

# The Chronicles of Doggerland

Episode IV

*The Berry Bags*

or

*Why Gnomes Wear  
Long Pointed Hats*



*By*

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PRE-COLORED LINE DRAWINGS BY RICK MOTT

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Greetings children, my name is Wismand. I am the wiseman (*Wisari*) and chief teller of tales of the Nisse people you call Gnomes. Let me tell you the story of why we Southern Gnomes started wearing tall pointed hats, as it was not always so. 🍁



# The Berry Bags

or

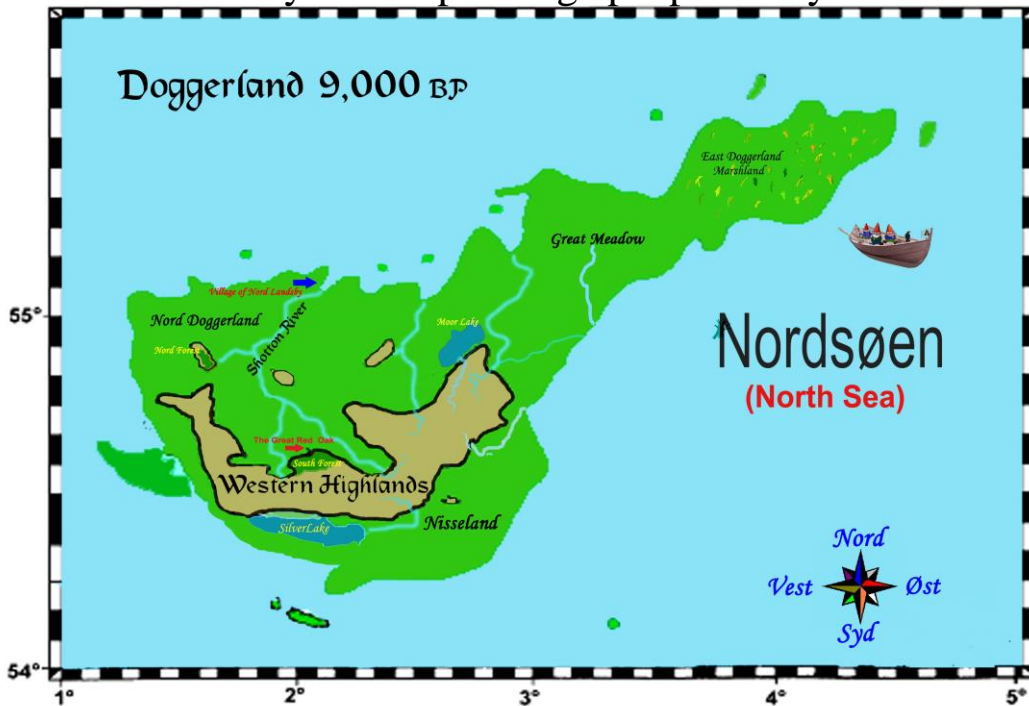
## Why Gnomes Wear Tall, Pointed Hats.

Way back, thousands of years ago, right after *istida* (the last great ice age), the little people of what we now call Northern Europe lived in a land called Doggerland. They called themselves the “Nisse” (Nidsi). The name means “Dear little relative” in English.

As the climate became warmer, the sea levels rose, and a giant earthquake off the coast of Norge (Norway), created a *kæmpe bølge* (giant wave), causing Doggerland to become covered with water. So, the little folk migrated in their



little boats, with their beloved dogs, ravens, and other cherished belongings to what is now called Scandinavia, the British Isles, and Germany. When the tiny folk arrived, they set up their homes in the forests and eventually came upon large people like you.

