

The Boy in the Bog

Today

Really? "Eerie it is to go through the bog?
When the fogs arise in the heathers?
Like phantoms spin the swirling mists?
And the climbers strangle the hedges?"

A boy, smart and cool, on his way to school
through the bog isn't fazed by such tales.
He's got music on Bluetooth plugged in his ears
and simply can hear nothing else.

From water's edge do tree stumps stare,
and sinister cedars are swaying.
Yet, the boy has only rap in his ear,
so, a little Mossman can't scare him.

Oblivious to it, in vain, he's lured
by the Moss-Annelly under the bridges,
That's nothing against sweet Annelly's allures:
She'd charm anyone with her kisses.

Abnoba, the goddess, is not so amused,
the ghosts in the mosses are grumbling.
Meanwhile, the lad kicks in brazen mood
to the mire an empty beer tin.

The bog nearly bursts, a sighing goes
from the yawning mouth of the hollow.
"Woe," calls the Elf who's standing next door:
"Will you stop now this hullabaloo!"

Enough, had the ghosts, and 'zap', they shut down
those plugs that clog the boy's ears.
Now, he can hear them, hear what they moan,
and with trembling, he's clutched by fears.

Like a will-o'-the-wisp, he bolts through the bog,
Nothing can now make him linger.
He darts for the village, feeling as though
he were followed by ghostly figures.

Just slowly now the sod grows firm.
See over, beyond the train tracks,
Will it be less frightening there?
Well, that's absolutely correct.

Not far now to school. Yet, back to the bog
he casts, once more, an anxious look...

Ah, don't let that scare you away.
The ghosts of the bog cheer: "Good day"!

After Annette von Droste-Hülshoff by Klaus Gülker (2023)
Translated by Susanne Fiessler © 2023. English Vocal: Rosalin
Blue

In former times

Oh, eerie it is to go through the bog
when the fogs arise in the heathers.
Like phantoms, spin the swirling mists,
and the climbers strangle the hedges.
Beneath each tread wells up a spring,
from over the crevice it wheezes and sings! –
Oh, eerie it is to go through the bog
when the reeds rustle in the wind!

To his school-book clings the shivering child
running as though he was hounded;
The wind sweeps hollow across the land –
What's swishing there by the enclosure?
That is the ghostly gravedigger's hand
who squanders the master's best turf on drink;
Whoohoo, like a panicked heifer, astray,
the boy dodges and dashes away.

From water's edge the tree stumps stare
Sinister sways the cedar
The lad runs fast, he strains his ear
through rushes like giant spear-heads;
And how it trickles and crackles within!
That is the unhallowed weaver,
that is the spellbound Spinning-Leonore
wheeling her reel in the reed-beds!

Away, Away in his fastest speed
Away, like it's coming to seize him!
Under his foot the ground stirs and boils,
his sole unleashes a squealing
like a spooky harrowing melody;
That is the perfidious violin-guy,
that is the haunted Fiddler Knauf
who's stolen the wedding dowry!

Then bursts the mire, a sighing goes
from the yawning mouth of the hollow
Woe, woe, the curse'd Margaret calls:
„Ho, ho, my poor, doomed soul!“
The boy bolts away like a wounded deer
Were it not for his guardian angels there,
a lonely turf cutter would find in years
his faded bones in the smouldering peat.

Ah, slowly now the sod firms up,
and over there by the willow,
the flickering light shines just like home –
The boy has reached the threshold.
He takes a deep breath, while back to the bog
he continues casting his anxious look:
"Yes, it was frightening in the reeds,
Oh, eerie it was in the heathers!"

Annette von Droste-Hülshoff (1843)
Translated by Susanne Fiessler. English Vocal: Rosalin Blue

Project: Community Hinterzarten 2023

Idea: AG Bog/Water, Initiative Zukunft Hinterzarten:

Sculptures: Thomas Rees; white fir, approx. 200 years, up to 15 ft., approx. 3,0 t.

F a u n

Family: Divinities, belonging to the genus Faun. In Rome also named 'God of the woods'. Only a few female specimens known, called 'Fauna'. Not 'Flora', that's a different one.

