

Ujest ću te stara!

Ja ti sina ne dam!

TRIBOR: U kraj, Zmijo! Nestalo je čara

I prokletstva šume Striborove.

Sin je spašen žrtvom majčice njegove ...

Budi opet zmija! Krij se, gdje trn raste i drača,

A u šumu Striborovu proljeće se vraća!

Snaha vrisne kao siktanje zmijske i pretvori se opet u guju.

Stribora, sela i zimske šume nestane.

Zelena šuma i cvijeće bljesnu u suncu.

SIN (*dotrči i padne na koljena pred Majku, koja je opet postala starica*):

Majčice mila, možeš li mi oprostiti što sam ti skrivio?

MAJKA: Stribor ti je oprostio, a majka ti nije ni zamjerila bila

... Hajdemo kući, sine, kao da se ništa nije dogodilo ...

TINTILINIĆ: Stani, majko, nešto jeca kraj onih stabala,

Bit će netko stradao ...

MAJKA (*potrči onamo sa Sinom i podigne iz trave onesviještenu Djevojčicu koja je prodavala luči*):

Djevojčica mala,

Što mi luči donijela ... Što je s tobom, mila?

DJEVOJČICA: Lutala sam šumom bijedna, put sam izgubila ...

Smrzoh se u snijegu ...

SIN: Dođi s nama kući!

MAJKA: Dođi! S tobom će u naš dom prava sreća ući!

TINTILINIĆ: Mi ćemo vam od zla čuvati kuću i kućište

I dolaziti često na vaše ognjište!

Zaplešu oko sretne trojke, prateći ih kući i pjevajući.

Mi smo družba malena,

Djeca vatre, plamena!

Gdjeno vatra gori,

Tu se Dušić stvori!

Hitri smo ko iskrice,

Naše žarke sestrice!

STRIBOR: Did they not throw you out of your home, your son and daughter-in-law? Even now they are chasing you through the forest like a wild hunting party.

MOTHER: I know, but a mother cannot not feel hatred for her son, nor forget him. Without him, Stribor, I could never be happy... Let me go now...

STRIBOR: If you return home, you will again grow old, and have to suffer. Your daughter-in-law will torment you again...

MOTHER: I would put up with anything to help my son. I care more for his happiness than for my own...

Thunder.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW (*Who has already been peeking out, following what has been happening, rushes up now and attacks MOTHER, hissing at her with her forked tongue*):

I shall bite you, Old Woman!

You shall never have your son back!

STRIBOR: Step aside, Serpent! The spell is no more
Nor the curse on the forest of Mighty Stribor.

This Mother's love has saved the boy!

Be a snake again! Hide in thorns by that burn,

To Stribor's Forest let Spring return!

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW shrieks with a hissing sound and turns back into a snake.

STRIBOR, the village and the winter forest disappear.

The green forest and the flowers glisten in the sunlight.

SON (*Runs over to his MOTHER and falls at her feet. She is an old woman once again*): Mother dearest, can you forgive me for all the wrong I have done you?

MOTHER: Stribor forgave you, and your mother has nothing to forgive... Let us go home, my son, as though nothing happened...

TINTILINIĆ: Stop a moment, Mother, there's a sound of sobbing beside that tree... as though someone is hurt...

MOTHER (*Runs over to the tree together with her son and raises the body*

Oko vatre hitimo,
Dobre ljude štitimo!

ZASTOR

K R A J

of the unconscious MAIDEN in her arms.) : Sweet lass, who brought me the kindling... What has happened to you?
MAIDEN: I was wandering through the forest, and lost my way...
I was freezing in the snow...
SON: Come home with us!
MOTHER: Come! With you, true happiness will come into our home!
TINTILINICH: We'll join you on that happy path,
And always guard your home and hearth!

The SPRITES dance about the happy trio, seeing them home with their song.

SPRITES: A tiny happy band we are,
Hiding there beneath the char,
When the flames start to burn
Hearth Sprites, it's your turn!
We're swift as shining sparks,
Glowing sisters in our larks,
'Round the fire dash and leap
With honest people in our keep!

CURTAIN

THE END

Milan Čečuk

RIBAR PALUNKO I NJEGOVA ŽENA

SCENSKA BAJKA ZA MALU I VELIKU PUBLIKU

(PO ISTOIMENOJ PRIČI IVANE BRLIĆ-MAŽURANIĆ)

PALUNKO THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE

A fairy tale for the stage - for young and old. Based on
IVANA BRLIĆ-MAŽURANIĆ's story of the same name.

Written for the puppet theatre by:
MILAN ČEČUK

Autorsko pravo (c) Branislava Cesarec-Čečuk

SVA PRAVA PRIDRŽANA.

Pretiskavanje teksta bilo djelomično ili u cijelosti zabranjeno je. U slučaju da netko želi ovaj tekst koristiti u javnoj upotrebi (postaviti na scenu, javno čitati, tiskati) potrebno je dobiti odobrenje vlasnika autorskog prava, Branislave Cesarec-Čečuk, 41080 Zagreb (Šestine), Šafranišće 8, Hrvatska. Tel.: +385 / 41 / 438-605.

Copyright (c) Branislava Cesarec-Čečuk

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Unauthorised reproduction of this text, in full or in part, is prohibited by law. Those wishing to make public use of this text (in stage productions, public readings or in print) may acquire the necessary permission by applying to the owner of the copyright: Ms. Branislava Cesarec-Čečuk, HR-41080 Zagreb (Šestine), Šafranišće 8, Croatia. Phone: +385 / 41/ 438-605.

RIBAR PALUNKO I NJEGOVA ŽENA
PALUNKO THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE

Osobe u predigri i međuigrama:

ZORA-DJEVOJKA
PALUNKO
SIROTADJEVOJKA, kasnije ŽENA PALUNKOVA
KOŠUTA
GALEB-PTICA

Osobe u igri:

PALUNKO
ŽENA PALUNKOVA
VLATKO, njihov sinak
GALEB-PTICA
MORSKE DJEVICE
MORSKI KRALJ
ZMIJA ORIJAŠKA, majka sviju zmija
PTICA ORIJAŠKA, majka sviju ptica
ZLATNA PČELA, majka sviju pčela
ZORA-DJEVOJKA
i još svirci-morski konjici

adnja se zbiva u doba koštanih udica.

CHARACTERS IN THE PROLOGUE AND INTERLUDES:

DAWN-MAIDEN
PALUNKO
PAUPER-GIRL, later PALUNKO'S WIFE
ROE
SEAGULL-BIRD

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY:

PALUNKO'S WIFE
VLATKO, their infant son
SEA MAIDENS
SEA KING
GIANT SNAKE, the Mother of all Snakes
GIANT BIRD, the Mother of all Birds
GOLDEN BEE, the Mother of all Bees
DAWN-MAIDEN
and the Musicians - the Sea Horses

The action takes place in the times when bone fishing hooks were still being used.

PREDIGRA

Praskozorje na pučini morskoj. Na sitnim jutarnjim valima njiše se čun i u njem ribar Palunko.

GLAS DVOJNICA: Čudo ludo Palunko
morem plovi,
ribice ne lovi ...

PALUNKO (*u čunu sam sa sobom govori*): Morem plovi ... ribice ne lovi ... I neću ih loviti dok sreću svoju ne ulovim. Tolika su bogatstva na ovome svijetu, a ja se u pustoj sirotinji kinjim. Što i ja bogat gavan ne postanem te da u slasti i lasti, u zlatu i raskoši poživim! (*zaziva*) Sini, sini, zorice, kaži put do srećice!

Izdigne se iz mora srebrn čun, na njem zlatna vesla a u čunu, kao kraljevna jasna, stoji Zora-djevojka.

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Ribaru Palunko, tri si dana čuvao život mojim ribicama, a sad reci što želiš da ti dobro učinim?

PALUNKO: Pomozi mi da izađem iz ove bijede i pustoga života, blijeda Zoro-djevojko! Eto, po vas dan se prebijam uz ovaj pusti morski kraj. Što danju riba nahvatam, to uvečer pojedem, te za mene nikakve radosti na ovome svijetu nema.

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Idi kući, naći ćeš što ti treba. Sreću ćeš svoju naći!

PROLOGUE

Daybreak out on the open sea. A boat is rocking on the waves. Palunko Fisherman is sitting in the boat.

THE VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD'S FLUTE:

Wondrous strange Palunko
Sails the sea,
But catches no fish ...

PALUNKO (*talking to himself in the boat*): Sails the sea ... but catches no fish ... And I won't fish for them until I catch happiness. There are so many riches in this world, and I will not wallow in futile poverty. Why can't I become a rich man and live a life of ease surrounded by gold and luxury? (*Calling out*) Shine, shine, Sweet Dawn, show the way to happiness!