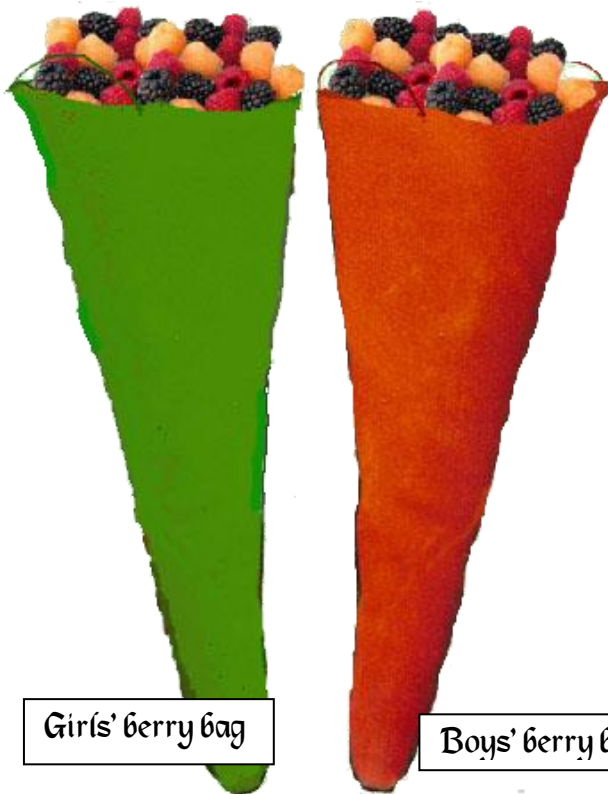


*Doggerland: the original home of the Gnomes, 9,200 years ago.*

Since the Nisse Gnomes were very secretive, they had developed the ability to blend in with the forest so they were almost invisible. It was easy for them to watch big humans and not be seen. Unlike the Northern and Highland Doggerland Nisse, these Gnomes had not taken to wearing hats, as Southern Doggerland was quite warm with no need for them.

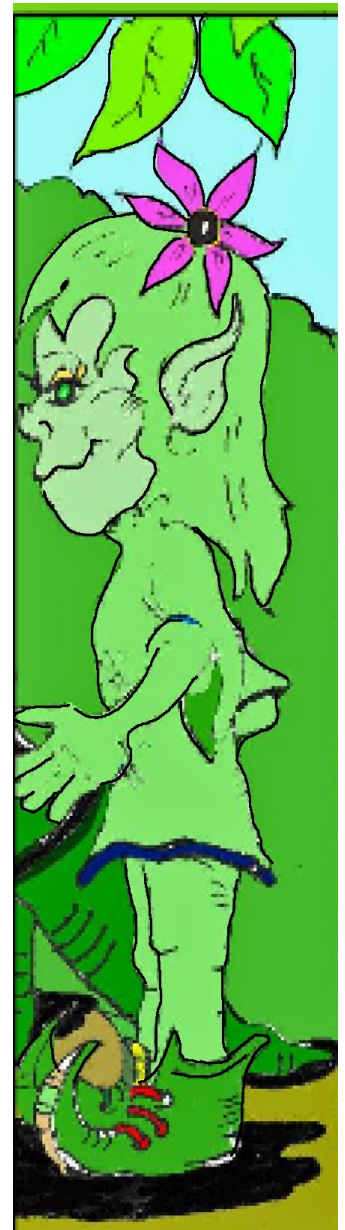
The Gnomes noticed that human children

took a long time to grow big, and were rather helpless compared to Gnome children, who grow fast and have most of the Gnome instincts soon after their birth.



