

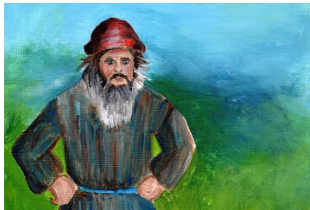

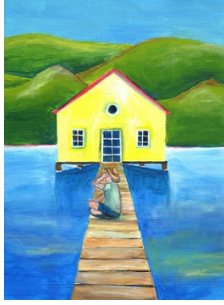
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">In reality, it was different</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">by Achim Bröger</p>
	<p>A boy was sitting by the river. The sun was shining so that the water sparkled and shimmered. In the distance, the banks of the river merged together. There the river became narrower and narrower, imagined the boy, although he had been told: "It only appears that way. In reality it is different." But he didn't believe this.</p>
	<p>And for this reason he wanted to know where this spot was. "I will go and search for it," he decided. He walked for a long time along the narrow path by the river. However, the spot where the river became narrow, remained further in front of him. Strange, he thought, although I keep walking, I am not getting closer.</p>
	<p>He met a man. "Good day," greeted the boy. "I am looking for the spot, where the river gets as narrow as a line. Where can I find it?" The man laughed and said, "do you not know how things really are?" "Not exactly," answered the boy. "And I don't believe everything that I am told." "Well, then keep searching," said the man shaking his head and went on.</p>
	<p>The boy asked other people but they laughed at him. And some said, "that spot doesn't exist. We have no time for such nonsense." This annoyed the boy. He searched on until it grew dark.</p>



Then he reached a house.
In front of the house, by the docks, sat a man
looking across the water.



And the boy asked him too, "I am searching for the
place where the banks of the river get narrower.
I see it always in front of me. Can you tell me
where I can find it?" The man laughed and said, "I
don't know where it is or where you can find it.
But I have lots of time as I am already quite old.
I would like to come with you and search for the
spot."



Now the boy wasn't alone anymore.
The man went and got his mouth harp and his
binoculars. Together they loaded the man's boat full
of things, they started the motor and set off.
They stood side by side in the boat.
Sometimes they sang.
Several times they said, "there is the spot."
Then they gazed through the binoculars.








But they never reached it.
Quite the contrary, the river just grew wider.
Finally it became so wide that it turned into the sea.

Now the boy and the man were bobbing up and
down on the vast ocean.
And they saw that on the distant horizon water and
sky merged.
They wanted to find this place too.



In the evening the sun went down.
"The sun is sinking into the water," said the boy.
"It will surely fizzle." Then they also looked for the
spot where the sun sank into the sea.
They looked for the spot where the water merged
with the sky.
And they looked for the place where the river
became as narrow as a line.

	<p>The two became friends and felt content in their boat. They chatted with one another. They ate and drank together. At night they lit the water with their torches. Then it sparkled like the stars above them.</p>
	<p>When the weather was nice, the boy jumped into the water. He swam and dived. He saw big fish and shells. They sailed through storms. The boat danced wildly on the waves.</p>
	<p>The travelled around the whole world. From one ocean to the next and through many rivers and countries. Where it was beautiful, they stayed a little longer.</p> <p>And after a while, they sailed on. Always straight ahead. The spot where the river narrowed, where the sun sank into the water and where the water met the sky was nowhere to be found.</p>
	<p>When they returned home some people said: "Are you stupid?" "What a lot of nonsense," said others. Then the boy and then man looked at one another and smiled. "After all," said the boy. "I know now, that the places we searched don't exist. But I don't know that just because someone told me. I really know it."</p>
	<p>The man nodded and said, "We have seen many things. We have swam in warm water and lay in the sun and thought. We met people. And besides we spent a long time together. That was wonderful."</p>



Afterwards they both yawned and went to sleep.
After all they had been to Africa, India and beyond.
And that can make one tired.



The End