A silver boat with golden oars lifts out of the sea; in the boat like a shining princess stands the DAWN-MAIDEN.

DAWN-MAIDEN: Palunko the Fisherman, for three days you have spared the lives of my little fish, and now tell me what good thing can I do for you?

PALUNKO: Help me to get out of this impoverished and empty life, pale Dawn-Maiden! Look, I spend the entire day in this endless sea. The fish I catch during the day, I eat in the evening, and this world holds no joy for me.

DAWN-MAIDEN: Go home, you will find what it is you need. You will find your happiness!

The vision disappears.

Prizora nestane.

GLAS DVOJNICA: Čudo ludo Palunko
sreću gleda,
a ne vidi ...

Pokaže se ribarska koliba na žalu morskome. Palunko do kraja doplovio, iz čuna iskočio i kolibi se uputio, a tamo ga pred vratima čeka SIROTA DJEVOJKA.

PALUNKO: Dobro jutro, neznana djevojko! Tko si, zašto si poranila i koga pred mojom kolibom čekaš?

DJEVOJKA: Sirota sam djevojka, mati mi umrla, nikoga na svijetu nemam, te sam ovdje tebe čekala, čekala i dočekala, ne bi li me za ženu svoju uzeo ...

PALUNKO: Za svoju ženu da te uzmem? A da ti nisi sreća što mi ju je Zora-djevojka obećala? Ako jesi, pokaži što mi donosiš. Pokaži zlato i drago kamenje!

DJEVOJKA: Išteš od mene što nemam. Rekoh ti, Palunko, sirota sam bez i'toga i ičega na tom svijetu. Uzmeš li me za ženu, dobra ću ti biti, u svemu ugoditi i lijepim ti pričama vrijeme kratiti.

PALUNKO: Tvoje će mi priče slabo pomoći u mojoj bijedi. Vidim ja, prevari me Zora-djevojka. Ti si još i bjednija od mene. Ali tko zna, možda mi ipak neku sreću donosiš. Stoga uđi u ovu moju sirotinju! *(Djevojka uđe u kolibu a za njom Palunko. Prostor pred kolibom ostane pust. U tišini opet se začuje glas dvojnica.)*

GLAS DVOJNICA: Čudo ludo Palunko
sreću sluša,
a ne čuje,
sreću nađe,
a traži je ...

GALEB-PTICA *(doleti)*: Umuknite, tanane dvojnice, grlo tan-ko obuzdajte, rugalice! Srce je ribarsko želja prepuno ... I rugom da ga probodeš, shvatiti ga nećeš.

GLAS DVOJNICA: Galeb-ptico
mudra oka,

THE VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD'S FLUTE:

Wondrous strange Palunko
Looks at happiness
But can't see it ...

A fisherman's cabin can be seen on the beach. PALUNKO has sailed to the shore, jumped out of the boat and gone towards the cabin, where PAUPER-GIRL is waiting for him before the door.

PALUNKO: Good morning, stranger! Who are you, why are you up so early and whom are you waiting for in front of my cabin?

PAUPER-GIRL: I am a poor girl, my mother is dead, I have no-one in all the world, and I have been waiting here for you, waiting for you to take me for your wife ...

PALUNKO: To take you for my wife? Are you perhaps the happiness which the Dawn-Maiden promised me? If you are, show me what you have brought with you! Show me the gold and the precious stones!

PAUPER-GIRL: You are asking for what I do not have to give. I told you, Palunko, I am an orphan without anyone or anything in this world. If you take me for your wife, I will be good to you and make you very happy, and tell you stories to make the time pass.

PALUNKO: Your stories won't help me much in my poverty. I see that the Dawn-Maiden has cheated me. You are even poorer than I am. But who knows? Maybe you will bring me happiness of some sort. So join me in my misery! *(The girl goes into the cabin and PALUNKO follows her. The area in front of the cabin is empty. The VOICE of the SHEPHERD'S HARP is heard again in the silence.)*

SHEPHERD'S HARP: Wondrous strange Palunko
Listens to happiness,
But can't hear it,
Finds happiness,
Still looks for it ...

SEAGULL-BIRD *(flying up)*: Hush your high-pitched, mocking voice, Harp! The fisherman's heart is crammed with

kaži nama
sa visoka:
zašto traži
što već nađe?

GALEB-PTICA: Kazat ću vam ... Dan za danom prolazio, prošla godina, prošle dvije. Već im se i sinak rodio - nazvali ga Vlatkom malim. Al' ono u stvari jednako ostalo: Palunko ribu hvata, a žena se obdan po planini za lobodom prebija, uvečer večeru vari, te za večerom dijete nuna i Palunku priče priča. Priča ona o gavanima i carskim dvorima, o zmajevima što blago čuvaju i o kraljevni što u vrtu biser sije a alem žanje. Sve ljepše ona priča, a sve teže Palunko svoju sreću čeka. A kad se žena jedne večeri raspripovijedala o golemu bogatstvu i raskoši Morskoga Kralja, dozlogrdjelo Palunku, te on gnjevan skoči, ščepa ženu za ruku i kaže joj da ga sutra na uranku vodi do dvora Kralja Morskoga. I tako se priča sama od sebe splela i stala raspletati ...

Dok GALEB-PTICA kazuje svoju priču, šum i zapljuskivanje morskih valova označuju protjecanje vremena kao jedva čujna zvučna kulisa. Danja se svjetlost postupno gasi dok ne prijede u suton. Pri posljednjim riječima GALEB-PTICE sa svih strana doljeću galebovi te sav prostor ispune svojim kliktajima. Onda naglo utihnu i nestanu. Suton se pretvorio u gluhu noć. Noćna tišina traje samo koji tren, a tada danja svjetlost ponovno zasine.

wishes ... And if you pierce it with ridicule, you won't understand him.

SHEPHERD'S HARP: Seagull-bird,

Wise of eye,
Tell us all
From on high:
Why's he searching
For what's found?

SEAGULL-BIRD: I shall tell you... The days passed, a year passed, and two years. A son was born to them - they called him Little Vlatko. But everything really remained the same: Palunko caught fish and his wife roamed across the mountain looking for saltbush, she cooked dinner, and as they ate she rocked the baby in its cradle and told Palunko stories. She told him of rich misers and imperial courts, of dragons which guarded treasures and of a princess who sowed pearls in her garden and reaped precious stones. Her stories grew more and more wonderful, and Palunko found it harder and harder to wait for his happiness. And one evening when his wife was spinning the tale of the huge riches and great luxury of the Sea King, it was just too much for Palunko. He leaped up angrily, grabbed his wife by the hand, and ordered her to take him to the court of the Sea King first thing in the morning ... so that the tale itself was spun and began to unspin ...

While SEAGULL-BIRD tells its story, the sound of the pounding of the waves of the sea indicates the passing of time as a barely audible background. The light of day gradually fades until it passes into dusk. At the SEAGULL-BIRD's last words, flocks of seagulls fly up from all sides and fill the area with their shrieks. Then they suddenly fall quiet and disappear. Dusk has transformed into deep night. The silence of night lasts only a few moments, and then the daylight shines again.

PRVA SLIKA

Palunkova koliba u jutarnjoj svjetlosti. Sada se vidi i njena unutrašnjost. Palunkova žena, naslonjena na kolijevku, još spava te se čini da tako i u snu bdi nad svojim čedom u kolijevci. Palunka je svjetlost probudila, te on naglo ustaje sa svoga ležaja i prilazi ženi.

prizor

PALUNKO (*budi ženu*): Ženo, ustaj, na put se spremaj! Svanulo je!

ŽENA (*probudi se*): Zar te sinoćnja ludost još nije minula?

PALUNKO: Ništa ne pitaj, već se namah u put uputi! Daleko je do Kralja Morskoga.

ŽENA: Zaista li hoćeš da te do njegovih dvora vodim? Nije li ti na um palo da takve pute samo vile i vilenjaci poznaju?

PALUNKO: Pa ti i jesi žena vilinska! Znam ja to odavna, samo što ti to kriješ od mene kao zmija noge.

ŽENA: Ništa ja od tebe ne krijem, nego si ti tako u glavu svoju upiljio. Nisam ti smjela tolike priče pričati. Te su ti priče pamet zaludile pa ne znaš što govoriš.

PALUNKO: Znam ja dobro što govorim. Ti si vila pomorkinja koju mi je Zora-djevojka poslala da mi sreću donese, da me iz bijede izbavi. Ali si srca tvrda i pakosna pa me od sreće daleko držiš ...

ACT 1.

PALUNKO's cabin in the morning light. Now its interior can also be seen. Still asleep, PALUNKO's WIFE is leaning on the cradle, and it seems that even in sleep she watches over her child in its crib. The light has woken PALUNKO and he gets up suddenly from his bed and approaches his WIFE.

