

AKHINNAJA.

1 Once upon a time there were a husband and wife called Pfukhan and Aligkhujon.

2 They had just one child whose name was Akhinnaja.

3 One day, Aligkhujon said to his wife, Pfukhan, <<You can stay home and I will go to work.>>

4 So Pfukhan and Akhinnaja stayed at home.

5 When it was nearly noon, she said, <<Play in the water, Akhinnaja, under the house while I go to cook because your father will come and we don't have food.>>

6 So she left the girl playing in the water under the house.

7 In a little while, Pfu'Pfu'-at passed and he saw Akhinnaja bathing.

8 Then he said, <<Totototooot. Come and ride on my back, Akhinnaja.>>

9 But Akhinnaja said, <<I don't want to, because I'm afraid of your fur, there your back is furry.>>

10 Pfu'pfu'-at said, <<Totototooot. You will like it - my back is warm so you come with me to my house so that you can see my lovely house.>>

11 But Akhinnaja said, <<I don't want to because I'm afraid of your furry back.>>

12 Then Pfu'pfu'-at said, <<Totototooot. Just try riding on my back because my fur is warm.>>

13 And Akhinnaja said, <<Alright then.>>

14 Akhinnaja rode on Pfu'pfu'-at's back. Pfu'pfu'-at ran along with Akhinnaja and he made his way through the undergrowth into the middle of the forest.

15 When Pfukhan came down from the house, she said, <<Where is the child? Who has taken her away?>>

16 When it was noon, her husband came to eat and he said, <<Where is Akhinnaja?>>

17 And she said, <<I came inside to cook but when I went down, she wasn't there.>>

18 Then he said, <<What! What have you done to the child, Pfukhan? That's why you stayed home so that you could look after her.>>

19 So she said, <<That's it, I didn't see. I thought she was just bathing but when I came down, she wasn't there.>>

20 And Pfukhan cried and cried.

21 The next day, Aligkhujon said, <<Well, there's nothing we can do. What's the use of staying home all the time thinking about our lost child. Let's both go and work.>>

22 So they set off to go to work in their pond field at Na-oli'lipan.

23 Meanwhile, Pfu'pfu'-at and Akhinnaja arrived at Pfu'pfu'-at's house in the middle of the forest.

24 And Pfu'pfu'-at said to Akhinnaja, <<Here is my house. This is where we will stay. Whatever you need, just tell me and anything you want to eat, just tell me and I will bring it out.>>

25 When it was noon again, Pfu'pfu'-at said to Akhinnaja, <<Totototooot, where are you Akhinnaja? What do you want for viand? Eggs or chicken or pork?>>

26 Akhinnaja said, <<I would like to eat eggs.>>

27 So Pfu'pfu'-at said, <<Totototooot, go to the yard and feel among the tani'-i grass. There will be eggs there which you can get.

28 Akhinnaja went out with a flat basket and she felt among the grass.

29 She found lots of eggs so she filled the basket.

30 She took them in and Pfu'pfu'-at cooked them, then he fed Akhinnaja.

31 She was full because she ate lots of egg.

32 Then Pfu'pfu'-at saw that Akhinnaja had nothing to do, so he said, <<Be patient for a moment while I go to make a swing for you to swing on.>>

33 Pfu'pfu'-at took some rattan and tied it to make a swing.

34 Then he said to Akhinnaja, <<Totototooot. Come here Akhinnaja and swing because I've made you a swing.>>

35 Akhinnaja went out and was swinging.

36 She swung high, and when she swung high, she saw her father and mother digging in their pond field at Na-oli'lipan.

37 Akhinnaja sang loudly, saying, <<Chidchuuujaaa, chidchujaaa, father and mother at Na-oli'lipan.>>

38 Pfu'pfu'-at heard that Akhinnaja was singing and he said, <<Totototooot. Don't be noisy Akhinnaja because your father and mother will hear you, then they will come and get you.>>

39 So Akhinnaja kept quiet, and she kept on swinging.

40 In a little while, she sang a second time.

41 She saw her father and mother again in the distance and she said, <<Chidchuuujaaa, chidchuuujaaa, father and mother are digging our field in Na-oli'lipan.>>

42 Pfukhan heard her singing, and she said, <<Whoever is singing there in the middle of the forest, what is your name?>>

43 And Akhinnaja said, <<I'm your daughter Akhinnaja whom Pfu'pfu'-at ran away with, and I'm here in the middle of the forest.>>