Girls' berry bag

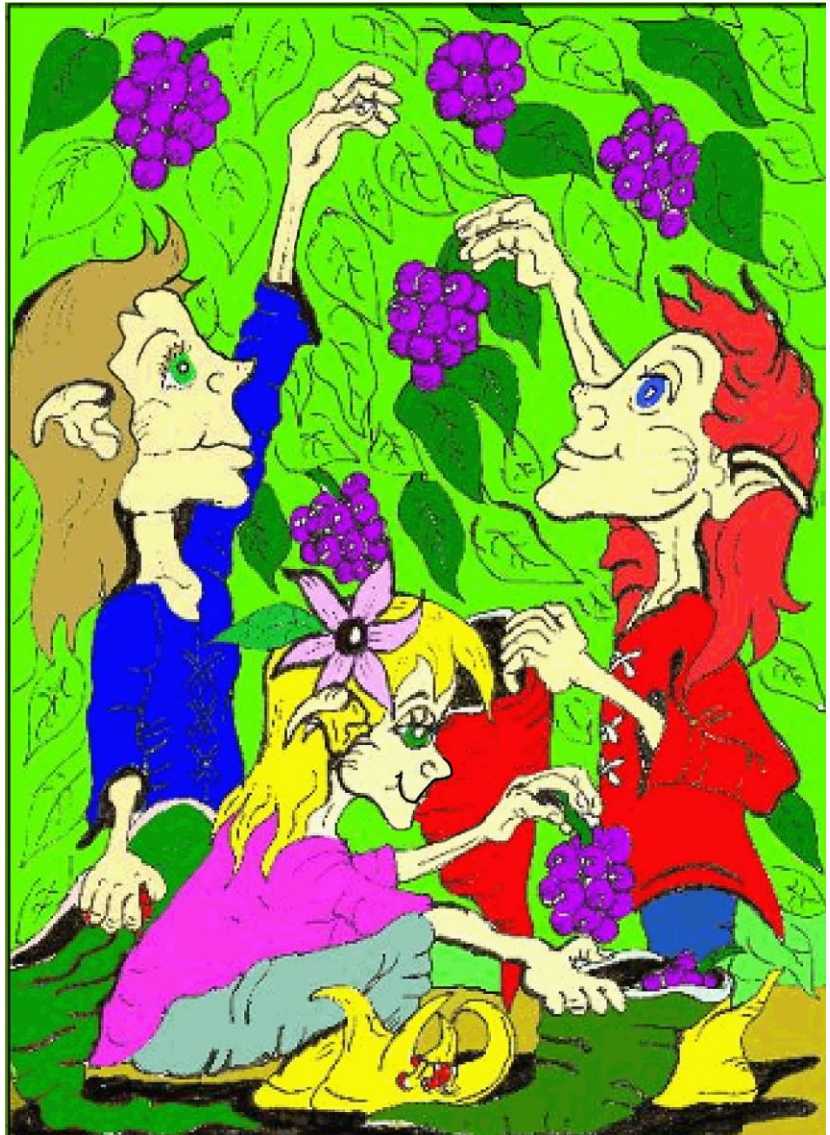
Boys' berry bag



One cool

spring day, a group of three Gnomes, *Sissel*, *Eldar*, and their older sister, *Fróydis*, were on a berry-gathering hike. Each of the three Gnomes had a cloth bag to put berries in. It was traditional for the girl to carry green berry-bags and the boy Gnomes red berry-bags. The bags were long with a wide end for throwing berries in and a narrow end to hold when they were emptied.

The little group had been searching for quite a time and were almost ready to give up when Sissel saw a large flock of birds flying up and down like they were on an invisible trampoline. The Gnomes hurried over the hill to see what was going on. To their delight, the birds were flying down to a stand of bushes filled with ripe berries. When a group got their fill, they would fly up and another flock would go down to the berries.



The little group of happy Gnomes hurried down to pick the delicious berries. As they picked the berries, Eldar playfully threw one at Sissel. Then they all joined in throwing the little berries at each other, squealing all the time. Whenever they missed, a bird would swoop down and grab the flying berry in mid-air. By now, their faces were red and purple from the berries, and Fróydis, looking at how silly the others looked, started laughing. Soon they were all laughing.



Oldar, being the strongest, threw one berry so high, that the little friends almost lost sight of it when a Jaybird, flying as fast as the wind, grabbed the berry out of the air. When that happened, the three friends looked at each other, all thinking of the same thing:

***The legend of the Jaybirds!!!!***



*“Now children, let it be known that Gnomes are famous for their berry throwing, and those who can throw the farthest and most accurate are thought of as great athletes. That started a long time ago, as the legend tells us .”*

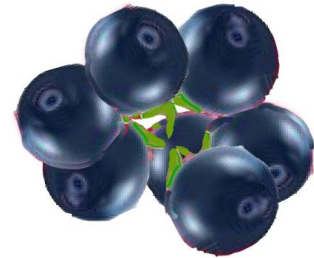


### *The Legend of the Jaybirds*

*The Legend has it that three Gnomes were stranded on a small island close to the shore because their boat hit a rock and had a hole in it. It would take days to fix the boat, and it was the only boat in the village. After a few days, the villagers were still all standing on the shore shouting encouragement to the stranded Gnomes. The three said they were very hungry and needed some food so they would be strong enough to row back to shore when they were finally done fixing their boat.*