SCENE 1.

PALUNKO (*waking his WIFE*): Woman, get up, get ready for your journey! It is dawn!

WIFE (*awakening*): Haven't you got over last night's craziness?

PALUNKO: Don't ask questions, just be on your way! It's a long journey to the Sea King's court.

WIFE: You really want me to take you to his court? Don't you know that only fairies and goblins know such ways?

PALUNKO: But you are a nymph woman! I have known that for ages, but you have been hiding it from me the way a snake hides her legs.

WIFE: I have been hiding nothing, but you have concocted everything in your own head. I should not have told you so many stories. Those tales have turned your head and you don't know what you are saying.

PALUNKO: I know very well what I am saying. You are a sea nymph sent to me by the Dawn-Maiden to bring me happiness and to save me from poverty. But you have a hard and malicious heart so you keep happiness far from me ...

WIFE: Come to your senses, Palunko! I am no fairy nor sea nymph, but your wife and the mother of our child, Little Vlatko!

PALUNKO: Whether you are a fairy or not, get off on your journey and search for the Sea King's court, as I have had enough of this life of poverty! If you don't heed me, my door is closed to you! Go back where you came from.

WIFE: Alright then! I shall obey your madness and search for the

ŽENA: Opameti se, Palunko! Niti sam vila niti žena vilinska, već tvoja i majka čedu našem, Vlatku malome!

PALUNKO: Bila ti ili ne bila žena vilinska, na put se spremi, dvore kralja Morskoga potraži, jer mi je ova bijeda pusta već dotužila! Ako li me nećeš poslušati, vrata su ti moja otvorena! Vрати se odakle si i došla.

ŽENA: Pa dobro! Poslušat ću tvoju ludost, tražit ću puta do Kralja Morskoga. Ali, tko će se onda za te brinuti, tko će mi čedo paziti?

PALUNKO: Za me se ti ne brini, a čedo na put ponesi! Uza te će mu najbolje biti.

ŽENA: Na tvoju će dušu pasti ako li mu se putem što dogodi. (*Baci se mužu pod noge i zaklinje ga.*) Palunko, dobri moj Palunko, promisli još jednom u kakvu nas nevolju šalješ - mene, ženu svoju, i sinka svoga jedinoga!

PALUNKO: Dobro sam o svemu promislio i znadem što nam je činiti. Sreća se ne nalazi pod uzglavljem, već je valja daleko od uzglavlja tražiti.

ŽENA: Ostat ćeš sam u pustome domu, bez ikoga svoga da ti milu riječ kaže.

PALUNKO: Govoriš tako kao da se u smrt spremaš. Luda ženo, ne rastajemo se zauvijek, već samo dokle put do kralja Morskoga ne nađemo.

ŽENA (*načas obradovana*): I ti li ćeš se s nama u put uputiti?

PALUNKO: Hoću, ali ne svama! Ludost bi bila da na istoj strani put do morskih dvora tražimo. Ti se s djetetom uputi morskim žalom na desnu stranu, a ja ću na lijevu. Netko će od nas valjda naći ono što tražimo ... Probudi sada dijete da više ne dangubimo!

ŽENA: Neću ga buditi, nego ću ga ovako uspavana u naručju ponijeti. Kad se probudi, mislit će da sam ga u šetnju izvela. (*Uzme dijete iz kolijevke. Sve troje iziđu iz kolibe.*) Zbogom, Palunko! Ako zlo činiš, nisi zlo mislio. (*Odlazi.*)

PALUNKO (*pođe za njom*): Stani, čekaj da još jednom čedo pomilujem!

ŽENA (*opet u njoj zatinja nada*): Da se nisi predomislio?

PALUNKO: Nisam i neću se. Vjeruj mi, ženo, tako je za sve nas najbolje! Što li će nam život u pustoj sirotinji!? Naći

way to the Sea King's court. But who will take care of and who will look after my child?

PALUNKO: Don't worry your head about me, and, as for child, take it with you! He will be better off with you.

WIFE: Let it be on your head if something should happen to on this journey. (*She throws herself down at her husband's feet and begs him.*) Palunko, my good Palunko, think once more before you send us out into such misfortune - me, wife, and your only son!

PALUNKO: I have given it all a lot of thought and I know what we must do. Happiness doesn't wait for you under pillow. You have to look for it far from home.

WIFE: You'll be left here alone in an empty house, without one of your own to say a kind word to you.

PALUNKO: You are talking as though you are getting ready to die. Foolish woman, we are not separating for ever, but until we find the way to the Sea King.

WOMAN (*heartened for a moment*): You are going on the journey with us?

PALUNKO: I'm going, but not with you. It would be foolish of us to search for the Court in the same place. You and your child will go along the beach on the right, and I will go on the left. Surely one of us will find what we are looking for ... Wake the child now so we don't waste any more time.

WIFE: I won't waken him, but will carry him in my arms as he is. When he wakes up he will think I have taken him for a walk. (*She picks up the infant from his cradle. All three go out of the cabin.*) Goodbye, Palunko! May you be forgiven your foolishness! If it's something wicked you are doing, you don't mean to. (*She leaves.*)

PALUNKO (*following after her*): Stop, wait until I hug the child once again!

WIFE (*again she feels the glow of hope*): Have you perhaps changed your mind?

PALUNKO: I have not and I will not. Believe me, Wife, it is the best for all of us! What sort of a life do we lead in hopeless poverty!? We will find the way to the Sea King and we will find our happiness, and the three of us will live

ćemo puta do Kralja Morskoga, naći ćemo sreću našu, te ćemo sve troje u raskoši i bogatstvu poživjeti. (*Raznježio se te ih ljubi oboje, a onda se udalji.*) Čuvaj mi čedo! I čuvaj sebe na putu!

ŽENA: Čuvat ću ja čedo naše više nego sebe. A i ti na se priprazi! Što bismo jadni kad bismo bez tebe ostali ... (*Ode i ona, jecajući.*)

II. prizor

U pustome prostoru, usred tišine, oglaše se tanano dvojnice.

GLAS DVOJNICA: Čudo ludo Palunko
u put se uputio,
sreću svoju tražio ...
Kaži, kaži, zorice,
gdje je put do srećice?

GLAS ZORE-DJEVOJKE: Daleki su puti njeni,
od očiju sakriveni ...

III. prizor

PALUNKO (*vraća se umoran i pokunjen*): Dvije sedmice dana tražio sam put do Kralja Morskoga, a nikako da ga nađem. A kako ćeš ga i naći kad ti nitko ne zna reći gdje i kako da ga tražiš. Dobro je žena moja govorila da je ludost što činim. Bolje bi bilo da sam je poslušao ... A možda i nije sve crno kako mi se sada pričinja. Možda je ona našla put do sreće naše, možda se već i domu vratila. (*Dode do vrata kolibe te malo osluškuje.*) Nitko se iznutra ne čuje. (*Ude u kolibu pa odmah zatim iziđe.*) Nema ih, još se nisu vratili. Ali zacijelo su već blizu, nadomak. U susret

luxury and wealth. (*He is moved and kisses both of them, and then moves away from them.*) Look after my child! And take care of yourself on the journey!

WIFE: I will take more care of our child than of myself. And you take care also! How miserable we would be if we were left without you ... (*She too leaves, sobbing.*)

SCENE 2.

The voice of the reedy SHEPHERD'S HARP is heard from out of the silence on the empty stage.

SHEPHERD'S HARP: Wondrous strange Palunko
Went on a journey,
To find happiness ...
Tell us, tell us, little dawn,
Where's the path to happiness?

DAWN-MAIDEN'S VOICE: Far distant is the way,
Hidden from our eyes ...

SCENE 3.

PALUNKO (*returning tired and dejected*): Two weeks I have been searching for the way to the Sea King's court, but I haven't managed to find it. And how could I when nobody knows where it is and how to look for it. My wife was right when she said I was being foolish. It would have been better if I had listened to her ... But maybe things are not as bad as they seem. Perhaps she has found the way to our happiness, and is already home. (*He comes to the door of the cabin and listens for a moment.*) I can't hear anyone inside. (*He goes into the cabin and then comes out again.*) They are not here, they are not back yet. But they must surely be close already, quite

ću im poći ... *(Pođe i u tom trenutku ugleda ženu. I ona se vratila, ali bez djeteta.)*

nearby. I will go to meet them ... *(He starts out and sees his WIFE at that moment. She too has returned, but without the child.)*

IV. prizor

PALUNKO *(potrči prema ženi)*: Što je? Govori! Jesi li našla put do Kralja Morskoga? Jesi li našla sreću našu?

ŽENA *(samo žalosno niječe glavom)*

PALUNKO: Gdje je sinak naš, Vlatko mali? Što se slučilo? Zašto šutiš?

