

THE HAMMER LOST AND FOUND

The Frost Giants didn't like the sunshine and the flowers, and they didn't like to hear the birds sing. They wanted to destroy¹ everything that was beautiful.

Most of all they wanted to get into Asgard – that's where the gods lived. But they were afraid of Thor and his hammer. The hammer was a powerful weapon². The Frost Giants thought, "If we can only get the hammer, we can get into Asgard."

In their terrible home under the earth, the Frost Giants talked and planned all night. At last one of them said, "I know how we can get the hammer. I will dress in a bird suit³. Then I will fly up to Thor's house and steal it."

The next night the Frost Giant put on a suit with wings⁴ and feathers⁵. Then he flew into Thor's house. Everything was dark, and everybody was sleeping. The Giant saw Thor's bed in the darkness; Thor was sleeping, too. Slowly, quietly, the Frost Giant moved closer. He took the hammer and flew away with it.

When Thor woke up, he put out his hand to get the hammer, but he couldn't find it. It was gone. Thor was very scared. He called his friend Loki and told him, "Loki, the hammer is gone. I'm sure the Frost Giants have stolen it. This is a catastrophe. Without my hammer, we can't stop the Frost Giants! We must try to get it back."

Loki said, "Don't worry. I can get it back if Freyja gives me her falcon suit. I'll put it on and fly to the Frost Giants' home."

So Loki went to Freyja and asked her, "Can I have your falcon suit? The Frost Giants have Thor's hammer. If I can't get it back, they will come here and destroy everything."

Freyja nodded and said, "Yes, of course you can. Anything to get the hammer back."

Loki took the falcon suit and put it on, and when he moved his big wings, he rose⁶ up in the air. He rose



¹ destroy: zerstören

² a powerful weapon: eine mächtige Waffe

³ bird suit: Vogelanzug (mit dem man fliegen kann)

⁴ wing: Flügel

⁵ feather: Feder

⁶ rise, rose, risen: steigen

higher and higher and flew away from the city of the Gods, down to the terrible Giant's home. When he arrived there, he took off the falcon suit. He walked until he arrived at Thrym's house. Thrym was the king of the Frost Giants. He had taken the hammer. He was sitting on the porch⁷ and making gold collars⁸ for his dogs.

When Thrym saw Loki, he shouted at him, "What do you want?"

Loki answered, "I have come for the hammer. It isn't yours; it belongs to Thor. Give it back." The old giant laughed and said, "You will never get the hammer back. It is buried⁹, eight miles deep in the ground, where you will never find it. But there is one way you can get it. I will give you the hammer if I can marry Freya."

Loki stared¹⁰ at him, but he didn't know what to say. Finally, he flew back to Asgard. Thor was already waiting for him. He asked his friend, "Well, did you get the hammer?"

Loki shook his head. "No, I'm sorry. Thrym doesn't want to give it back. We can only get back it if Freyja becomes Thrym's wife."

"Freyja won't like that", said Thor, with a sigh¹¹.

So the two gods went to Freyja's house. They told her, "Put on your very best clothes and come with us. You must be Thrym's wife."

Freyja got very angry. She shouted at the two gods, "Are you mad? I won't be his wife. He is terrible, ugly and stupid, and he stinks!"

"But you must," Thor said desperately¹². "He won't give us the hammer if you don't marry him."

Still Freyja said again and again, "I won't go." She was very angry, and nothing could change her mind.

The gods were helpless. What could they do without Freyja? Then one of them had an idea.

"Thor, you must dress like Freyja. You have to pretend that you are the bride¹³."

Thor shook his head. "I won't do it. I won't dress up like a girl. You will all laugh at me."

"Well, that is the only way we can get the hammer back," the other gods said.

Finally Thor said yes. They dressed him up as Freyja. Thor put on Freyja's dress and veil¹⁴, and they braided¹⁵ his long hair. He didn't really look like Freya, but the veil hid his face.

Loki said, "I will dress up too, and be your servant¹⁶." And he, too, put on women's clothes.

⁷ porch: Veranda

⁸ collar: Halsband

⁹ to bury: begraben

¹⁰ stare: starren

¹¹ sigh: Seufzen

¹² desperate: verzweifelt

¹³ bride: Braut

¹⁴ veil: Schleier

¹⁵ braid: flechten

Then they got into Thor's wagon and drove to the Giants' home.

When the Frost Giants saw them coming, they called, "Get ready, there's the bride! Let's sit down at the table."

The dinner was ready. The table was full of good food. Everybody sat down and they began to eat. Thor ate a whole ox and eight salmon¹⁷ before the others had taken a bite.

"She must be very hungry," the Frost Giants said. They were very surprised.

"Yes," Loki said, "she was so happy to come. She hasn't eaten anything for eight days."

Then they brought in the mead¹⁸. The bride drank three barrels¹⁹ of mead.

"How thirsty she is!" said the Frost Giants. They couldn't believe their eyes.

Loki said, "Yes, she is very thirsty. She was so happy to be Thrym's wife. She hasn't drunk anything for eight days."

Old Thrym said, "I had everything I wanted, except for²⁰ Freyja. Now I have her, too."

Then Thrym wanted to kiss the bride. He lifted her veil, but her eyes were like fire. Thrym stepped back hastily. His voice shook when he said, "Why are her eyes so bright?"

Loki said, "Oh, she was so happy to come. She hasn't slept for eight nights." Then he said, "Now it's time for the hammer. Go and get it and put it in the bride's lap²¹."

As soon as the hammer was in his lap, Thor threw the veil away.

He took the hammer and whirled²² it around. Fire flew from it. The fire burned the house and the Frost Giants ran away.

So Thor got his hammer back.

¹⁶ servant: Diener(in)

¹⁷ salmon: Lachs

¹⁸ mead: Met (Honigbier)

¹⁹ barrel: Fass

²⁰ except for: außer

²¹ lap: Schoß

²² whirl: schleudern

EXERCISE 1 Verbinde die beiden Seiten.

Thor		is where the Gods live.
Thrym		is a powerful weapon.
Asgard		owns a powerful hammer.
Freyja		doesn't want to marry Thrym.
Loki		is the king of the Frost Giants.
The hammer		is Thor's friend.

EXERCISE 2 Setze die richtigen Wörter ein!

want – burned – steal – ate – fly – sleeping – wife – clothes – find – suit – hammer – king

- a) The Frost Giants couldn't get into Asgard because of Thor's _____.
- b) So the Frost Giants decided to _____ the hammer.
- c) One Frost Giant put on a bird suit to _____ to Thor's house.
- d) He could take the hammer because Thor was _____.
- e) When Thor awoke, he couldn't _____ the hammer.
- f) Loki went to Freya because he wanted to borrow her falcon _____.
- g) Loki went to Thrym, the _____ of the Frost Giants.
- h) Thrym said: "I will give the hammer back if Freya becomes my _____."
- i) Loki and Thor asked Freya to marry Thrym, but she didn't _____ to.
- j) So Thor had to dress up as Freya. He put on women's _____.
- k) They Frost Giants were surprised because Thor _____ a whole oxen and drank eight barrels of wine, and because his eyes were like fire.
- l) When the Frost Giants gave the hammer to Thor, he took of his veil and _____ the Frost Giant's house.

Lösung

EXERCISE 1 Thor owns a powerful hammer. Thrym is the king of the Frost Giants. Asgard is where the Gods live. Freyja doesn't want to marry Thrym. Loki is Thor's friend. The hammer is a powerful weapon.

EXERCISE 2 a) hammer b) steal c) fly d) sleeping e) find f) suit g) king h) wife i) want j) clothes k) ate l) burned