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Creative writing according to a Slovak fairy tale

Tvorivé písanie podľa slovenskej rozprávky



Pavol Dobšinský

Salt Better than Gold/ Sol' nad zlato

Základná škola s materskou školou

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Pavol Dobšinský



Dobšinský (1828 – 1885) was a Slovak collector of folklore and writer belonging to the period of Romanticism. He is perhaps best known for creating the largest and most complete collection of Slovak folktales, *Prostonárodné slovenské povesti* (Simple National Slovak Tales), self-published in a series of eight books from 1880 to 1883. For his collections, he has often been referred to as a „Slovak Hans Christian Andersen“.

Works of Pavol Dobšinský

The focus of most of his work was on folklore. He first published a collection of Slovak tales in *Slovenské povesti* (*Slovak Tales*) from 1858 to 1861 in 6 volumes, with a total of 64 stories. He followed this up with *Prostonárodné obyčaje, povery a hry slovenské* (*Simple National Slovak Customs, Superstitions, and Plays*) in 1880, just five years before his death. In that same year, he also started publishing a series of volumes at his own expense of a more complete and larger collection of Slovak folktales *Prostonárodné slovenské povesti* (*Simple National Slovak Tales*). He would continue publishing more volumes of this work until 1883, bringing the total up to 90 stories in 8 volumes. As most of the folk and fairy tales were originally intended for an adult audience, Dobšinský had to edit out much brutality and juicy humor, thus making them suitable for children and simultaneously helping them to be more popular.

These works are still considered to be essential and representative collections of Slovak folklore, while they have been rewritten a number of times, too, and they have also been published in more than twenty-one countries. To this day, they remain one of the most popular Slovak books ever written.

Pavol Dobšinský



Dobšinský (1828 – 1885) bol slovenský zberateľ folklóru a spisovateľ patriaci do obdobia romantizmu. Pravdepodobne je najznámejší tým, že vytvoril najväčšiu a najucelenejšiu zbierku slovenských ľudových príbehov, Prostonárodné slovenské povesti, ktorú sám publikoval v sérii ôsmich kníh od roku 1880 do roku 1883. Za svoju zbierku je často označovaný ako „slovenský Hans Christian Andersen“.

Tvorba Pavla Dobšinského

Väčšina jeho prác bola zameraná na folklór. Najprv publikoval zbierku slovenských rozprávok v knihe Slovenské povesti, od roku 1858 do roku 1861 v 6 zbierkach s celkovým počtom 64 príbehov. Pokračoval dielom Prostonárodné obyčaje, povery a hry slovenské v roku 1880, len päť rokov pred svojou smrťou. V rovnakom roku tiež začal na vlastné náklady vydávať sériu zbierok. Bola to ucelenejšia a širšia zbierka slovenských ľudových príbehov, „Prostonárodné slovenské povesti“. Aj naďalej vydával ďalšie zväzky príbehov a rozprávok, až do roku 1883, čím sa ich počet zvýšil na 90 príbehov v 8 zväzkoch. Keďže väčšina ľudových rozprávok bola pôvodne určená dospelým ľuďom, Dobšinský musel vynechať veľkú brutalitu a šľavnatý humor, aby to bolo vhodné pre deti a aj vďaka tomu sa príbehy stali obľúbenejšie.

Tieto práce sú stále považované za podstatné a reprezentatívne zbierky slovenského folklóru, aj keď boli niekoľkokrát prepísané. Tiež boli publikované vo viac ako dvadsať jeden krajinách. Doteraz patria medzi najobľúbenejšie slovenské knihy, ktoré kedy boli napísané.



Salt better than gold

Once upon a time, there lived a King who had three daughters. He loved them very much. When he grew old, he thought about who of them would become the Queen after his death. He decided that the princess, who loved him most, would be the Queen.

He summoned his three daughters and told them:

"I am old and I want to choose one of you to become the Queen. But first I would like to know how much you love me. So tell me, my oldest daughter, how much you love your father."

