

## **Birdybird and Leni**

**(original Title: "Fundevogel "A tale from Brothers Grimm, retold for children in Bosnia and Palestine of islamic cultures**

There was once a forester who went into the forest to hunt and as he entered it he heard a sound of screaming as if a little child were there. He followed the sound, and at last came to a high tree, and at the top of this a little child was sitting. The mother had fallen asleep under the tree and an eagle had seen the child in the mother's lap, had flown down, took it with his beak and set it on the high tree. The Forester climbed up, brought the child down, and thought to himself: "You will take him home with you, and bring him up with your Leni." He took it home, therefore, and the two children grew up together. And the one, which he had found on a tree was called Birdybird, because a bird had carried it away. Birdybird and Lina loved each other so dearly that when they did not see each other they were sad.

Now the forester had an old cook who one evening took two buckets and began to fetch water, and did not go once only but many times, out to the well. Leni saw this and said: "Listen, old Sanna, why are you fetching so much water?" "If you will never repeat it to anyone, I will tell you why."

So Leni said: "Early tomorrow morning, when the forester is out hunting, I will heat the water, and when it is boiling in the pot, I will throw in Birdybird and will boil him in it." Early next morning the forester got up and went out hunting and when he was gone, the children were still in bed. Then Leni said to Birdybird: "If you will not leave me, I shall not leave you". Birdybird said: "Not now and

never." Then said Leni: "Then will I tell you. Last night, old Sanna carried so many buckets of water into the house that I asked her why she was doing that, and she said that If I would promise not to tell anyone she would tell me, and I said I would be sure not to tell anyone, and she said that early tomorrow morning when father was out hunting she would set the kettle full of water, throw you into it and boil you. But we will get up quickly, dress ourselves and go away together.

The two children therefore got up, dressed themselves quickly, and went away. When the water in the kettle was boiling, the cook went into the bed-room to fetch Birdybird and throw him into it. But when she came in and went to the bodes, both the children were gone.

Then she was terribly alarmed and she said to herself: "What shall I say now when the forester comes home and sees that the children are gone? They must be followed instantly to get them back again. "

Then the cook sent three servants after them, who were to run and overtake the children. The children, however, were sitting in front of the forest, and when they saw from afar the three servants running, Leni said to

Birdybird: "If you will not leave me, I shall not leave you.

Birdybird answered: "Not now and never". Then said

Leni: "Do you become a rose-tree, and I the rose upon

it." When the three servants came to the forest, nothing was there but a rosetree and one rose on it, but the

children were nowhere. Then said they: "there is nothing to be done here," and they went home and told the cook

that they had seen nothing in the forest but a rose-bush

with one rose on it. Then the old cook scolded and said:

"You simpletons, you should have cut the rose-bush in

two, and have broken off the rose and brought it home with you; Go and do it at once.! They had therefore to go out and look for the second time. The children, however, saw them coming from a distance. Then Leni said to Birdybird: "If you will not leave me, I shall not leave you." And Birdybird answered: "Not now and never". Then said Leni: "Do you become a mosque and I a light in it". So, when the three servants came, nothing was there but a mosque with a chandelier in it. They said therefore to each other: "What can we do here, let us go home home." When they got home, the cook asked if they had not found them; so they said no, they had found nothing but a church, and that there was a chandelier in it And the cook said: "You fools! why did you not pull the mosque to pieces and bring the chandelier home with you?" And now the old cook herself got on her legs, and went with the three servants in in pursuit of the children. The children, however, saw from afar that the three servants were coming, and the cook waddling after them. Then said Leni: "Birdybird, if you will not leave me, I shall not leave you." Then he said: "Not now and never:" Said Leni:" Be a fishpond and I will be the duck upon it." The cook however, came up to them, and when she saw the pond she lay down by it, and was about to drink it up. But the duck swam quickly to her, seized her head in its beak and drew her into the water, and there the old witch had to drown. Then the children went home together, and were heartily delighted, and if they have not died they are living still.