

## Erfurt Exchange 2006/ZDF

### Item 4: Torvald and the fir-tree

- 0'01            Once, there was a woodcutter called Torvald.
- 0'08            He was the smallest woodcutter in the village.
- 0'13            But he did not want to hear about that.
- 0'34            When the other woodcutters headed to the forest in order to cut fir-trees for Christmas, Torvald heard them shout: "Hurry up, Torvald. There might just be a tiny tree left for you."
- 0'47            So Torvald said to his wife Anneke: "Believe me, this time we'll have the biggest tree of them all."
- 0'54            "I'd be happy with a regular tree", said Anneke.
- 0'59            But Torvald had already left.
- 1'03            Anneke got some string and gold paint
- 1'07            and started making some Christmas decorations for the tree.
- Torvald and the other woodcutters climbed the mountain because that was where the best trees grew.
- 1'20            Soon the first had found their tree and began cutting.
- 1'25            Only Torvald couldn't find a tree beautiful and big enough.
- 1'30            And so he continued looking and looking and looking...
- 1'35            Back home, Anneke sat and carved moose-angels, made little lamps, dyed beaver-tails and put them on a string, which grew longer and longer and longer...
- 1'49            "If you want to cut your little tree, Torvald, you should hurry up. It's getting dark", the others laughed while sliding down to the village on their trees.
- 1'58            But Torvald didn't listen to them. He had already continued on his way looking for bigger and more beautiful trees.
- 2'09            When Torvald reached the peak of the mountain, he suddenly stopped in awe.

2'17            There it was, glowing in the bright red light of the setting sun:  
His tree! The tree of trees!

2'24            The one he had been looking for all along.

2'27            Overjoyed, Torvald started cutting.  
Yes, it was going to take a while. But it was worth it.

2'40            The other woodcutters came zooming into the village shouting and  
screaming. But it was in vain that Anneke looked for Torvald.

2'52            It was pitch-dark when Torvald got home.

2'56            “Where is the tree?”, asked Anneke in the middle of a long string of  
glittering golden Christmas decorations.

3'01            “Still up on the mountain, but not much longer”, said Torvald,  
3'04            got a petrol-lamp,  
3'07            kissed Anneke and left.

3'13            When her husband still hadn't come back the next morning, Anneke  
started to worry.

3'26            After a long search, she found him on the mountain next to the big  
tree.

3'35            He had spent the whole night cutting the stem which didn't look  
nearly as battered as Torvald. A tiny cut was all you could see.

3'48            Anneke suggested going home and getting another, slightly smaller  
tree instead. But Torvald had made up his mind. He wanted the  
biggest and the most beautiful tree.

4'02            “You take care of the Christmas decorations. I'll be done soon!”, he  
told her.

4'08            So she left some nuts and marzipan, gave him a kiss and went  
back home.

4'16            Thus, another three days went by. Torvald did his thing,  
4'22            Anneke hers.

4'24            The others had long decorated their trees. As Christmas Eve was  
coming soon.

- 4'32 Finally, Torvald stepped through the door.
- 4'36 "You're right. A smaller tree will do as well," he told his wife.
- 4'41 "No, it won't", said Anneke and pointed to the huge pile of Christmas decorations which she had made.
- 4'49 So Torvald took a deep breath and took up his axe...
- 4'57 Next door, the whole family had gathered around the Christmas tree and had just started singing the song about the Christmas moose which comes out of the dark forest to bring presents to the children.
- 5'11 But suddenly, a huge noise from next door came through the window.
- 5'16 They had to sing louder and louder to top the noise. Soon they were screeching.
- 5'22 "Quiet, you impertinent dwarf!", shouted the neighbour's wife to Torvald, got the presents which the Christmas moose had brought and closed the window-shutters.
- 5'33 But the noise continued. It even got worse.
- 5'36 Fuming with anger, the neighbour set off to complain.
- 5'41 But as she marched through the dark, the whole noise suddenly stopped, and when she wanted to knock on Torvald's door the whole cabin had gone.
- 5'53 "Even better!", the neighbour thought and went back to celebrate Christmas in peace and quiet.
- 6'02 After eating their venison and opening the presents, the village people wanted to go to bed. Just then they heard the faint sound of Christmas carolling from afar.
- 6'12 It came from the top of the mountain. And you could see lights up there.
- 6'22 The huge fir-tree was covered in lights and Christmas-decorations. But on the very top of the tree, you could see a cabin.
- 6'33 Torvald and Anneke were standing singing before the biggest and the most beautiful fir-tree in the world and celebrating Christmas.