"My dear father, I love you more than gold," answered the oldest daughter and kissed her father's hand.

"Well, and now, my middle daughter, how much do you love your father?"

"My sweet father, I love you more than the most beautiful clothes," said the middle daughter.

"That is fine! I can see that both of you love me very much. And now, Marushka, my youngest daughter, how much do you love your father?"

"Daddy, I love you like salt!" said Marushka and looked at his father sweetly.

"You good-for-nothing fellow, don't you love your father more than salt?" the older sisters started shouting at Marushka.

"Yes, like salt" Marushka repeated sincerely.

But the King got furious. "Go out of my sight if you don't like me more than salt" screamed the king and added: "When the time comes, that people will appreciate salt more than gold, then come, you will be the queen." And he turned her out of the castle.

Marushka started crying and ran away from the castle.

She climbed mountains and walked in valleys till she came to a dark forest. She didn't know what to do, she was very unhappy. Suddenly an old woman appeared in front of her.



“Why are you crying, Marushka?” asked the old woman. Marushka told her everything and said that she wouldn’t like to be the queen, she only would like her father to know how much she liked him.

The old woman trusted Marushka because she was a prophetess. She took her into her small cottage. Marushka lived in there with this kind woman. She helped her to tidy, cook and collect the magic herbs. She often thought of her father and sisters, and she felt very unhappy. The old woman tried to comfort her: “Don’t worry, soon you will go back home and salt will be worth more than gold,” she said and looked at Marushka nicely.

One day a big feast was prepared in the castle. Suddenly the cook ran to the king, "Your Majesty, all the salt has disappeared. How can I cook?" "Use something different instead of the salt," replied the King. "Well, Your Majesty, what is able to salt such as salt?" the cook asked again. But the king did not know what to say. He got angry and sent the cook away. He made him to cook unsalted meals. It was a strange feast - unsalted! Guests did not like these meals at all and everybody left the castle very soon.

The king sent messengers to all parts of the Kingdom to find and bring some salt, but they all came back without it and told the king, that salt was nowhere. And who had it, he would not sell it even if they offered a lot of gold.

Day after day there were meals on the table – but without salt and everybody longed only for salt. People were walking around dazed and fell into a severe illness. The king himself and his daughters fell ill, too.

Now the King found out what a precious gift the salt was and he realized how badly he hurt Maruska.

"Your time to return home has come. There is not a pinch of salt in your Kingdom. Salt is worth more than gold. Now your father must admit that you loved him most." Afterwards she asked Marushka a question: "You served me nicely, what do you want to get for your service?"

"I'd like to ask you for some salt. I'll bring it to my father, sisters and all the people in my Kingdom. I wish my Daddy recovered quickly." "You are a very clever and good daughter, Marushka, I will give you what you are asking for. Here is a wand. When the wind



first blows from noon, go through three valleys, over three hills, then stop and hit the ground with the wand. The ground will open and you will go inside. Everything that you will find there is yours."

Marushka thanked nicely and rushed home. She had a simple dress and a headscarf on. Nobody in the castle recognized her. They did not want to let her enter the castle. "Oh, just let me go to the King, I have a special gift for him. Gift, that is more precious than gold and it will surely heal him." They told the king and he ordered them to bring the woman. When Marushka came, she asked for some bread. King commanded to bring bread. "But we do not have any salt," he said. "It does not matter. I have" said Maruska. She cut a slice of bread, sprinkled it with salt and handed it to the king. "Salt!" called the king with delight. "Oh, dear young woman, it is a precious gift, how can I reward you? Ask for whatever you want, you will get everything." Marushka took the scarf off her head, looked at her father nicely and said warmly: "Don't mention it, my father, just love me as you love this salt!" The King felt happy and begged her daughter to forgive him. He summoned all the people and said: "This is my dear child, Marushka, she brought a gift that is worth more than all the others – salt. She is your new Queen because she loves me most."

