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Mothertongue and Fatherland

Once upon a time there was a bear. He had a bear's childhood and went to school like all the other bears.

As he grew up, he wanted a really nice, free bear's life. But his bear country was ruled by the Master Bear who was very, very strict. He didn't want his bear underlings to live like they wanted to and enacted bear laws, bear rules and bear bans wherever he could and made sure they were followed. One day our bear decided to emigrate to another bear country to live more freely.

During his time at school he had already heard wonderful things about this other bear country. Soon after his arrival in this wonderland he met a she-bear. They cuddled and snuggled up to each other and soon fell in love. After a while the bear and the she-bear decided to stay together forever. Some time later they had a little bear daughter. After another while they had a second daughter.

But the bear and the she-bear didn't have much time to look after their bear daughters in their bear-wonderland. Mother bear had to go to work every day. She hardly found the time to teach the language of the bear wonderland to the bear children. Father bear couldn't do it either as he had to learn the bear wonderland language properly himself, had to go to school and also learn a bear craft in order to live as freely as possible in bear wonderland. Therefore bear and she-bear didn't have much time to look after their bear children. No bear fairy tales about bear heroes fighting for their fatherland and defending it against bear enemies were told in the evening. The bear parents were too tired to do that - and not only too tired.

The bear children went to the bear kindergarten every day. That's where they learnt the language of bear wonderland. In the end they were old enough to go to the bear school. At school all bear children learnt to write, read and do calculations in the same language. They all studied the same history, the same music, the same literature and the same art.

One day the teacher of bear wonderland asked one of the bear daughters, "Which bear country are you from, little bear girl? I've always wondered about your strange bear name which is so different from the names common in our bear country." The bear daughter stood in front of the bear wonderland teacher, being very sad, suppressing her tears, swallowed bravely and said, "My father is from a bear country that is very far from here. My mother is from a bear country far away from my father's bear country her. I was born there and went to kindergarten and will go to school here until I'm grown up. But I don't really know which bear country I belong to.

To my father's or my mother's or this bear country? I don't know. Over here I've only learnt the bear language."

The teacher didn't understand what the bear daughter was trying to say. She said, "Every bear child has a mother tongue and a fatherland and you've grown up here like all the other children in bear wonderland. I can't really see the problem? So make up your mind, think and decide where you belong to?"

The little bear daughter lowered her head for a while and thought. Suddenly she remembered that she had recently visited a large circle with her class where lots of colorful painted bears stood closely together, their paws touching, in order to show how colorful our world with so many different nations is and that they nevertheless all belong together. Suddenly she wasn't sad any more, lifted her shoulders, stretched and laughed at the bear teacher, saying, "I simply belong to the bear world".