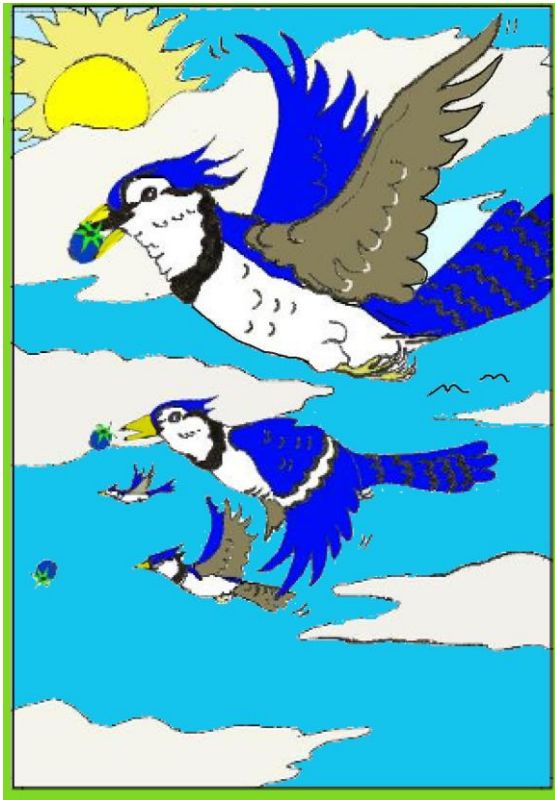


*The sad villagers did not know what to do. Gnomes are not good swimmers, as they usually ride on the backs of turtles or geese when they wish to cross rivers, but none of these friends can be found. The distance was too far for throwing a rope. Just then*

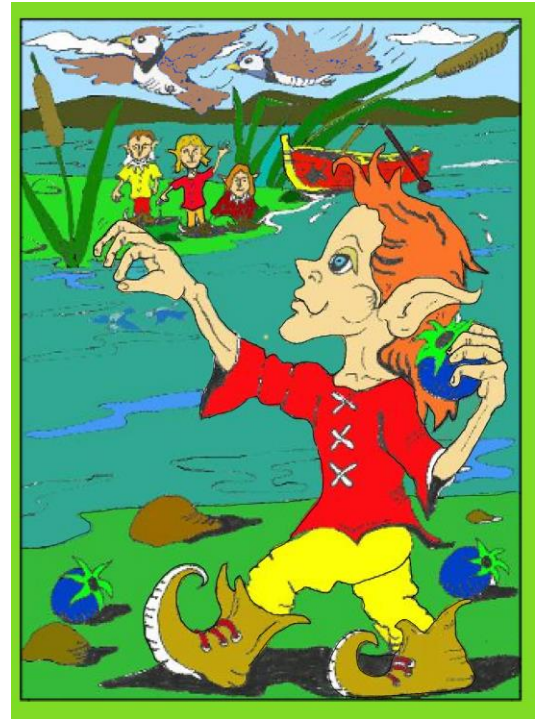


*Kaster, who was the tallest of the Gnome children, returned with his berry bag filled with large wild blueberries, which are a very nutritious food.*

*Gaster said that maybe he could throw the blueberries to the island, as it was close. He grabbed a handful of berries and threw them with all his strength. They flew high into the sky but fell short of the island. He tried again, still*



*it was too far. The villagers begged him to try one more time, so he climbed to the top of a giant sacred Red Oak tree and threw with all his strength. The berries*



*+ flew farther and higher than ever, but just as they were to fall short of the island a wonderful thing happened. A flock of Jaybirds had heard about the stranded Gnomes and had come to help.*

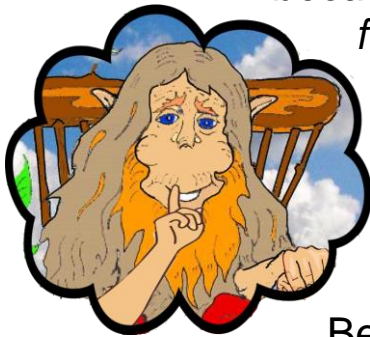
*The villagers saw the birds and chanted:*

*Jaybird, jaybird flying so high,  
Grab the berries in the sky,  
Drop them by each stranded Gnome,  
So they can safely return home.*



The fast-flying Jays grabbed the blueberries right out of the sky and dropped them to the hungry Gnomes on the island. Kaster threw more berries faster and faster, and the Jaybirds grabbed the berries, getting blueberry juice all over their feathers as they delivered them. After all the berries were gone, the birds landed next to the happy villagers. The Jays were all full of blue stains from the berries.