ŽENA *(nijemim pokretom ruku hoće pokazati da je mali Vlatko nestao)*

PALUNKO: Ništa ne razumijem. Zašto mi rukama hoćeš reći ono što možeš svojim glasom? Da nisi možda onijemjela?

ŽENA *(potvrđuje glavom)*

PALUNKO: Kao da glavom potvrđuješ da jesi, da si onijemjela ... Ali to ne može biti, to ne mogu vjerovati! Ti samo hoćeš da nešto skriješ od mene i zato nećeš da govoriš ... Govori, luda ženo! Čuješ li, govori! *(Zgrabi je i stane tresti kako bi je nagnao da progovori, no ona samo nemoćno jeca.)*

SCENE 4.

PALUNKO *(running towards his WIFE)* : What's happened? Did you find the way to the Sea King? Did you find our happiness?

WIFE *(She only shakes her head sadly.)*

PALUNKO: Where is our little son, our Little Vlatko? What is it? Why don't you say something?

WIFE *(With a mute movement of her hand, she tries to show that Little Vlatko has disappeared.)*

PALUNKO: I don't understand a thing. Why are you saying with your hands what you can say with your voice? Are you mute?

WIFE *(nodding her head in confirmation)*

PALUNKO: You seem to be saying that you can't speak ... But that cannot be, I can't believe it! You are only trying to hide something from me and you don't want to talk ... Speak, mad woman! Do you hear me? Speak! *(He grabs her and starts shaking to make her say something, but she only sobs helplessly.)*

V. prizor

GALEB-PTICA *(doleti do Palunka)*: Pusti je, pusti nesretnicu! Zaista je onijemjela ... od pustoga jada i čemera. A imala je i zašto onijemjeti.

PALUNKO *(preneražen)*: Nijema, odista nijema ... Galebe, pti-
co bijela, kazuj od kakva jada, od kakva čemera?

GALEB-PTICA: Kako si je u put uputio, išla tako s djetetom, Vlatkom malim, išla za sedmicu, išla za dvije. Nigdje ne nalazila puta do Kralja Morskoga. Umorila se bila

SCENE 5.

SEAGULL-BIRD *(flying up to PALUNKO)* : Let her be, let the unhappy woman be! She really has become mute ... from simple grief and misery. And she has had good reason.

PALUNKO *(dumbfounded)* : Mute, really mute ... Seagull, white bird, tell me! What grief and misery?!

SEAGULL-BIRD: Just as you sent her on the journey, so did she go ... with the child, Little Vlatko. She travelled for a week, she travelled for two, but nowhere did she find the way to

jadnica te jednoga dana zaspala na kamenu uz more. Kad se probudila, a ono nestalo čeda, Vlatka nejačkoga. Koliko se uprepastila, ukočile joj se suze na srcu a od velike joj se žalosti riječ prekinula, te ona onijemjela ...
PALUNKO: Jao meni što sam učinio! (*Padne na koljena, te ljubi ženi ruke i skute, plačući.*)

Zastor se polako spusti.

PRVA MEĐUIGRA

Palunko u svome čunu na morskoj pučini.

PALUNKO: Već tri dana na moru sjedim, tri dana postim, tri dana ribe ne hvatam, al' Zora-djevica moj čun i ne gleda, već ga svaki put mimoide kao da je galeb-ptica što se na valu odmara. Da nije kivna na me? Zvat ću je čim se opet pojavi, možda će se tada osvrnuti. (*Začuje se lagan, pjenušav šum a onda zapljusak, kao da veslo probija morsku površinu.*) Evo je! Već srebrni kljun njena čuna iz mora izranja. (*Pojavi se srebrni čun i u njem Zora-djevojka.*) Hej, Zoro-djevojko, Zoro-djevojko!

ZORA-DJEVOJKA (*približi mu se čunom*): Utišaj glas, Palunko, ribe ćeš mi probuditi. Svu su noć na vodi igre igrale, mjesecu se umiljavale, pa se zamorile i na dnu morskom pozaspale. Što još hoćeš od mene? Nisam li ti već sreću dala?

PALUNKO: Nesreću, a ne sreću, djevice uzorita!

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Može biti, jer i najveća sreća nesrećom

the Sea King. The poor thing was tired and one day she fell asleep on a rock by the sea. When she woke up, the child was gone, poor helpless Little Vlatko. She was so shocked that her tears froze on her heart, her voice was cut off by grief too great to bear, and she became mute...

PALUNKO: Oh, what have I done! (*He falls to his knees, and, sobbing, he kisses his WIFE's hands and the hem of her skirt.*)

THE CURTAIN SLOWLY FALLS.

INTERLUDE 1.

PALUNKO in his boat out on the open sea.

PALUNKO: For three days now I have been at sea, fasting for three days, not catching fish for three days, but the Dawn-Maiden does not look at my little boat, but goes round it every time, like the Seagull-Bird resting on the wave. Perhaps she is angry with me? The next time she appears I shall call her and maybe she will then pay me some heed. (*A light, bubbly sound is heard followed by a splash, like the sound of an oar breaking the surface of the sea.*) There she is! The silver bow of her boat is coming up out of the sea. (*The silver boat carrying the Dawn-Maiden appears.*) Hey, Dawn-Maiden, Daawwnn-Maaaiden!

DAWN-MAIDEN (*drawing near to him with her boat*): Stop shouting, Palunko, you will wake up my fish. All night long they played on the water, playing up to the moon, and now they are weary and are sleeping in the deep. What do you want from me? Haven't I already given you your happiness?

PALUNKO: Unhappiness, not happiness, Worthy Maiden!

DAWN-MAIDEN: It could be so, because the greatest happiness can turn to unhappiness for somebody who does not know how to care for it. And what troubles you now?

postaje u onog koji je ne zna čuvati. A kakva te nevolja sada tišti?

PALUNKO: Nestalo čeda Vlatka, žena onijemjela. Niti plače niti kuka, nego nijema po kući radi i mene dvori, a kuća tiha i pusta kao grob. Gori je ovo jad negoli prije što bijaše.

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: I sada hoćeš da ti sinka nađem i ženi tvojoj živu riječ vratim?

PALUNKO: Htio bih ja i to, ne kažem da ne bih. Ali što će mi kad ću opet siromašak biti te jedva i sebe kroz bijedan život pronijeti, a kamoli još ženu i čedo svoje. Nego ti meni put do Kralja Morskoga kaži, da se nagledam i naužijem bogatstva njegova, te da i ja, ako se može, bogat velmoža postanem. Jer, kažu, s blagom se sve može.

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Ako misliš da je to tvoja sreća, kazat ću ti put do Kralja Morskoga. Kada o mladome mjesecu stane dan svitati, ti sjedni u čun, čekaj vjetar i otiđi vjetrom prema istoku. Odnijet će te vjetar do otoka do Bujana, do kamena do Alatira. Do otoka na moru pliva kolo mlinsko a oko kola Morske djevice igre igraju. U val rone, po moru se gone, kose im se po valu rasteple, srebrne im peraje trepere a rumena usta im se smiju. Tome ćeš se kolu djevičanskom namoliti da te spusti do Kralja Morskoga.

PALUNKO: No kako li ću mu se namoliti?

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Kada se čunom do kola dovezeš, veslo nad more uzdigni, da te morski jazi ne bi progutali, te ovako kolu mlinskom progovori: "Kolovrta navrta, ili do jaza mrtvoga, ili do Kralja Morskoga!" Kada to izgovoriš, želja će ti se ispuniti. No, još ti nešto moram kazati. Velikoga ćeš se dobra i raskoši nauživati u Kralja Morskoga, ali znaj: na zemlju ne možeš da se vratiš, jer su tri strahovite straže postavljene. Jedna valove diže, druga vjetar vije a treća munje križa.

PALUNKO: Ne znaš ti, Zoro-djevojko, što je bijeda na ovome svijetu. Neću se ja nikad više zemlje zaželjeti, gdje ostavljam pustu nevolju...

PALUNKO: Little Vlatko has disappeared and my wife cannot speak. She does not cry nor complain but works around the house and looks after me without a word, and our home is quiet and empty like the grave. This misery is worse than what went before.

DAWN-MAIDEN: And now you want me to find your little boy and to restore the power of speech to your wife?

PALUNKO: I would like that, I'm not saying I wouldn't. But what would be the use if I was to remain poor and barely be able to drag myself along through this miserable life, let alone my wife and child. But if you were to tell me the way to the Sea King I could see and enjoy his riches, and I too, if it were possible, could become a nobleman. They say you can do anything if you have a fortune.

DAWN-MAIDEN: If you think that would mean happiness for you, I will tell you the way to the Sea King. When the dawn starts to break after the new moon, sit in your boat, wait for a wind, and take it towards the East. The wind will blow you to the island of Buyan, to the rock of Alatir. A water mill floats beside the island and the Sea-Maidens dance around it. They dive into the waves, chase one another through the sea, their hair spreads out upon the waves, their silver fins quiver and their coral lips laugh. You will persuade that Maidens' Circle to take you down to the Sea King.

