

## CZECH FAIRY TALE FOR THEATRE PLAY:

### “BRAKING OF THE DESTINY”

Once upon a time, in one kingdom, seven mountains, seven seas and seven rivers, there was a king who had four children: three sons and, the youngest one, a daughter.

The oldest son was very brave knight and his name was Gerceanu. The middle son was Shahzadah and he was very clever. And the youngest's name was Jiřík, and he was humble and he liked hard working. Their little sister was called Zlatovlaska, because her hair was shining like a sun and flame. She was a fairy lady: as gentle as the first spring blossom, as fragile as the snowdrop, as kind as the saint. Her eyes were blue as the evening sky with first star, and when she smiled, it was like morning dew was clinging on the leaves of roses. Everybody must love her: father, brothers, and all the kingdom. If here poor mother lived, she would love her too...But she died in the night when her lovely lady was born.

In this night, three Faid Sisters visited her. The first said the prophecy: “You will be as beautiful as your mother, but you will suffer, because she is dying now because of your birth.” The second said: “You will be so kind and brave as your father, but you will suffer in solitude as he will from this night because his beloved wife is dying.” And the third one said: “When you are 17 years old, the prophecy will be fulfilled. **But if you cross the widest sea, put the sun on sky and turn the dead man into live, you will break your destination. Here are three gifts: the stone, the hankerchief, and the knife.** They will help you, if you use them well and for good things.”

The children grew up and the old king got older and older. He started to think: who of his three sons will be the king after him? Gerceanu, Shahzadah, or Jiřík? All of them would be good rules...

Finally, the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday of Zlatovlaska came. She really grew up into the most beautiful and fairest maid in the whole world! Big party with ball was prepared, great tournament with riders and noblemen on horses, and great men from neighbourhood were invited. Who knows, Zlatovlaska is a girl for a wedding, maybe she will find her husband on the ball.

The midnight came, and the clock bell began to chime. Suddenly, during the fireworks, in big thunderstorm the ogres appeared!

“You have not invited us to the birthday ball,” one of them cried.

“You have not thought we could be husbands for your daughter,” the other screamed.

“So you will lose your daughter, and nobody can deliver her, hahahaha!” the third shouted, grasped Zlatovlaska into his ugly huge paws and they vanished with her in the cloud of sulphur and stink.

The heart of old king was broken. He fell on his knees and began to pray: “Oh help me, oh God, and give me an advice and the power to deliver my poor beloved child!” And he remembered the prophecy of Faid Sisters. “Sons! My sons! Where are you?”

“Here we are, our father,” three sons said as one man. “What do you want us to do?”

“Listen, sons: who delivers Zlatovlaska, he will be the king.”

Of course every of the princes wanted to rule, who does not?

“I will find my sister,” promised the brave Gerceanu.

“I will find my dear sister,” claimed the clever Shahzadah.

“I will find her and save her, my dear daddy,” humble Jiřík whispered with tears in his eyes.

They packed their haversacks, saddle their horses and set out to find their sister.

Meanwhile, Zlatovlaska was prisoned by ogres. Their giant mother wanted her to marry one of their sons, but she refused. She cut her golden hair as the sign of sorrow, the stars in her eyes died out, her smile got frozen and she stopped talking with anybody. She was only sitting in black stone tower and watching into dark with her blind eyes...

Three princes reach the crossroad. They threw their knives into the earth and promised to each other: “Let us meet one year later under this signpost. If somebody of us is not here and there is the rust on his knife, it will be the sign of his death.” They kissed and blessed themselves and choose their way.

Gerceanu, the brave one, rode his black horse on the right side. He travelled through deep valleys and high mountains, and everywhere he asked people, if they saw ogres or if they heard about Zlatovlaska. But nobody gave him an advice. Many days later, he met the Turtle by the seashore. “You are searching for something, I think, aren't you?” The Turtle asked him slowly, with wisdom in her old eyes. “Yes, I am, Lady Turtle,” Gerceanu agreed with a flash of hope in his eyes. “I wish to find my sister Zlatovlaska, but evil Ogres have kidnapped her and I do not know where.” – “Well, prince, I can help you, if you help me,”

the Turtle winked. “Oh really? How?” The Brave prince shouted. “Do you see the island on the skyline? There are my eggs, and evil mermaids wanted them to eat! If you swim over the sea to the island, manage to look after my eggs for three days until little turtles are born, I will tell you how to break the power of ogres.” Gerceanu smiled: “So easy task? Look after my horse, and I am back in three days!” And he sprang into the water and bravely swam to the island.

It was easy for him because he was strong, well training. But mermaids came to the shore where he was looking after the eggs: “Come with us, handsome and brave hero, come with us! You will be the king of the whole sea!” And Gerceanu fall in love with the princess of the mermaids...

Meanwile Zlatovlaska was feeling she is slowly dying...