From that day on, the Jays were called Blue Jays and became the Gnomes' favorite feathered friends.



**“And that, my friends, is the legend of the Jaybirds”.** 

Back to the Berry Bags story; While the three Forest Gnomes were having fun throwing berries, a *kānin* (bunny) came running out of the brush. He did not even stop to get petted or to nibble a berry.



“My”, said *Frøydis*, who was the wisest of the three, “Bunny was in such a hurry he did not stop to give us a ride.” Gnomes would often ride the larger rabbits and would feed them delicious carrots afterward.



Suddenly, they heard a strange sound. It was new to them, so they peeked through the bushes and saw two human children, about 6 or 7 years old. The human children were making the noise, which sounded to the Gnomes like a rabbit squealing when it was in danger.



The children were actually crying, and since Gnome babies never cry, it was a new sound to the Gnome group, but they recognized it as an unhappy sound. They moved closer to the sound making sure they blended in with the forest colors, which made them almost invisible to creatures other than Gnomes.

They listened carefully to the human children. (*Gnomes had overheard the big people talking before and had picked up their language.*) Gnomes have fantastic memories and never forget anything. Adult Gnomes make sure their children learn all the memories of their parents as well, so Gnomes are great storytellers, telling stories from the beginning of their original home in Doggerland to the present. Every time Gnomes had an adventure, they would hurry back to their friends to tell of the event in great detail. So, the three Gnomes smelled a possible adventure worth the future telling of it to their friends.

The crying children were lost and had become separated from their parents while on a hike to pick wildflowers. They had never been in

this forest before, so they were scared.



Since it had become an

important part of Gnome life to help human children who were in distress, the three Gnomes were very concerned about the children. The three wondered what they could do to help, so they put their berry-stained heads together to come up with some ideas. They remembered something they had seen as they were picking berries.

Earlier, the Gnomes had seen some big people who had a camp near the river and thought that those might be the parents of the lost children. Since the Gnomes were forbidden from talking to big humans, they had to come up with a plan to help the children without being seen.

It was not too far from their parents' camp, so the Gnomes needed to point the way for the children, but again, how were they to do it? The three must hurry as the children were walking the wrong way, and it was getting late in the day. The Gnomes knew that it would become dark quickly in the forest. They knew they could not help the big people's children if it became dark since young Gnomes go to sleep when darkness fell and they would have to hurry back to their Gnome village.

The youngest of the three Gnomes, was Eldar, who often forgot to tie his boots, and was always tripping over his bootlaces. His parents made him bright red bootlaces so he could always see if they were tied.



*Fróydis*, his sister, was always reminding him to tie his laces. As they discussed how they could point the lost children to their parents' camp, Eldar suggested setting some sticks pointing to safety, while Sissel thought they might have one of their forest friends, perhaps a rabbit, run in the right direction so the children would follow. Fróydis looked down at her brother's untied bright red laces and suggested they make an arrow with them as they were bright and the human children would see them, unlike the sticks.



*Eldar* thought the bright colors were a good idea, but without his laces, his boots would come off. It seemed that all their ideas would not be successful. “What can we do?, Oh, what can we do?” said the group together.

Just then, little *Sissel* accidentally dropped his empty berry sack. It lay on the ground, its bright red color and pointed end were very visible on the ground. All three Gnomes looked at each other and had the same thought. “Here is our pointer for the children!!”.



