

Brothers pirates

Once upon a time there lived two brothers who were pirates. They liked the city of Lübeck very much because there were many merchants there and they always had good and valuable goods. Legend has it that the brothers, Märt and Priit, had once tried to rob a witch's boat. Unfortunately, they missed the witch and she put a curse on them that if the king looked them in the eye, they could not move. Priit and Märt laughed out loud and wondered what else the curse was. The witch said: "Laugh, laugh, he who laughs last laughs much better." Saying this, he had disappeared, and the brothers made no sound.

One day, as they were stealing salt and cloth from a merchant in the town of Lübeck, they noticed that so many merchants and peasants had gathered in the marketplace. They had all gone to see and greet the king, for such a sight was not often seen. As Mart and Priit fled with the goods they had stolen from the merchant, the king spotted them and looked them straight in the eye. They stopped for a moment and could not move. When the merchant caught up with them, he emptied their pockets and told the king the whole story. The king decided to put them in prison for 100 years to give them time to think about what they had done.

As they were on their way to prison, the king looked away for a moment and the brothers immediately started running as fast as they could. They ran to the boat and narrowly escaped the king's grasp. Half the time they ran blindfolded because they were afraid of the curse. Priit and Märt were rejoicing in the boat, when suddenly they saw a great dragon in the distance, with the king sitting on its head. The brothers panicked, screamed and ran around frantically. Finally they jumped into the water and waited for the king to fly away with the dragon.

At night, when all was quiet and dark, they finally decided to get out of the water, because the king was long gone. When they got to the boat, they saw the king sitting in the middle of the boat, drinking tea at the table. As the king looked them in the eye, they could not move. The king lifted them up on a kite and flew to the top of the highest hill in Lübeck. There he set down Märd and Priidu, and flew away merrily. The brothers wept for three days, until suddenly a witch appeared. Märt and Priit got down on their knees and begged the witch to help them down from the top of the hill. The witch threw herself down on her back and started laughing loudly. So he laughed there until the evening, until he finally tired and told his brothers: "He who laughs last laughs much better." Saying this, he was gone, and no one ever saw him again. But the story became very popular among the merchants, and no one ever dared to rob a merchant again.

Legend has it that the brothers Priit and Märt still haven't come down from the top of that hill.

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