Appearance: Chimaera = hybrid creature. Part goat, Part human. Athletic.

Character: Usually good-natured, sensitive pragmatist. Music lover. Flautist. Romantic. Never disinclined to a little fling.

Habitat: Before the Migration Period (300-800 A.D.), exclusively distributed in Southern Europe and North Africa. To date, well integrated in northern mountain ranges. Has adapted to local modes of locomotion in winter, can therefore often be found running, sliding, and hopping along the way.

Role in Bog Protection: Consultant on all questions of fertility. Classes on request. Protector of farmers and shepherds. By now, largely superseded by Saint Laurentius in this function. Highest authority in all questions regarding environmental protection.

For obvious reasons, this information cannot claim to be complete and accurate.

Project: Community Hinterzarten 2023

Idea: AG Bog/Water, Initiative Zukunft Hinterzarten:
I. Baeuchle, T. Drubba, M. Ketterer-Podewski, A. Laber, Dr. R. Schmid, E. Winterhalder

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Directing and screenplay: A. Laber

Translation: S. Fiessler & A. Laber **English Vocal:** Rosalin Blue

Abnoba

Family: Divinities. Celtic goddess of woodlands, springs and rivers.

Appearance: Divine! Recognizable by her necklace, a triskele, which symbolises the cycle of life from birth to death, as well as past, present and future.

Character: Kind, seems scatterbrained at times, but crystal clear in her mind.

Habitat: Exclusively native to the Black Forest. Other, formerly Celtic areas have been assigned to related goddesses and gods.

Role in Bog Protection: Enacts divine laws concerning woodlands, rivers and springs. Director of administration and jurisdiction with directive authority in all fundamental divine questions.

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Moosmännle

(The Little Mossmen)

Family: Nature spirits. Related to forest spirits, such as the little glass man from the northern Black Forest and the glass dwarfs in the Ravenna Gorge.

Appearance: About waist high. Bearded in many places.

Character: Kind and generous, but shy, and extremely resentful. Basic knowledge of magic available.

Habitat: Isolated in boglands and wooded areas of Central Europe to the Pyrenees and the Urals. No information on the UK. Living in Hinterzarten under the timber bog-walk, often looking a bit scruffy, though not odoriferous and usually well-shaved. Consumption of bog bilberries seems widespread among native Moosmännle species.*

Role in Bog Protection: Moosmännle escort lost hikers out of the bog. They sometimes reward people for good deeds by giving them leaves that turn to gold at home. Not yet documented in the Black Forest, possibly due to the consumption of bog bilberries.

*According to Moosmännle statements, bog bilberries can lead to intoxicating excitement in forest spirits. Slightly poisonous to humans, causing nausea at most.

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Moos-Annele

(Little Moss-Annely)

- Family:** Lineage unclear. Possibly related to forest spirits, as they resemble the Moosmännle. Family relations with elves not excluded.
- Appearance:** Most beautiful, beguiling figure among the Central European mythical creatures. Slightly fluorescent.
- Character:** Unpredictable, insidious, resembling naughty elves. She is also called the "Moaning Myrtle" of the Upper Black Forest.
- Habitat:** Exclusive to the Upper Black Forest, with the eastern distribution limit near Neustadt.
- Role in Bog Protection:** Moos-Annele specializes in men of weak character whom she lures under the bridges with her beauty. Kissed there, the men probably turn into frogs, exactly opposite to the frog prince. A postman from Neustadt reappeared unchanged, however, he suffered from memory lapses for the rest of his life.

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N e b u l o n

Family: Ghost- and witch-like creatures; weather wizard.

Appearance: Mostly veiled, nebulous, vaguely wafting. Disappears quickly when alarmed.

Character: Unpredictable, but usually good-natured; occasionally leads hikers astray, likes to conjure up surreal worlds.

Habitat: Only known occurrence in the bogland of Hinterzarten. Related weather witches widespread worldwide. Mist witches rare in North Africa and the Gobi Desert.

Role in Bog Protection: Provides camouflage especially in the mornings, mainly in spring and autumn. This makes him an important ally to the bog spirits - thanks to him they can go about their business unnoticed.

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