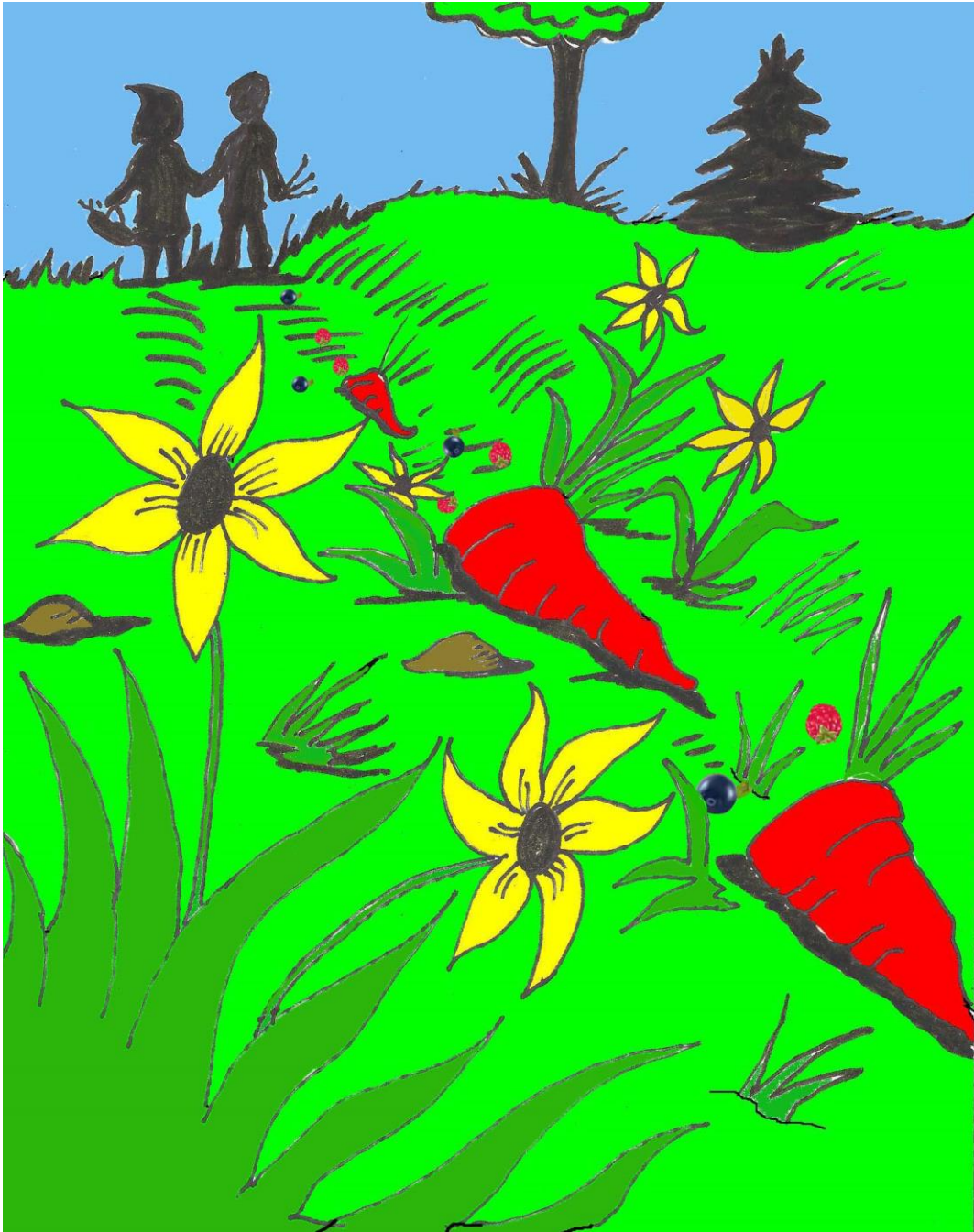
Each of the Gnomes carried three berry-bags, so they had a total of nine. They emptied the sacks creating a fine pile of berries, that they would pick up later. They placed a few berries between each bag creating a trail of berries connecting the bags.



*To this day, there are trails of berry bushes and trees in De Weerribben-Wieden National Park in what is now the Netherlands, where it is said that some of the Nisse Gnomes settled after the great flood.*

*Fróydis* told the others she would find a way to draw the children to the trail of bags, while Eldar and Sisse/ placed the pointed berry bags. They spaced them just far enough apart for the children to see. To make it more of a trail, they placed lines of berries between the bags. Fróydis, knowing how Eldar is always hungry, turned around just in time to see him munching some of the berries. She told him that we needed all the berries for the trail, but afterward, he could have all the berries he wanted. Eldar thanked her and said he was “berry” sorry. They all laughed.