PALUNKO: But how will I persuade them?

DAWN-MAIDEN: When you reach the dancers with your little boat, lift your oar above the sea so that the sea whirlpools do not swallow you up, and say these words to the Maidens' Circle: "Whirligig awirling, either to the deadly abyss, or to the Sea King!" When you say that, your wish will be fulfilled. But, there is one thing more I must tell you. You will enjoy great wealth and luxury with the Sea King, but remember: you will not be able to return to land, as three terrible guards have been posted on the way. One lifts the waves, the second the wind, and the third crisscrosses the lightning.

PALUNKO: You don't know, Dawn-Maiden, what it's like to be

ZORA-DJEVOJKA: Ipak još jednom razmisli o svemu prije no što na put kreneš, da se kasnije ne pokazuješ! (*Naglo nestane sa svojim čunom.*)

Zastor.

DRUGA SLIKA

Dvori Kralja Morskoga. Prostrana dvorana kao poljana. Oko dvorane stoji more kao mramorni zidovi, nad dvoranom stoji more kao svod stakleni. Od kamena od Alatira plavo svjetlo kao plava mjesečina. Ovjesile se nad dvoranom grane od bisera, uzdigli se po dvorani stolovi od koralja a koraljno je i prijestolje kraljevsko. Gdje je sjena najdublja, zlati se zlatna kolijevka, po njoj biserni praporci a u njoj mladi kralj - dijete nejačko, sinak Palunkov.

I. prizor

S visine, odakle se plavo svjetlo plavi, čuje se

PALUNKOV GLAS : Kolovita navrta, ili do jaza mrtvoga, ili do Kralja Morskoga!

Cika Morskih djevice; šum kao da se more rasklopilo; malo zatim četiri Morske djevice Palunka dovode, ostave ga nasred dvorane pa obigravaju oko njega, mašući svojim ribljim repovima.

poor in this world. I shall never again wish for the world, where I am leaving only futile misery...

DAWN-MAIDEN: Still, think it all over again before you start on your journey, so you don't regret it later! (*She and her silver boat suddenly disappear.*)

CURTAIN

ACT 2.

The Sea-King's Court. A spacious hall as large as a field. The sea stands around the hall like walls of marble, and over it like an arch of glass. The Stone of Alatir emits a light like blue moonlight. Branches of pearls hang above the hall, coral tables are placed about it, there is also a throne of coral. Where the shadows are deepest, a golden cradle glows, with pearl bells hanging from it. A young king lies in the cradle - a helpless child, PALUNKO's little son.

SCENE 1.

From somewhere above, near the source of the blue light, the sound of:

PALUNKO'S VOICE: Whirligig awirling, either to the dead abyss, or to the Sea King!

The shrieks of the Sea Maidens, a sound as if the sea has parted; soon after four Sea Maidens lead in Palunko, leave him in the middle of the hall and dance around him, waving with their fishes' tails.

PALUNKO: Oh, wonder of wonders, a whole field of golden sand, with trees of pearl growing on it...

MAIDEN I: This is not a field but the royal hall!

PALUNKO: And where is the King?

MAIDEN II: There he is over there, sitting on the throne!

PALUNKO: E, čuda mi divnoga, čitava poljana od zlatnog pijeska, a na njoj stabla od bisera rastu ...
PRVA DJEVICA: Nije ovo poljana, već dvorana kraljevska!
PALUNKO: A gdje je kralj?
DRUGA DJEVICA: Eno ga tamo sjedi na prijestolju!

Sve Djevice zakikoću.

PALUNKO: Prijestolje vidim, ali kralja ne vidim...
ČETVRTA DJEVICA: Oči ti od zlatnoga odraza oslijepele. Približi se, bolje pogledaj!
PALUNKO (*približi se prijestolju*): Svejednako ništa ne vidim. A kako i mogu kad na prijestolju nitko ne sjedi. Vidim ja da se vi meni podrugujete, curetine repate. Vodite me do Kralja Morskoga ili ću vas svekolike za repove uhvatiti i po pijesku zlatnome potezati.
TREĆA DJEVICA: Uhvati nas ako možeš! (*Razbježe se.*)
PALUNKO (*zalijeće se, za njihove se repove maša, ali bez uspjeha - one samo kikoću i smiju mu se; kad se umori, zastane*): Eh, tko bi vam na repove stao! Hitrije ste i od najhitrije jegulje. Nego, lijepo vas molim, Djevice uzorite, da se prestanete mnome šaliti i da me do Kralja Morskoga vodite! Nisam ja toliki put prevalio da bih s vama ovdje dangubio.
DRUGA DJEVICA: A rad' čega li si došao u morske dvore?
PALUNKO: Da se ove raskoši silne naužijem te da i ja, ako je moguće, bogat velmoža postanem.
TREĆA DJEVICA: U zao si čas došao, ribaru Palunko! Kralj naš ostario, onemoćao pa se od života oprostio ...
ČETVRTA DJEVICA: Baš smo ga jutros u zlatni pijesak ukopale!
PALUNKO: A ja mislio da se on i ne može od života oprostiti. Što mi to namah niste kazale?
PRVA DJEVICA: Htjele smo da nam ti kralj budeš.
PALUNKO: Ja da vam kralj budem? A je li teško kraljevati?
DRUGA DJEVICA: Ništa lakše od toga!
TREĆA DJEVICA: Na prijestolju sjediš, svemu zapovijedaš i svatko te sluša ...
ČETVRTA DJEVICA: To ti je sav posao kraljevski!

The MAIDENS start giggling.

PALUNKO: I can see the throne, but not the King...
MAIDEN III: Your eyes are blinded by the reflection of the gold... Come closer, take a better look!
PALUNKO (*nearing the throne*): I still can't see anything. And how could I, when no-one is sitting there. But I can see that you lasses with tails are making fun of me. Take me to the Sea King or I will catch hold of your tails and drag you along the golden sand.
MAIDEN III: Catch us if you can! (*They scatter.*)
PALUNKO (*He dashes about and grabs at their tails, but without success - they just giggle and laugh at him; when he gets tired, he pauses.*): Oh, who would manage to stand on your tails! You are swifter than the swiftest eel. But, I do beg you most kindly, Worthy Maidens, to stop jesting with me and to take me to the Sea King! I have not travelled such a long way to waste time here with you.
MAIDEN II: But why have you come to the Sea King's court?
PALUNKO: To take my fill of this luxury and, if it is possible, for me too to become a rich nobleman.
MAIDEN III: You have come at a bad time, Fisherman Palunko! Our king was old, he became weak and said farewell to life...
MAIDEN IV: We buried him in the golden sand just this morning!
PALUNKO: And I thought he could not depart from life. Why didn't you tell me right away!
MAIDEN I: We wanted you to be our King.
PALUNKO: To be your King? But is it difficult to be a king?
MAIDEN II: There is nothing easier!
MAIDEN III: You sit on the throne, give orders to everybody and everybody listens...
MAIDEN IV: That's all there is to being a king!
PALUNKO: And will all these sea courts, and all this luxury and wealth then be mine?
MAIDEN I: All you see, and all you don't...
MAIDEN IV: And what you don't see is a hundred times more wonderful than what you do.

PALUNKO: I onda će ovi dvori morski, sva ova raskoš i sve ovo bogatstvo moji biti?

PRVA DJEVICA: Sve što vidiš i što ne vidiš ...

ČETVRTA DJEVICA: A ono što ne vidiš stoput je raskošnije od ovoga što vidiš.

PALUNKO: Pa, kada je tako, a vi me, djevice, zakraljite! Dobar ću vam kralj biti. Ovakvoga niti ste imale niti ćete imati...

PRVA DJEVICA: Sjedni, Palunko, na prijestolje kraljevsko ...

DRUGA DJEVICA: ... da te krunom bisernom okrunimo i željezo ti kraljevsko u ruke predamo! (*Palunko sjedne na prijestolje. Djevice ga krunom okrunu i u ruku mu stave granu od koralja. Pri tome neprestano kikoću.*)

PALUNKO: Jesam li sada kralj?

PRVA DJEVICA: Od svih kraljeva najmoćniji!

TREĆA DJEVICA: Nikada ljepšega kralja nismo imale!

DRUGA DJEVICA: Nikada mudrijega!

PALUNKO: Poklonite mi se sve tri do crne zemljice, hoću reći do zlatnoga pijeska, e da bih znao da sam uistinu vaš kralj.

Sve mu se Djevice duboko klanjaju, gušeći kikut.