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As soon as she became the Queen, she went like the nice old woman told her - over three valleys and three hills, then she stopped and hit the ground with the wand. The earth opened and Maruska went into the ground. Suddenly she came into a large castle. It was like ice. Little dwarfs were running in and calling: "Welcome, welcome, our queen, we are waiting for you." The dwarfs showed her everything and gave her a rose with no fragrance. "Everything here is salt," the dwarfs announced. Marushka thanked the dwarfs nicely and came out of the earth, but the earth remained open for her. After returning home she showed the rose to her father and told him everything she saw.

Marushka got the most beautiful gift ... there was enough salt in her Kingdom forever.



Soľ nad zlato

Jeden kráľ mal tri dcéry. Mal ich veľmi rád. Keď zostarol, začal rozmýšľať, ktorá z dcér by po jeho smrti mala byť kráľovnou. Napadlo mu, aby tú za kráľovnú ustanovil, ktorá ho najväčšmi ľúbi. I zavolať svoje dcéry a povedal im: „Starý som a preto si chcem vybrať, ktorá z vás bude kráľovnou. Ale skôr by som rád vedel, ako ma ktorá ľúbite.

Nuž, dcéra moja najstaršia, povedz najprv ty, ako ľúbiš svojho otca?“ „Ech, otec môj milý, milší ste mi nad zlato,“ odpovedala najstaršia dcéra a otcovi ruku pobozkala. „No dobre, a ty, dcéra prostredná, akože ty ľúbiš svojho otca?“ „Jaj, otec môj sladký, ja vás ľúbim viac ako najkrajšie šaty!“ „Výborne! Vidím, že obe ma veľmi ľúbite.“ „A ty, Maruška, dcéra moja najmladšia, akože ty ľúbiš svojho otca?“ „Ja, tatuško, vás ľúbim ako soľ!“ odpovedala Maruška a sladko na otca pozrela.

„Ech, ty naničhodnica, ty otca väčšmi neľúbiš ako soľ?“ rozkríkli sa na ňu staršie sestry. „Ako soľ!“ prisvedčila Maruška úprimne. Ale kráľ sa na dcéru náramne rozhneval. „Chod' mi z očí, keď si ma viac nevážiš ako tú soľ!“ okríkol kráľ Marušku a doložil: „Až príde čas, že ľuďom bude soľ vzácnejšia než zlato, potom príď, budeš kráľovnou.“ A vyhnal ju zo zámku.

Maruška sa rozplakala a utekala preč zo zámku. Vydala sa cez hory, doly, až prišla do tmavého lesa. Nevedela, čo má robiť, bola veľmi nešťastná. Tu zrazu postaví sa jej do cesty starenka. „Prečo plačeš, Maruška?“ opýtala sa starenka. Maruška starkej všetko rozpovedala a nakoniec povedala, že nechce byť kráľovnou a len to si žiada, aby sa otec presvedčil, že ho má naozaj veľmi rada. Starká Maruške verila, lebo to bola múdra žena, veštica. Zaviedla Marušku do svojho domu. Maruška žila v domčeku so starenkou, pomáhala jej upratovať, variť a zbierať zázračné bylinky. Často myslela na otca a svoje dve sestry a vtedy sa cítila nešťastná. Starenka sa ju snažila utešiť: „Neboj sa, čoskoro sa vrátiš domov a soľ bude vzácnejšia než zlato,“ povedala a milo sa na Marušku pozrela.



Raz mala byť na zámku veľká hostina. Pribehol však kuchár ku kráľovi: „Pán kráľ, všetka soľ zmizla. Čímže ja budem soliť?“ „Soľ voľáčim iným,“ vravel kráľ. „Nuž, pán kráľ, a čože tak solí ako soľ?“ spýtal sa opäť kuchár. Ale kráľ nevedel, čo povedať. Nahneval sa a vyhnal kuchára. Kázal mu, aby varil jedlá neslané. Bola to divná hostina – neslaná! Hostom vôbec nechutilo a všetci veľmi rýchlo zo zámku odišli.

