

Translated excerpt with selected illustrations

Philip Waechter
Der fliegende Jakob

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Flying Jacob

Translated by Sheridan Marshall

p.

3 Jacob could fly. Perhaps that sounds crazy, but it was really true. Jacob could fly.

4 Jacob was still very small when he flew for the first time. His parents were actually waiting for him finally to start crawling, but he didn't do that. Jacob just flew off.

[Yes, that's it, the big red one!]

His parents were very worried at first, because a child like that was a bit strange. But they soon got used to his daily flying around and said to themselves: 'He is how he is, he's our son and he's perfect!'

5 One day in autumn the family decided to go on holiday, somewhere by the sea where it was warm, in the sun. So Jacob went with his mother to the travel agent's. They booked a lovely hotel in the South. Jacob didn't want a plane ticket. 'I'll just fly myself!', he said. 'All right', said his mother.

Then they packed: bags and suitcases with clothes, swimming things, toothbrushes. And a rucksack for Jacob with essentials: cheese sandwiches, still water, a compass and an international telephone card – just in case.

Jacob went with his parents to the airport. They kissed goodbye and wished each other a good journey. The plane roared away and Jacob set off too.

6 [moo! mooooo! moo! moo!]

As always on long flights, Jacob passed the time counting animals. First he counted 15 bad-tempered cows, who he greeted in a friendly way.

Later he shared his sandwiches with 31 greedy little squirrels.

A bit later when the little squirrels were sitting with full stomachs in the trees again, Jacob saw something very



Jakob konnte fliegen.
Das klingt vielleicht verrückt, war aber wirklich so. Jakob konnte fliegen.



exciting: 83 birds on the way to Africa. 'I'll fly with them!', thought Jacob.

7 And so he flew on with the 83 birds over high mountains and deep valleys. He saw blue lakes, golden yellow wheat fields and smelt fragrant wildflower meadows, wonderful!

8 Flying together with this daredevil flock was brilliant fun.

They covered huge distances, had pleasant breaks and there was always time for amusing chit-chat. They chatted and trilled, played and fed. Oh, it was a magnificent journey!

9 But then something unfortunate happened, as it did now and again. Mr Mörtel, the infamous bird-catcher, struck again. It wasn't long before a little bird was flapping in his net.

'I am the best and most skilful bird-catcher in the world!', thought Mr Mörtel as he set off home contentedly. His house was full of birds because the bird-catcher loved the twittering. He just couldn't get enough of it.

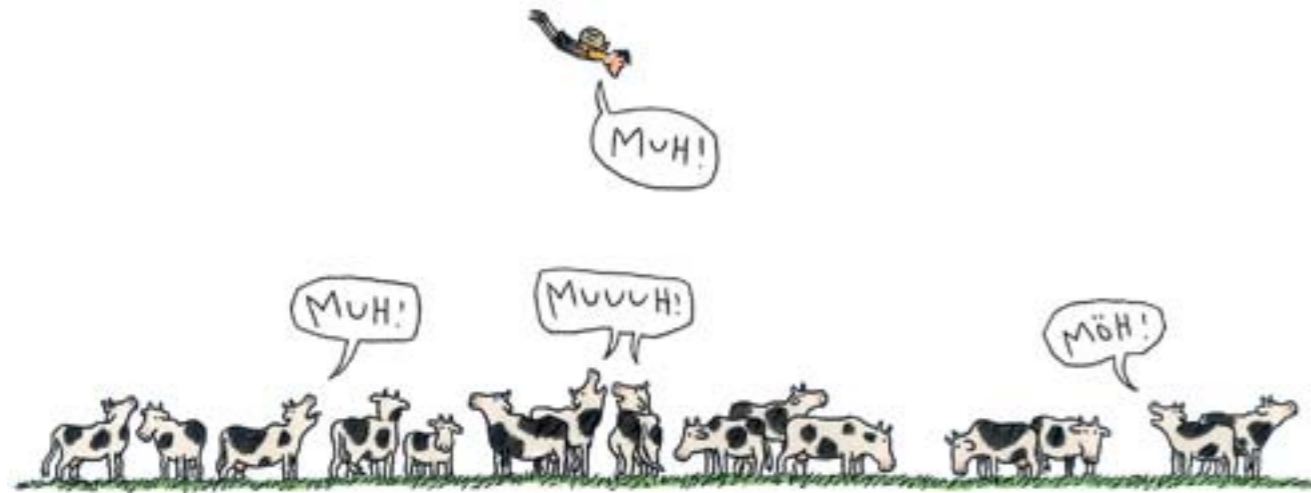
10 When Jacob and the birds stopped for their daily lunch break it was obvious at once that something wasn't right. When they counted it was clear: one little bird was missing. It was Hubertus.

Fortunately birds are clever. And they stick together. It didn't take very long for them to track down their missing friend.

