the heart. He tore it into to pieces, stamped on it. and said that now it was all done. The man who could become a lion, an eagle and an ant, became an eagle. He put him on his back. They flew back to the troll's house. They knocked on the door. I hope he is at home. The fox looked like a fox again. The troll came out. "What do you want?" "Do what you said I could do" He killed the troll.

Three things happened. The man who could become a lion, an eagle and an ant, became a friend, he won a bet and he got a home. And if the troll did not die because he had three hearts then the fox is still searching.

Peter, 12 years old