Kráľ poslal poslov na všetky strany po soľ, ale všetci sa vrátili bez nej a vraveli kráľovi, že jej niet. A kto ju má, že nepredá, ani keby zlatom zaplatili. Deň po dni prichodili na stôl jedlá bez soli a každý už len po soli túžil. Ľudia chodili ako omámení a upadali do ťažkých chorôb. Sám kráľ a jeho dcéry ochoreli. Teraz poznával kráľ, aký vzácny dar je soľ a uvedomil si, ako Maruške ublížil.

„Dievka moja, prišiel tvoj čas, aby si sa vrátila domov,“ povedala starká Maruške. „V tvojom kráľovstve už nie je ani omrvinka soli. Teraz kráľ vie, že ty ho máš najradšej. Dobre si mi slúžila, Maruška, čo by si chcela za svoju službu?“ „Nič si nežiadam, len za hrst' soli, čo by som doniesla otcovi, sestrám a všetkým ľuďom v mojom kráľovstve. Želám si, aby sa môj otec rýchlo uzdravil.“

„Si veľmi múdra a dobrá dcéra, dám ti, čo žiadaš. Tu, hľa, máš prútik. Keď vietor prvý raz od poludnia zafúka, choď cez tri doliny, cez tri vrchy, potom zastaň a šibni tým prútikom zem. Kde šibneš, tam sa zem otvorí a ty choď dnu. Všetko, čo tam nájdeš, je tvoje.“



Maruška sa starkej pekne poďakovala a ponáhľala sa domov. Mala jednoduché šaty a na hlave šatku. Nikto v zámku ju nespoznal a nechceli ju ku kráľovi pustiť. „Ach, len ma pust'ťe,“ hovorila Maruška, „nesiem pánu kráľovi taký dar, čo je vzácnejší než zlato, taký, čo ho istotne vylieči.“ Povedali to kráľovi a on rozkázal, aby ženičku k nemu pustili. Keď k nemu prišla, žiadala, aby jej dali chlieb. Kráľ rozkázal, aby priniesli chlieb. „Ale soli nemáme,“ dodal. „To nevadí, ja mám!“ povedala Maruška. Odkrojila chlieb, posolila ho a podala kráľovi. „Soľ!“ zaradoval sa kráľ. „Ej, ženička, to je vzácny dar, ako sa ti odmením? Žiadaj, čo len chceš, všetko dostaneš.“ Maruška si odkryla hlavu, milo na otca pozrela a povedala: „Nič nechcem, otecko, len ma radi majte ako tú soľ!“ Kráľ sa veľmi potešil a prosil dcéru, aby mu odpustila. Zvolal všetkých ľudí kráľovstva a vyhlásil: „Toto je naša drahá dcéra, Maruška! Priniesla nám dar, ktorý je cennejší než všetky ostatné – soľ. Bude vašou novou kráľovnou, pretože ma najväčšmi ľúbi.

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Maruška ihneď ako ju za kráľovnú ustanovili, šla ako jej starká kázala - prešla tri doliny a tri vrchy, zastala a prútikom šibla zem. Ako šibla, zem sa rozostúpila a Maruška vošla do zeme. Zrazu prišla do veľkého zámku. Bol ako z ľadu. Behali v ňom malí trpaslíci a hovorili: „Vitaj nám, vitaj, kráľovná, už ťa čakáme.“ Trpaslíci jej všetko ukázali a dali jej ružu, ktorá nevoňala. „To všetko je soľ,“ povedali trpaslíci. Maruška sa trpaslíkom pekne poďakovala a vyšla zo zeme, ale zem ostala za ňou otvorená. Keď sa vrátila domov, ukázala otcovi ružu a rozpovedala mu všetko, čo videla.

Maruška dostala ten najkrajší dar... v jej kráľovstve bolo odvtedy vždy dost' soli.