PALUNKO: I ne kikoćite toliko, kikutavice, nego se kroz dubine morske otisnite i svemu kraljevstvu objavite da novi kralj kraljuje, Palunko Prvi i Jedini.

SVE DJEVICE: Na službu smo, kralju milostivi!

PRVA DJEVICA: Ima li veličanstvo vaše još kakvu želju, da je ispunimo u taj čas?

PALUNKO: Gladan gladnu želju ima, a ja sam na putu toliko ogladnio da gladniji ne mogu biti. Donesite mi najbiranijih kraljevskih jestvina i najbiranijih pića, te mi još i svirce pozovite da mi u svirale sviraju, srce da mi razigraju!

SVE DJEVICE: Kralju želja, nama zapovijed! (*Otplivaju i za čas se vrate sa zlatnim pladnjevima a za njima uđu i SVIRCI - MORSKI KONJICI.*)

PALUNKO: Well, if that's the way of things then you Maidens can make me your King! I will be a good King to you. You have never had such a King, nor will you ever have ...

MAIDEN I: Sit down, Palunko, on the throne of the kingdom ...

MAIDEN II: ... so that we can crown you with the pearl crown and place the royal scepter in your hand! (*PALUNKO sits on the throne. The MAIDENS place the crown on his head and a branch of coral into his hand. They giggle all the time they are doing so.*)

PALUNKO: Am I now the King?

MAIDEN I: The mightiest king of all!

MAIDEN III: We have never had a more handsome king!

MAIDEN II: Nor a wiser one!

PALUNKO: All three of you bow down to the black ground, I mean to the golden sand, so that I know that I really am your King.

All make deep curtsies, hiding their giggles.

PALUNKO: And don't titter so much, you gigglers, but go out into the depths of the sea and announce to the kingdom that a new king is now ruling, Palunko the First and Only.

ALL THE MAIDENS: At your service, Your Royal Majesty!

MAIDEN I: Does Your Majesty have any wishes, so that we can fulfil them in a trice?

PALUNKO: He who is hungry has hungry wishes, and I got so hungry on my journey that I could not be hungrier. Bring me the choicest royal food and the choicest drinks, and call me some musicians to make music so that my heart dances with joy!

ALL THE MAIDENS: The King's wish, our command! (*They swim off and quickly return carrying golden platters. They are followed by the Musicians - the SEA HORSES.*)

II. prizor

PALUNKO (*gleda sumnjičavo u pladnjeve, prebire kao da mu se ne da jesti što je preda nj izneseno*): Kakvo ste mi ovo jestivo donijele? Sve sama morska travurina i puževi morski. I sve prijesno - nekuhano i nevareno. To li da najmoćniji kralj jede i blaguje? (*Odbaci pladnjeve.*) Nešto mi bolje donesite, curetine repate!

PRVA DJEVICA: Ništa boljeg nema, gospodaru!

PALUNKO: Za kralja mora biti! Nisam se ja zato rodio da puževe žvačem. Lobode mi varene donesite, tri pladnja, tri hrpe goleme, da za tri dana glada ne osjetim!

DRUGA DJEVICA: Tu vam želju, na žalost, ne možemo ispuniti, veličanstvo vaše!

TREĆA DJEVICA: U morskome kraljevstvu loboda ne raste.

PALUNKO: Onda mi najbolje ribe nahvatajte i na vatri ispecite!

PRVA DJEVICA: Samo je prijesnu pred vas možemo iznijeti, jer se u kraljevstvu vodenome vatra ne razgara.

PALUNKO: Pa što ću onda jadan i nevoljan? Od gladi ću skapat. Ni u snu ne bih mogao pomisliti da ću kraljem biti, a od gladi skapavati. (*Djevice kikoću.*) Ne kikoćite, repatice! Zasvirajte, svirci-morski konjici, da na glad zaboravim!

Svirici zasviraju. Palunko ustane s prijestolja te zapleše.

SVE DJEVICE (*oko Palunka kolo zaigraju i rugalicu zapjevaju*):

Kolovrta navrta,
kralj Palunko
čudo ludo
ogladnio,
ožednio
poskočio,
zaplesao,
glad zaboravio ...
Vrti se mrk
hitro kao zvrk ...

SCENE 2.

PALUNKO (*looking doubtfully at the platters, picking through the food as though loath to eat what has been placed before him*): What sort of food have you brought me? It's all sea-weed and sea snails. And it's all raw - not roasted nor boiled. Is this how the mightiest King dines? (*He pushes the platter away.*) Bring me something better, you tailed lasses!

MAIDEN I: There is nothing better, Sire!

PALUNKO: There must be for the King of the Sea! I wasn't born to chew snails. Bring me boiled saltbush, three platters full, three large piles of it so that I won't feel hungry for three days!

MAIDEN II: Unfortunately, we can't fulfil that wish for you, Majesty!

MAIDEN III: Saltbush does not grow in the Sea Kingdom.

PALUNKO: Then catch me some of the best fish and grill it for me over the fire!

MAIDEN I: We can only serve it raw, as fire will not light in the water kingdom.

PALUNKO: What will I do, so wretched and miserable? I will die of hunger. I could never have dreamt that I would be a king and perish of hunger. (*The Maidens giggle.*) Stop giggling! What's so funny? I am so miserable. Play now, Sea Horses, so that I forget my hunger! (*The Sea Horses-Musicians play. PALUNKO gets up from his throne and starts dancing.*)

MAIDENS (*dancing a jig in a circle around PALUNKO and singing their mocking song*):

Whirligig awhirling,
King Palunko
Wondrous strange
Hungry,
Thirsty,
Hopping,
Dancing,
Hunger forgotten ...
Sullen but swinging
Like a top spinning ...

PALUNKO (*naljuti se i prestane plesati*): Ne rugajte se, proklete repatice! Ako ste me za kralja zakraljile, niste za svoje ruglo.

Djevice ga ne slušaju, već se i dalje vrte oko njega, izrugujući mu se. Mladi se kralju zlatnoj kolijevci probudio, sjeo pa sve to gleda, ručicama pljeska i veseli se. Ponavlja za Djevicama: "Vtli se mlk hitlo kao zvlk."

PALUNKO (*čuvši i ugledavši mališana, približi mu se*): Gle, i ovaj mi se mališan u kolijevci izruguje ... Tako li se ovdje stariji poštuju?! (*Nadvije se nad dječarca tobože da mu priprijeti.*) Da si odmah umuknuo, derane! (*Dječarac se ne prestraši, nego nastavlja ponavljati rugalicu za Morskim djevicama, kojih je bučna objest sada postala još raspojasanija i objesnija.*)

III. prizor

Iznenada se pojavi Morski Kralj. Svirci prestanu svirati a Djevice se od straha utišaju, razbježe i posakriju među stablima koraljnim.

KRALJ: Kakva je ovo cika i kakav metež u mojim dvorima? (*svircima*) Tko vas je, svirci, pozvao amo da u svirale svirate?

JEDAN SVIRAC: Morske djevice, tvoje službenice, gospodaru...

PALUNKO (*zabezeknuto za sebe*): Kakva li je ovo nakaza s volujskom glavom?

KRALJ (*nastavljajući razgovor sa svircima, sjedne na prijestolje*): Morske su vas djevice amo pozvale, kažeš? A tko ih je na to ovlastio?

PALUNKO: Ja, nakazo morska, ja, kralj Palunko Prvi i Jedini.

KRALJ: Gle, gle, netko se pokraj mene kraljem naziva ... A u kojem to kraljevstvu kraljuješ, čudni stvore?

PALUNKO: U ovome morskome, da u kojem! Silazi s moga prijestolja! Nije to mjesto za tebe, glavo volujska!

PALUNKO (*getting angry, he stops dancing*): Don't mock me, damned creatures! You crowned me as your King, not your object of ridicule!

The MAIDENS pay him no heed, and keep dancing around him, making fun of him. The Young King in the golden cradle is awake and sitting up, watching all these goings-on, clapping his hands and enjoying the game. He repeats after the MAIDENS: "Thullen but twinging like a top thpinning."

PALUNKO (*seeing and hearing the little boy, he goes over to him*): Look, and this little one in the cradle is also making fun of me ... Is that how grown-ups are respected here?! (*He bends over the child as though to threaten him.*) Hold your tongue, you cheeky boy! (*The child is not intimidated, but continues repeating the mocking song with the SEA MAIDENS, whose loud unruliness is becoming more and more uncontrolled.*)

SCENE 3.

Suddenly the SEA KING appears. The musicians stop playing and the SEA MAIDENS, their fear shocking them into silence, scatter and hide among the coral trees.

SEA KING: What's this shrieking and uproar in my court? (*to the musicians*) Who called you musicians here to play on your instruments?

SEA-HORSE I: The Sea Maidens, your handmaidens, Sire ...

PALUNKO (*shocked, to himself*): What monster is this with the head of an ox?