The plan was, as the children followed the pointed hat trail, the three Gnomes would follow and pick the hats up secretly behind the children. The last bag would be placed on the edge of the hill overlooking the parents' camp. Fróydís had to come up with a way to make enough noise to draw the children to the bag trail without giving away the location of the Gnome group.

*Fróydís* found a Blue Jay which is the noisiest bird in the forest, and asked if it would make lots of noise in the right place where the berry-bags were being laid. The bird could help lead the children to their parents by flying right in front of them the whole way. Jays love to help Gnomes, and, as you know, they can be taught to say human words. Jay agreed it was a good idea, so it flew right over to the berry bags.





To make sure the children would come over to the trail, Fróydis would hide in the flower patch and play her Pan Flute, as children cannot resist the beautiful sound of a Pan Flute. As soon as the flute was played, the children would surely run toward the sound.



Gnomes are very musical. Every Gnome learns to play the flute, and the Gnomes invented dozens of different kinds of flutes, the Pan Flute being the favorite of girl Gnomes. Its soft music calls to all the animals in the forest, and they often gather around the player to listen.

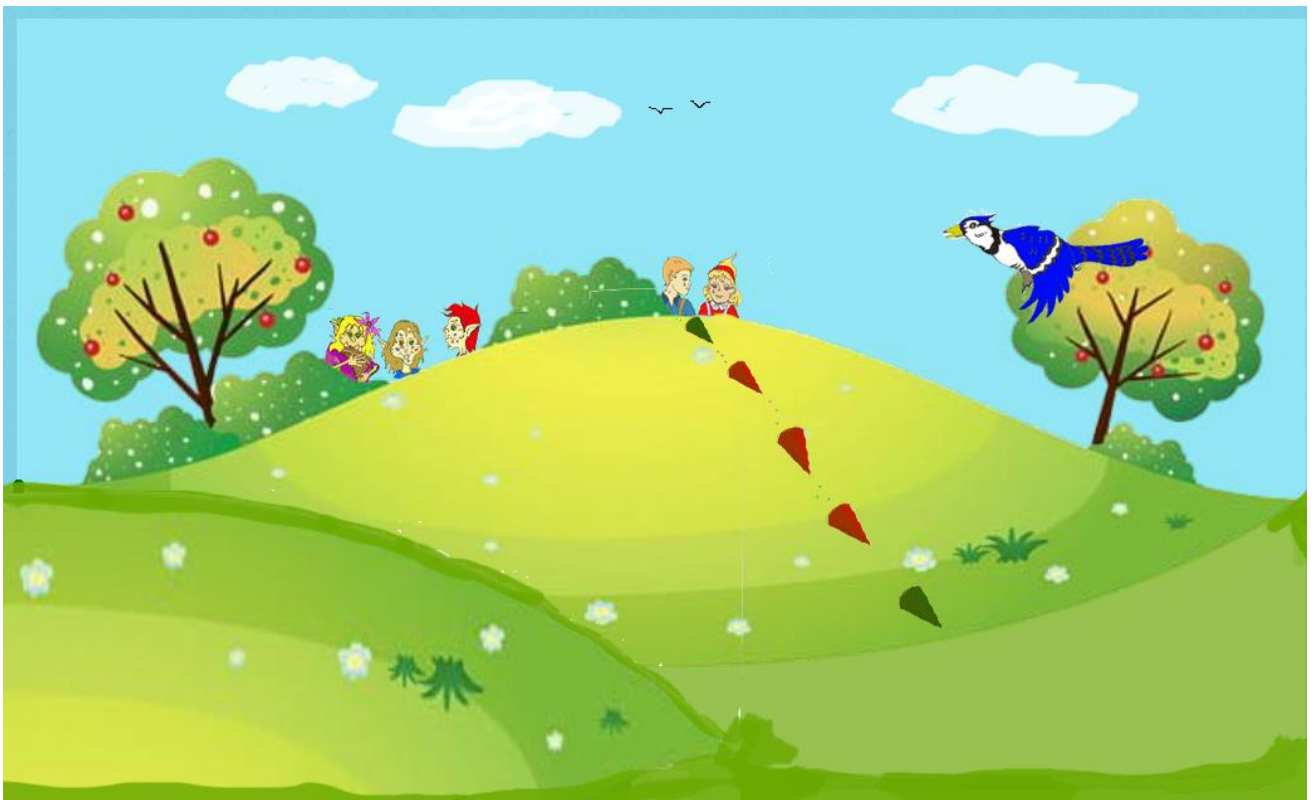


With the noisy Jay leading the way toward the beautiful flute music, the children got up and ran toward the sounds. On the ground directly in front of the kids was the first berry-bag. The bright red bag was pointing to the sound of the Jay and the flute. One of the children picked up the bag as they headed toward the sound. He opened up the large end and peered inside just as a gust of wind caught the bag and blew it up into the shape of a long hat. The other child said, "This must be a pointed hat for someone small". Soon they saw another bag and another.



The Gnomes could hear the children saying that all the little hats are all pointed the same way. “Let us follow them,” said the little girl. Soon the children came to the hill and saw the last hat. Circling above the hat was the noisy Jaybird. As soon as the children reached the hat, the bird flew, noisily, down toward the parents’ camp.

As the bird reached the camp, the parents, who had just returned from searching for the children, saw and heard the noisy bird. It quickly flew back up toward the children on the hilltop as the parents watched it. The parents, thanks to the bird, were looking at the top of the hill where the children were standing and waving. The happy parents ran quickly to the children who explained that they had found their way back following the noisy Jaybird and nine bright red and green hats, with neat flute music filling the air. The hats were all pointing to the safety of the parents’ camp.



