

Sunday (Opening, Julia):

A Story about a Cave

By Maria Lehtovaara, translated and slightly modified from the Finnish original by Julia

Once upon a time there was a mountain, with a huge and complicated labyrinth of caves inside. Through the ages, adventurers had been fascinated by these caves, pining to explore their dark secrets. But the caves were treacherous, and some of these brave women and men had lost their way in the dark and never come out again.

At the mouth of the cave, an old woman was standing guard. As a young adventurer came to enter the cave, the crone told her: "I will let you into the cave, but you must wait for the next traveler to arrive here, so that you have company on the road". The adventurer was annoyed by this patronizing piece of advice, she tried to convince the old woman of her skills, she wanted to go into the cave on her own and show how brave she was! But the old woman refused to let her into the cave, nobody would enter alone.

The adventurer had to wait a long while before another traveler arrived to the cave. But when he arrived, the old woman finally let them both into the dark labyrinth. She even gave them a burning candle each, and gave them one last warning: "take care of your candles, because you will not have any other light in the cave."

The two heroes entered the cave.

Much later, they climbed out, dirt-spattered, but smiling, proud that they had survived the challenge. They walked up to the old woman and told her: "how lucky we were to have each other in the darkness, and how lucky that each of us had a candle! Every time the wind blew out one of the candles, or it got extinguished by dripping water, we could help each other out and light it with the second candle! We could never have done this alone!"

The old woman smiled at the two adventurers, and said: "now you understand, why it is not good to brave the unknown alone".