SEA-KING (*continuing his conversation with the Musicians, he sits on his throne*): You say the Sea-Maidens called you here? And who gave them permission to do so?

PALUNKO: I did, you sea monster, I, King Palunko the First and Only.

SEA-KING: Look at this now, someone calling himself king in addition to me ... And which kingdom do you rule, strange creature?

Hoće da ga zbaci s prijestolja, ali kralj je snažniji te ga odgurne.

KRALJ: Nisam dosad znao da uza me, Kralja Morskoga, ima još jedan kralj u mome kraljevstvu.

PALUNKO (*ustraseno*): Ti li si, dakle, Kralj Morski?! A one mi curetine repate rekoše da su te jutros u pijesak ukopale.

KRALJ: Šalile se s tobom, prijatelju. One veoma vole šalu zbijati, a ti ćeš, eto, zbog njihove šale glavu izgubiti ... Kazuj tko si i zašto si se do mojih dvora tajom dokrao?

PALUNKO (*drhteći*): Siromašak sam ribar, Palunkom me nazivaju. I nisam se do tvojih dvora tajom dokrao, nego me Djevice morske za ruku vodile a Zora-djevica na put naputila.

KRALJ: Pa što si htio u mome kraljevstvu?

PALUNKO: Da ti se poklonim, date za gostoprinstvo zamolim, pa da se bogatstva tvoga naužijem te i ja bogat velmoža postanem ako se tvojoj milosti svidim.

KRALJ: Nisi mi se svidio, Palunko, s kraja ribaru! U zao mi čas prijestolje htjede oteti. Stoga ću te u morske jaze baciti kako ti nikad više ne bi na um palo da se moje vlasti zaželiš.

PALUNKO (*baci se preda nj na koljena*): Smiluj se, gospodaru! Nije krivnja na meni. Morske me djevice zakraljile i tvojom krunom okrunile. Radi sa mnom što hoćeš, samo me u morske jaze ne bacaj!

VLATKO (*iz kolijevke*): Neka plese, neka jos malo plese! On pleklasto znade plesati. Vlti se mlk, hitlo kao zvlk.

KRALJ: Hajde pleši, Palunko, kad ti mladi kralj zapovijeda.

PALUNKO: Ono li je mladi kralj? Eh, da sam to znao, namah bih mu se poklonio. (*Ide do kolijevke i duboko se klanja dječarcu.*) Zdrav bio, kralju mladi! U taj ću ti tren željicu ispuniti, samo da ti ručicu ljubnem. (*Ljubi ga u ruku pa ga gladi.*) Baš si lijep dječarac! Što kažem dječarac - momče, pravo momče, sto mi godina poživjelo! (*Malo se zamisli.*) I čini mi se da sam te već mnogo puta vidio pa čak i tetošio. Kao da si bratac rođeni sinku mome nejačkome koji je iz naručja majčina netragom nestao. (*Vrati se kralju.*) Kralju gospodaru, ovo je pravo čudo. Tvoj je

PALUNKO: What do you mean which kingdom? This sea kingdom! This is no place for you, ox head!

PALUNKO attempts to push him off the throne, but the SEA KING is stronger and pushes him away.

SEA KING: I never knew until now that there was another king in my kingdom beside me, the Sea King.

PALUNKO (*frightened now*): So you are the Sea King?! Those lasses with the tails told me that they buried you in the sand this morning.

SEA KING: They were joking with you, my friend. They love making jokes, and you will lose your head because of them ... that's how it is. Tell me who are you and why have you come in secret to my court?

PALUNKO (*trembling with fear*): I am a poor fisherman, and they call me Palunko. And I didn't come in secret to your court, but was led here by the hand by the Sea Maidens and the Dawn-Maiden showed me the way.

SEA KING: And what was it you wanted in my kingdom?

PALUNKO: To bow to you, and to ask you for your hospitality, so that I could enjoy your wealth and also become a mighty nobleman if Your Grace were to take a liking to me.

SEA KING: I never did like you, Palunko, fisherman from the shore! You chose the wrong time to try to steal my kingdom. So I am going to throw you into the sea whirlpool and it will never again occur to you to desire after the powers that are mine.

PALUNKO (*throwing himself down on his knees before the King*): Have mercy, Sire! It is not my fault. The Sea Maidens named me king and crowned me with your crown. Do with me what you will, just don't throw me into the great whirlpool!

VLATKO (*from his cradle*): Let him dan'th, let him dan'th a little more! He'th a lovely dan'ther! Thullen but thwinging like a top thpinning.

SEA KING: Go on, Palunko, dance, as the Young King commands.

PALUNKO: That is the Young King? Ah, if I had known I would

sinak posve nalik na moga sinka Vlatka te bih gotovo pomislio ...

KRALJ (*prekine ga u riječi*): Što misliš, misli za sebe, pa i to tako da ni u snu ne prepoznaš svoju misao! A jezik svoj pregrizi ako ti smeta! Jer, još ni prvu uvredu tvoju nisam zaboravio, a već drugu spremaš.

PALUNKO: Oprosti kralju, oči me prevarile!

KRALJ: Nemoj se više njima kao dosad služiti ako želiš život sačuvati! A sada zapleši, da ti mladi kralj uvredu oprost!

VLATKO: Plesi, plesi! Ti pleklasno pleses!

KRALJ: Svirci, zasvirajte!

Svirci zasviraju; Vlatko se veseli i neprekidno ponavlja: "Vlti se mlk, hitlo kao zvlk."

KRALJ: Eh, Palunko, baš si momče lakonogo! Zaslužio si da ti život poštedim, pa da mi po vas dan sinka zabavljaš i luda njegova budeš. Evo ti grana od bisera kao prvi znak moje milosti kraljevske! (*Otkida jednu bisernu granu i daje je Palunku.*)

PALUNKO (*klekne da primi dar*): Hvala ti, dobri gospodaru! Toliku tvoju milost nisam zaslužio ...

KRALJ: A jesi li se još čega zaželio?

PALUNKO: Baš kad me pitaš, reći ću ti. Poželjeh da mi je dobar pladanj varene lobode.

KRALJ: E, brate moj, draga je u nas loboda, draža nego biser i bisernjak, jer daleko od nas uspijeva. No i tu ću ti želju ispuniti. Poslat ću vilu prekomorkinju, donijet će ti iz kraja lobode. A ti se meni i mome sinu još tri puta na zlatnome pijesku prebaci! Svirci, ded opet zasvirajte!

Palunko ponovno zapleše. Doplivaju i Morske djevice te opet zapjevaju rugalicu obigravajući oko Palunka.

VLATKO (*za Djevicama ponavlja*): Vlti se mlk hitlo za zvlk ... Klasno, pleklasno!

Zastor se naglo spusti.

have bowed to him immediately. (*He goes over to the cradle and bows deeply to the boy.*) Good health, Young King! (*He kisses the infant's hand and pats his head.*) What a handsome little boy! What am I saying? Little boy? Young man, a real young man. May he live a hundred years! (*PALUNKO ponders for a moment.*) And I have the feeling that I have seen you many times and even held you. You could be the born brother of my infant son who disappeared without trace from his mother's arms. (*He returns to the King.*) Sire, this is a real miracle. Your little son looks so much like my son Vlatko that I could almost believe ...

SEA KING (*interrupting him*): Whatever you are thinking, keep it to yourself, so that you don't recognise your own thought even in a dream! And bite your tongue if it bothers you! Because I still haven't forgotten your first insult, and here you are preparing a second.

PALUNKO: Forgive me, Majesty, my eyes deceived me!

SEA KING: Don't let them serve you as they have to date, if you want to stay alive! And now, dance, so that the Young King forgives the insult!

VLATKO: Danth, danth! You're a lovely danther!

SEA KING: Musicians, play!

The SEA-HORSES start playing; VLATKO is happy and keeps repeating: "Thullen but thwinging like a top thpinning."

SEA KING: Eh, Palunko, you really are light on your feet! You deserve that I spare your life, and that you entertain my boy the whole day and be his jester. Here's a branch of pearls as the first sign of my royal grace! (*He breaks off a branch of the pearl tree and gives it to PALUNKO.*)

PALUNKO (*kneeling to accept the gift*): Thank you, good master! I have done nothing to deserve such grace ...

SEA KING: And do you have some other wish?

PALUNKO: Well, just as long as you are asking ... I wish for a platter of boiled saltbush.

SEA KING: Ah, my brother, saltbush is very expensive here, more than pearl and mother-of-pearl, as it grows far from

DRUGA MEĐUIGRA

GALEB-PTICA (*doleti pred zastor*): I tako Palunko umjesto velmože luda i sluga mladoga kralja posta. A dok ovo tako bijaše, dotle žena Palunkova u kući samovala i tugovala ... Niti radi niti sprema, niti plače niti kuka, nego se ubija jadom i čemerom. I onako nijema ne može s ljudima govoriti, nego samo sa zvjerkama. Kud će, dakle, jedna nego na grob materin, da se mrtvoj majci nijemim svojim jezikom potuži.