The Children took their parents back to find the hats, but they were all gone! so the parents thought the kids might be imagining the story. The three Gnomes were watching through the bushes at all this and were giggling happily that they helped the children, as it is their duty to help animals and children who are in trouble. Sissel took one of her berry-bags and said, “Maybe the big-people children were right, these could be hats.” With that, she placed it on her head, and it fit perfectly. The other two Gnomes did the same and giggled at each other.

As the human children walked away with their happy parents, Eldar, with his red berry-hat on, tripped on his untied bootlaces and fell through the bush. He made enough noise that the two children heard it and turned around and saw him. Their eyes got big and they jumped up and down as they grabbed their parents and told them to look back at the bush, but by then the other two giggling gnomes had



grabbed Eldar and disappeared into the woods, so the parents did not see him and thought the children’s imagination was at work again.

The three happy Gnomes placed the berries back in all but three of the bags but kept their

berry-bag hats on. They left a pile of berries for Jaybird to eat, for which he was most grateful, for when he took time to help the Gnomes, he was gathering berries for his two hatchlings who were waiting in their cozy nest in a tall Red Oak tree.

The three happy Gnomes went home and told their story to the other Gnomes, who were so pleased with what had happened, that from that time on, all the Southern Gnomes wore their berry-bag hats in case someone needed directions to safety, and just because they looked neat.



***“And that, friends, is why we Southern Gnomes wear bright, long, pointed hats”.***

## The End

endirinn

HFNM F XXXM MFI  
Have a happy day!  
Hafar bliðr dagr



## Gnome Lore

Symbol of the sacredinn rikki rauðr oak tré



Symbol of the sacred Great Red Oak tree

*The Gnomes' most treasured symbol*

Each leaf has a separate meaning:

Live-Happy-Safe

Each acorn also has a separate meaning

Woman-Man-Child

## Some Gnomish (Nissian) Words

bunny- kanin

bird - fuglur

berry -ber

blue jay - jay fuglur

children- børn

forest gnome- skógvgómur

grape -drúvur

green hat- grøna hattur

Nisse- nidsi

red hat - reyði hattur

village-bygd

pan flute -panfløta

**Nissian languages (Gnomish), are  
combind Faroese, and Old Norse.  
Northern and Eastern Nissian is more  
like Faroese while Southern and  
Highland Nissian is more like Old Norse.**