44 But Aligkhujon said to his wife Pfukhan, <<What are you looking up at in the forest? Let's work because that's just the cawing of crows.>>

45 Akhinnaja heard her father say she was a crow.

46 She swung high again and she said, <<I'm not, I'm not the cawing of a rook, I am your daughter Akhinnaja.>>

47 Then Aligkhujon looked up and he said, <<That's Akhinnaja's voice after all.>>

48 Then they set off to go home because it was night.

49 On the next day again, Aligkhujon said to his wife, <<Let's go to work again. Hopefully the singer will sing again. Then we can go to look for her and hopefully it is Akhunnaja.>>

50 They set-off again on the next day and when it was mid-morning, they were digging in their pond field.

51 Akhinnaja went to swing on her swing again and she again saw her father and mother working again.

52 So she sang again.

53 She said, <<What's the matter with you, father and mother, that you don't care about me?>>

54 Then her father looked up again, and he said, <<We do care about you but how can we come to where you are? We can't because it's forest here and we don't know the way.>>

55 Then Pfu'pfu'-at went and said, <<Don't make a noise, Akhinnaja, because your father and mother will come to get you.>>

56 Then Pfu'pfu'-at left and Akhinnaja said, <<Abracadabra, may a path appear so that there is a way for father and mother to come.>>

57 Just then, the reeds and forest growth parted, and the way appeared.

58 And Pfukhan said to Aligkhujon, <<There, that path has cleared so let's go to look for the one who is singing.>>

59 So they both started climbing.

60 They were going up and then they arrived in the middle of the forest and they found Akhinnaja swinging.

61 Aligkhujon said, <<Oh dear child, who brought you here?>>

62 Akhinnaja replied, <<Well Pfu'pfu'-at passed by and carried me on her back and brought me here.>>

63 Then he said, <<Where is that Pfu'pfu'-at who brought you here?>>

64 Akhinnaja replied, <<Let's go and see.>>

65 They went in and they found Pfu'pfu'-at warming himself beside the fire.

66 They said, <<Are you the Pfu'pfu'-at who brought our daughter here?>>

67 Pfu'pfu'-at said, <<Yes I am, but please don't kill me since I just took your daughter because you shouldn't have left her under the house. Nobody was watching her so I carried her on my back; so don't kill me because here is my house which your daughter can use as her house.>>

68 Then they said, <<No we won't kill you so don't be afraid.>>

69 Then he said, <<Now it's noon already so let's eat here before you leave.>>

70 Alighujon said, <<Yes, alright.>>

71 Then he said, <<What do you want for viand? Eggs, chicken, or pork?>>

72 They replied, <<It's up to you.>>

73 Then Pfu'pfu'-at said, <<Let's butcher a pig for your viand.>>

74 Pfu'pfu'-at went outside and called the pigs and suddenly lots of pigs came up.

75 They caught a piglet.

76 They butchered it and Alighujon and Pfukhan ate heartily because the pork they ate was good.

77 Then they said, <<So we'll take this child now.>>

78 Pfu'pfu'-at said, <<Don't take her, rather, if you like, you come here so we can all stay here.>>

79 They replied, <<We really can't because there will be nobody to look after our house or to work our pondfield at Na-oli'lipan.>>

80 Then they set off at dusk and they left Akhinnaja in the middle of the forest.

81 When some days had passed, Pfu'pfu'-at had become an old man and he knew he would die soon.

82 So he said, <<<Totototoot, where are you Akhinnaja? Come here because I have something to say to you since I will die soon.>>

83 He said, <<When I die, Akhinnaja, don't throw me away. Bury me properly in the yard. When you have buried me, after a few days have passed, there will be a tree growing on my tomb. Don't cut it down and don't weed round that tree so that it will become big. The tree is where you can ask for what you need. Then what you asked for will come out on the tree.>>

84 When a few days had passed, Pfu'pfu'-at did indeed die.

85 She took him to bury him in the yard.

86 One month passed and then a tree grew up and became big.

87 Akhinnaja went to the tree and spoke to it and she wanted eggs for viand.

88 So she said, <<I need eggs for my viand,>> then what Akhinnaja needed came out.

89 She also needed good clothes.

90 She went to the tree and she said, <<I need some good clothes.>>

91 Her good clothes came out and it continued like that until she asked for a fine, large house, and it was made.

92 So this is the end of the story of Akhinnaja. She became rich because whatever she needed, she asked from the tree and it came out.

93 That's the end of the story of Akhinnaja and Pfu'pfu'-at.