Polako se dignu zastor i vide se grob i žena Palunkova.

ŽENA: Majko, pomozil! Jad i čemer me za sinkom i mužem ubijaju. Niti ovako nijema mogu u koga savjet da upitam, niti mogu morem poći za Palunkom kad sam od tuge preklonula. Pomozil, majčice, pomozil!

Pred nju izade košuta.

KOŠUTA: Zalud zazivaš, bijedna ženo Palunkova! Mrtva majka ne može ti pomoći. Ali ja ću ti dobar savjet dati. Nemoj da sjediš i da se ubijaš, nego ti svake večeri Palunku večeru spremaj a iza večere tanku kudjelju razrješuj! Ne dođe li Palunko, a ti u zoru uzmi njegovu večeru i mekanu kudjelju, i još ponesi tanke dvojnice, pa pođi u krš! Tamo u dvojnice sviraj! Zmije i zmijići će večeru izjesti a galebovi kudjeljom svoja gnijezda oblagati. Tako učini pa će dobro biti!

our land. But I will grant you that wish too. I shall send the Overseas Fairy to bring you saltbush from your land. And you will do three more somersaults on the golden sand for me and for my son. Musicians, come on, play!

PALUNKO starts dancing again. The SEAMAIDENS swim up and again sing their mocking song, dancing around PALUNKO.

VLATKO (*repeating after the SEAMAIDENS*): Thullen but thwinging like a top thpinning ... Lovely, too lovely!

THE CURTAIN SUDDENLY FALLS.

INTERLUDE 2.

SEAGULL-BIRD (*flying in front of the curtain*): And so instead of becoming a wealthy nobleman, Palunko became servant and jester to the Young King. And while this was happening, Palunko's wife sat at home, alone and grieving ... She did not work nor tidy up, she did not cry nor complain, but slowly destroyed herself with misery and melancholy. Mute as she was, she could not speak to people, only to animals. What could she do, but go to her mother's grave to complain in her mute voice to her dead mother?

The curtain is raised slowly and the grave and PALUNKO's WIFE can be seen.

WIFE: Mother, help me! Misery and grief for my son and husband are destroying me. Mute like this, I can't ask anyone for advice, I can't follow Palunko across the sea when I am so weak from melancholy. Help me, Mother, help me!

A ROE comes out into the clearing.

ŽENA: Hvala ti, košuto, na tome savjetu! Učinit ću sve kako me savjetuješ. Možda će zaista dobro biti ...

Prizora nestane; zastor se naglo spusti.

TREĆA SLIKA

U dvorima Kralja Morskoga.

I. prizor

MORSKI KRALJ (*drijema na prijestolju a oko prijestolja svirci pozaspali. Vlatko mali u kolijevci također sniva.*)

PALUNKO (*stao kraj kolijevke, netremice motri dječarca te govori za sebe*): Zgodan momčić ... Kao da i nije u morskome kraljevstvu svjetlo ugledao, nego na žalu morskome. Ta gdje bi on i mogao biti sinak Kralja Morskoga - u Kralja glava volujska, a u dječarca djetinjska! Što god ga dulje gledam, to više se prisjećam sinka svoga, Vlatka maloga ...

MORSKI KRALJ (*budi se*)

PALUNKO (*pritaji se uz kolijevku kao da i sam spava*)

MORSKI KRALJ (*zijevarajući*): Uh, dosadna li života! Po vas dan drijemam, a naspavati se ne mogu. Palunko, Palunko!

ROE: You call in vain, poor Wife of Palunko! Your dead mother cannot help you. But I will give you good counsel. Don't sit around doing nothing. Make dinner for Palunko every night and after dinner spin a fine hemp thread! If Palunko does not come, take his dinner and the soft hemp thread at dawn, and the reedy Harp too, and go out into the rocky karst. Play the harp there! The big snakes and baby snakes will come to eat the dinner, and the seagulls will take the hemp to line their nests. Do as I say and all will be well!

WIFE: Thank you for your advice, kind Roe. I will do everything as you have counselled me. Perhaps everything really will be well ...

The scene disappears; THE CURTAIN SUDDENLY FALLS.

ACT 3.

At the SEA KING's Court.

SCENE 1.

SEA KING (*The King is dozing on this throne surrounded by his sleeping musicians. LITTLE VLATKO is also snoozing in his cradle.*)

PALUNKO (*He is standing by the cradle not taking his eyes off the child. He speaks to himself.*): A handsome little boy ... He looks as though he did not see the light of day in the sea kingdom, but on the shore. How could he be the son of the Sea King - the King has the head of an ox, and the boy the head of a child! The more I look at him, the more I am reminded of my son, Little Vlatko ...

SEA KING (*awakening*)

PALUNKO (*tobože se iznenada probudi te pohita k prijestolju*): Evo me, gospodaru! Što mi zapovijeda tvoja milost?
MORSKI KRALJ: Pleši, Palunko, dosadno mi je! Poskoči, prebacuj se, vrijeme krati! Svirci, zasvirajte! (*Svirci se probude te se odmah pripreme za svirku.*)
VLATKO (*također se probudi pa se uspravi u kolijevci*): Svilajte, svilajte!

Svirci zasviraju, Palunko zapleše.

MORSKI KRALJ: Dosta, Palunko! Prestani! (*Palunko se zaustavi.*)
Uvijek isto plešeš, ludi ribaru. Dvaput nogama zatapkaš, dvaput se zavrtiš i dvaput pokloniš. Izmisli nešto drugo! To mi je već dojadilo.
VLATKO: Nesto dugo, nesto dugo!
PALUNKO: Ne znam što bi vaše milosti htjele ... Nije lako na zlatnome pijesku ples plesati.
MORSKI KRALJ: Pokušaj jednom na rukama, a ne uvijek na nogama! Ded poskoči, obmi se, razveseli mladoga kralja!
VLATKO: Na lukama, na lukama! To će biti pleklasno, najpleklasnije!

Svirci još bučnije zasviraju.

PALUNKO (*pleše na rukama*)

MORSKI KRALJ (*smijući se*): Nije loše, Palunko. Scijenim, bolje plešeš negoli što ribu hvataš ... Baš si momče i lakonogo i lakoruko, ha, ha, ha ... (*grohoće tako te sva dvorana odjekuje.*)
VLATKO (*plješeće ručicama*): Pleklasno, najpleklasnije!
MORSKI KRALJ: Pleši, ludi Palunko, još pleši!
PALUNKO (*iznemogne te zastane*): Ne mogu više, gospodaru. Izmori me ovaj naopaki ples.
VLATKO: Jos! Hocu jos!
MORSKI KRALJ: Čuješ li ga, Palunko? Hoće još. Pleši kad mlađi kralj to želi!

PALUNKO (*lying quietly near the cradle, as though asleep*)
SEA KING (*yawning*): Oh, how boring life is! I doze all day and can never get enough sleep. Palunko, Palunko!
PALUNKO (*Feigning that he has suddenly awakened, he dashes to the throne.*): Here I am, Sire! What does Your Grace command?
SEA KING: Dance, Palunko, I am bored! Jump, do your somersaults, help the time pass! Musicians, play! (*The SEA HORSES wake up and immediately prepare to play.*)
VLATKO (*He also wakes up and sits up in his cradle*): Pway, pway!

The Musicians starts playing and PALUNKO starts dancing.

SEA KING: Enough, Palunko! Stop! (*PALUNKO stops dancing.*)
Always the same dance, you crazy fisherman. You tap your feet twice, spin around twice and bow twice. Think of something new! Your dance is boring me.
VLATKO: Something new, something new!
PALUNKO: I don't know what Your Graces would like ... It's not easy to do a dance on golden sand.
SEA KING: Try on your hands, not just on your feet. Come on, jump, spin around, make the Young King happy!
VLATKO: On your hanths, your hanths! That will be lovely, just lovely!

The Sea Horse Musicians play even louder.

PALUNKO (*dancing on his hands*)
SEA KING (*laughing*): That's not too bad, Palunko. I think you dance better than you catch fish ... You're a fine fellow, light on your feet and light on your hands, ha, ha, ha ... (*The SEA KING roars with laughter which echoes through the hall.*)
VLATKO (*clapping his hands*): Lovely, just lovely!
SEA KING: Dance, crazy Palunko, keep dancing!
PALUNKO (*exhausted, he falters*): I can't any more, Sire. This upside-down dancing makes me very tired.
VLATKO: More! I want more!
SEA KING: Do you hear, Palunko? He wants more. Dance when the Young King wants you to!