

Bazyliszek

A long time ago, on one of the streets of the old Warsaw, a famous armorer, master Melchior, lived. He had his workshop here, in which the best Polish knights bought heavy swords and armor. In the yard at the workshop, sometimes children of the master, Halszka and Maciek were playing. The children watched their father's work and admired the knights' cortege, stopping by their home. On market days, when merchants came to the city, parents let the children go out to the market. Halszka and Maciek admired colorful stalls, full of goods from beyond the sea, and performances by circus performers, trained bears or monkeys. One day the master Melchior said: You can go to the market and watch the jugglers' dances, but do not approach the old tenement on a Crooked Circle. People say that this place is haunted. Okay father, we will not go there - promised Maciek. In a crowd of people on the market, children met Walek, a well-known Warsaw urchin who rushed out of breath, running straight to the crooked circle.

-Come with me- said Walek. -I've find out that in the dungeons of an old town house there are countless treasures. -No, no, our father didn't let us- said Maciek. -But if we find the treasure, your father will be rich!- Walek was convincing his friends, and after a while they decided to go with him. Path to the basement contained of very long stairs. There was unbelievably cold and dark. Halszka was ever crying a little bit. And suddenly Walek shout: -Look! There is something shiny at the end of a hallway! It must be our treasure! He was right! In the darkness of basement it definitely was some light. Halszka immediately stopped crying, and Walek went ahead. Then a scary monster crawl out from behind wooden door. It wasn't a cock, and it wasn't a dragon. He fizzeld, which made already frightened kids fear even more. They had goosebumps on their backs. He looked at Walek. Blue-ish, cold light of Bazyliszek's eyes fall down on the boy. Walek screamed, and fell down, dead.

- Halszka! Maciek! Say something! Are you there? - We're here nanny Agata - shouted Halszka - fortunetly guard Valenty saw you at the entrance to the dungeons, that's how I found you - said nanny moving in the light of the mule. Good Agata didn't know how big danger threatens her until Maciek grabed her long skirt and pulled to himself - don't go any farther, nanny. Hide and don't look there! - shouted, but he was too late because at this moment the basilisk looked at the frightened Agata. Poor nanny scared of the monsters eyesight fell unconscious. The mule fell out of her hands and. - nobody's going to help us! - cried Halszka. Maciek rapped his arm around her shoulder and wispered: - don't cry couse the basilisk will hear us. We have to wait here quietly. Maybe someone will help us. After a few hours master Melchior was very conserned about the absence of children. Also, he couldn't find nanny Agata that went to the center and disappeared. - where can they be - worried master Melchior - I can't wait any more, I have to find them Master Melchior and his wife went to the center and started to ask people if they didn't see their kids. Someone pointed his finger on the curved wheel but at the old tanement house guard Valenty warned the master - don't go there, master Melchior otherwise the misfortune will meet you. You'r kids and nanny are there, but there's a monster too. Nobody had defeat him yeat. Go to father Bakalarusa he's smart and clever maybe he will find something on his books.

Master Melchior went pale on face scared about children's fate. Thanked for advice and stepped on straight to the monastery, where father Bakalarus lived. Scholar listened carefully to Melchior's tale, then he grabbed book, in which under basilisk picture there was written:

“The basilisk kills everyone he sees with his eyes. Whoever has enough bravure to put a mirror in front of basilisk, will free the town. As the monster sees himself through the glass, he will kill himself with his very own eyes”.

“So there is a chance of rescuing the children” Master Melchior thought. And even if they’re already dead, at least nobody else would feel endangered.

Father Bakalarus agreed, went to shed, from which he brought an old and dusty mirror. Master Melchior cleaned it up and took it with him to the Tilted Wheel. His wife followed him in tears. As they stopped by an old tenement house, they saw a crowd of villagers, waiting for what will happen next. Master Melchior put the mirror in front of him and bravely walked downstairs, to the cellar. He was going down steep, curvy stairs, through a very long corridor, finally he saw a small blue light coming out of the end of the tunnel. He knew it wasn’t any treasure, but a mortal danger.

When Master Melchior came close enough to the light, that he could see the shape of the monster, he covered himself with the mirror and started to make some noise. Basiliszek lured with the pattering came out of his hide and looked at the mirror with a burning look. He fell dead, just at Master Melchior's feet. Kids ran out of their hide. -father! Father! - they shouted and Melchior crying with happiness, hugged them tightly. When they came out of underground there was no end of joy and greetings. Mother led Halszka and Maciek home, the crowds of townspeople cheered a long time for the great master.