The middle way was chosen by Shahzadah, the clever prince. He also travelled through valleys, mountains, deserts and plains, but nobody told him anything about Ogres or Zlatovlaska. When he began to be despaired, he met the Hare by the snow plain. “What are you looking for here?” Asked him the Hare. “How do you know that I am looking for something, Mr Hare?” Shahzadah wondered. “I know many things which were, which are, and which could happen, dear clever prince,” the Hare winked, “if you help me, I will help you to find and save Zlatovlaska.” Shahzadah kissed him: “O dear Mr Hare, I am able to do everything to save my dear sister!” – “Do you see the end of the snow plain on the skyline? There are my little hares, and the eagle wants to eat them. If you manage to cross the field and give the evil the riddle which he could not answer, I will help you to destroy ogres and take Zlatovlaska home.” Shahzadah did not hesitate, let his brown horse by the shire of the plain and carefully went through the field. He managed to find hare’s babies and outmanoeuvre the eagle, but when he wanted to go back, beautiful she-eagles flied to him, changed into fairy maids and promised him: “If you come with us, you will rule to the clouds!” And Shahzadah fall in love with the princess of the eagles...

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Jiřík choose the left way on the crossroad. He thought about himself that he is not so brave and so clever like his brothers are, but he did not like anybody more than his sister,

neither himself! He remembered the prophecy of Fate Sisters, and he was hoping that it is possible to break the course; in spite of he did not know how. He rode his dapple-grey horse, through the valleys, through the mountains, through the rivers and plains, through the deserts, forests and snow plains, and everywhere he could he helped the people, but nobody helped him how to find Zlatovlaska. After many days, he came to the meadow by the sea, where the old fisherman with his family lived. But he was not only the fisherman: he was the wise man and prophet. “What are you searching for, Jiřík?” He asked, throwing the fishing rod into the water. “You know my name?” Jiřík was upset. “I know many things,” the fisherman smiled. “If you help me, I will help you, how to find and deliver your sister. Look: there is the black castle on the mountains behind the skyline. You cannot see it well because ogres have stolen the sky, they have thought it will make your sister alive.” – “She is dead?” Jiřík began to cry. “Not yet, but she is going to, the birds have told us,” the fisherman sighed. “Oh how can I save her? Please, I beg you, help me, Mr Fisherman!” – “There is only one way how to save her, and you cannot be alone. With my son Palunko you can manage it. Listen: cross the sea, and you will find ravens on the shore. They promised me the living water, but they do not want to bring me it. If you reach the water of life, I will borrow you my own and beloved son Palunko. He is the fisherman of people: he knows how to reach the truth, the justice, and the real freedom of the heart.” Jiřík kissed fisherman’s hands, let him his horse and swam over the sea to the shore when the black castle was built by the Ogres. He was absolutely exhausted when he reached the other shore, but he thanked to God for the chance.

Then Ravens flew to him. “We know why are you here,” they cawed, “Zlatovlaska is still alive, but she is dying soon! You can save her, but you will die...” – “It does not matter to me!” Jiřík jumped. “Only if she will live!” “Our children, little ravens, are dying because of hunger, give them your flesh. We will bring the living water to old Fisherman, and he will send his son Palunko to save Zlatovlaska. Do not be afraid, your pain will help her. You are the living stone of patience of her gift, you are the handkerchief for her tears and bleeding heart, and you are the knife who will kill the evil and who will be the instrument of patience, brave, wisdom and true love.” – “Please tell my sister how much I love her,” Jiřík whispered, and uncovered his chest.

The little ravens flew to him and ate his heart. Full of power of life, the raven’s family brought the water of life to Fisherman’s family. Fisherman splattered with the water the

grave of his wife, and she rose up as she was only sleeping. Palunko, the fisherman's son, sat on raven's back, and flew into the black castle, to the chamber of Zlatovlaska.

"The kiss of your brother Jiřík who sacrificed himself to save you," Polunko said kissing her. – "What has happened with me?" Zlatovlaska whispered and the stars returned back into her eyes. "You are so fairy and I love you," Polunko told her gently. "We can defeat evil Ogres together. May the sacrifice of your brother is not vain." Zlatovlaska threw out the veil of her cut golden hair, and it was like the morning has broken. "Let the see go back to the sky, to the glory of God!" she claimed and began to dance, full of joy, power, hope and love. She began to smile and the morning dew fall on the flowers like a blessing. And the sun really was put back on the sky!

"Love! True love! Help!" The ogres screamed dying below the power of Zlatovlaska and Palunko. The ravens pecked their eyes off and the castle was being fallen into ruins. The ravens brought Polunko and Zlatovlaska to the Fisherman cottage, put them on Jiřík's dapple-grey horse, and sent them home.

One year was over, and Gerceanu, the king of the sea, and Shahzadah, the king of the air, remembered the meeting on the crossroad. They realized that Jiřík's knife was rusted-through. They brought home their wife, the Princess of Mermaids and Princess of Eagles, but with a feeling of blame that they have not found their sister. But Palunko and Zlatovlaska got married: the curse was broken because of Jiřík's sacrifice and Zlatovlaska's faith and Palunko's courage.

"My father, I have not found your daughter, but I have found a wife for me," Gerceanu said, bowing his head.

"My father, I have not found Zlatovlaska, but I have found a wife for me too," Shahzadah said, also bowing his head.

"My father, Jiřík had to die to save me, and he found me the husband," Zlatovlaska said, kissing father's hands and pouring them with tears.

"May his soul find his peace," the old king cried. "Bless you all: you, Gerceanu, and your wife, honourable princess of Mermaids, you, Shahzadah, and your wife, princess of the Eagles. And bless you, Palunko, the new king after me and the husband of Zlatovlaska."

The old king died in peace. Palunko with Zlatovlaska were clever, and good rulers and they lived happily ever after.