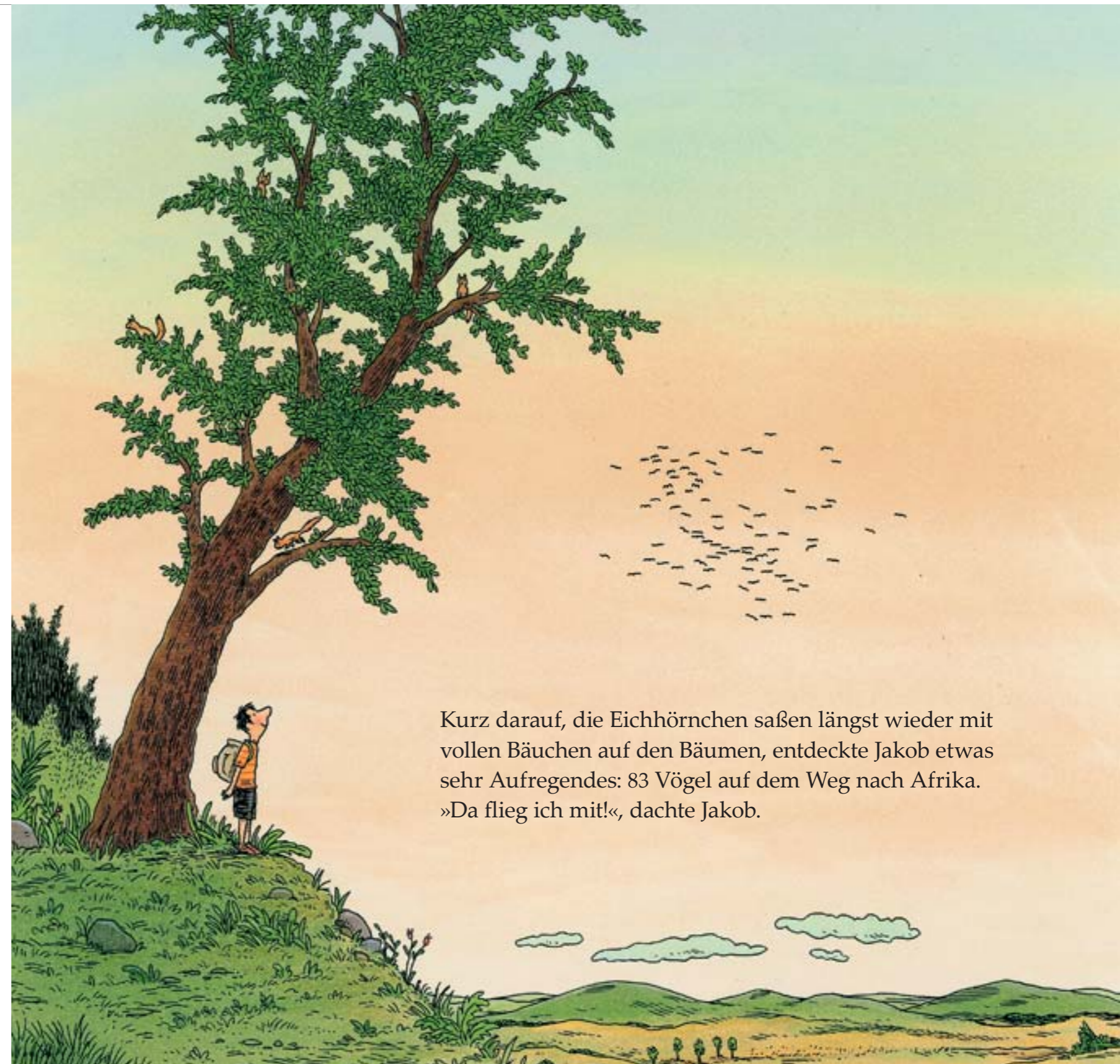
[Tweet!]

11 Jacob knew exactly what to do. Each bird brought him a couple of feathers which he attached to his T-shirt. Soon his clothes were covered with feathers. To finish he made a beak – and the bird was complete. A never-before-sighted, rare specimen. And then Jacob flew off and made his way to the bird-catcher's house.

He flew around in front of the living room window and twittered a pretty tune.



Wie immer auf längeren Flügen vertrieb sich Jakob die Zeit mit dem Zählen von Tieren. Zunächst zählte er 15 schlechtgelaunte Kühe, die er freundlich grüßte.
Später teilte er seine Brote mit 31 gefräßigen Eichhörnchen.



Kurz darauf, die Eichhörnchen saßen längst wieder mit vollen Bäuchen auf den Bäumen, entdeckte Jakob etwas sehr Aufregendes: 83 Vögel auf dem Weg nach Afrika.
»Da flieg ich mit!«, dachte Jakob.

- 12 A few seconds later Mr Mörtel rushed out of the house. There was no bird like this in his collection! In his excitement he forgot to close the front door and the whole flock of birds streamed into his house...
- ...and soon emerged again with countless cages. The birds disappeared into the sky in all directions.
- 13 What joy! The news that the bird-catcher had been successfully outwitted soon became known throughout the bird world. Birds came from everywhere to celebrate.
- 14 It was now time for Jacob to say goodbye to the birds, because after all his parents were waiting for him.
- Little Hubertus went with him, as he had always wanted to go on holiday by the sea where it was warm, in the sun.
- 15 After a few hours' flight Jacob finally saw the sea and soon afterwards he found his parents too.
- How pleased they were to see each other again. They hugged and kissed and hugged and kissed again.
- Then, finally, they had their holiday. Just as it should be. Jacob and Hubertus went swimming in the sea, lazed about on the beach, played mini golf, drank an awful lot of sweet lemonade and went to bed late every evening. And Jacob had to tell his parents about his adventures over and over again.
- 16 When, after seven days and seven nights, it was time to go home again, Jacob didn't want to fly by himself. After all, school started again on Monday and it was better to be rested. Hubertus was determined to sit by the window on the plane, and of course that's what he did!



Nach einigen Stunden Flug sah Jakob endlich das Meer und kurz darauf entdeckte er auch seine Eltern.



Ach, was war das für eine Wiedersehensfreude. Es wurde umarmt und geküsst und wieder umarmt und geküsst. Dann wurde endlich Urlaub gemacht. So, wie es sich gehört. Jakob und Hubertus gingen im Meer baden, lagen faul am Strand herum, spielten Minigolf, tranken furchtbar viel süße Limonade und gingen jeden Abend spät ins Bett. Und immer wieder musste Jakob seinen Eltern von der abenteuerlichen Reise erzählen.

