# THE UNION OF LUBLIN

or

# The secret of a stolen seal

Lublin
CITY OF INSPIRATION

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or

## THE SECRET OF A STOLEN SEAL

In January 1569, the notables of Poland and Lithuania arrived in Lublin to discuss the matter of a union of those two states during a session of a regional assembly.

PAPA, HAVE WE ARRIVED?

YES, DALIA, THIS IS LUBLIN...

I AM VERY TIRED.

NO WONDER. IT TOOK US MORE THAN A WEEK TO GET HERE FROM VILNIUS.

HOW LONG ARE WE STAYING HERE FOR?

I DO NOT KNOW! WE SHALL NOT LEAVE UNTIL THE SESSION IS OVER...

THIS IS OUR INN! WE SHALL STAY HERE FOR A WHILE...

MIND THE BAGGAGE!
PHEW...
SNAP!
BANG!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, YOU LITTLE WASTREL?!
CLEAN IT UP AND MAKE IT QUICK! DALIA, LET'S GO TO THE INN...
GREETINGS, YOUR HONOURS WELCOME! PLEASE COME IN...
MY NAME IS EDVILAS PETRAITIS. AND THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, DALIA...
I AM A CLERK OF THE COURT MARSHALL OF LITHUANIA, OSTAFIA WOLLOWICZ. I CAME TO LUBLIN WITH THE LITHUANIAN DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION...
MY NAME IS DALIA, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
I AM PIOTREK, THE INNKEEPER'S SON...
FATHER, MAY I PLAY WITH PIOTREK?
BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE TIRED...

I THOUGHT THE LITHUANIAN GIRLS LOOK DIFFERENT...
THAT THEY HAVE HORNS AND A TAIL?
BUT YOU LOOK JUST AS THE POLISH GIRLS DO...
ALL THE GIRLS IN EUROPE DRESS LIKE THAT, PIOTREK!
ONLY WE DON'T WEAR RINGS ON A LEATHER STRAP, LIKE YOUR HOUSEKEEPER MATILDA DOES...
OH NO, THAT'S NOTHING...
...I FOUND IT IN FRONT OF OUR INN, AND IT WAS TOO SMALL TO PUT IT ON MY FINGER, SO I USED A LEATHER STRAP...
WINTER AND SPRING PASSED, A HOT SUMMER CAME...
DALIA, YOU ALREADY KNOW LUBLIN INSIDE OUT...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO SOME OF OUR LEGENDS?
YES!
THE DEVIL HIMSELF LEFT A PALMPRINT IN OUR TRIBUNAL...
REALLY?!
AND THIS IS THE ROCK OF BAD LUCK! BETTER NOT TO TOUCH IT!
WHY IS THAT?
THEY SAY WHOEVER TOUCHES IT, MAY DIE!
DON'T SCARE ME, PIOTREK!

ONE DAY..
WHERE IS IT?
WHERE DID I PUT IT? THE MARSHALL WILL CHOP MY HEAD OFF!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR, FATHER?
A VERY IMPORTANT SEAL IS MISSING, DALIA...
AS THE COURT MARSHALL'S CLERK, I STORE ALL HIS SEALS AND DOCUMENTS. TODAY HE ORDERED ME TO PREPARE THE GREAT STAMP...
BUT IT'S GONE! WITHOUT IT, THE POLISH - LITHUANIAN UNION OF LUBLIN WILL NOT BE VALID!
WE WILL FIND THE SEAL, DON'T YOU WORRY...
THE UNION OF LUBLIN SHALL BE SIGNED SOON! WHAT SHALL I DO...
PIOTREK, WHERE DO WE LOOK FOR IT?
WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR IT FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS NOW.
YOU KNOW, I HAVE AN IDEA.
LET'S HEAR IT
IF THIS SEAL IS SO IMPORTANT, SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE STOLEN IT!
WHAT FOR?
THERE WILL BE NO UNION OF LUBLIN WITHOUT THE SEAL
MAYBE THIS IS WHAT THE THIEF WANTS
THAT'S OBVIOUS: THE RUSSIANS DON'T WANT THE UNION!

MY FATHER SAID THAT AFTER THE UNION, THE POLISH-LITHUANIAN COMMONWEALTH WILL HAVE AN ARMY STRONG ENOUGH...
...TO STOP THE RUSSIAN ARMY FROM HURTING US!
NOW I UNDERSTAND, BUT HOW DO WE FIND THE RUSSIAN SPY?
I KNOW!
IVANOV THE TAILOR IS THE SPY!
IS HE REALLY?
WE HAVE TO HURRY, IT'S JULY 1 TOMORROW, THE UNION OF LUBLIN IS TO BE SIGNED...
WAIT! WHY DO YOU THINK THAT THIS IWANOW IS A SPY?
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A CROOK...
BESIDES, HE'S THE ONLY RUSSIAN I KNOW...
IVANOV LIVES IN THIS BUILDING...
LET'S SLIP IN, TAKE THE SEAL AND GET OUT!
I'M A BIT SCARED
BE QUIET KNOW...
SQUECK SQUECK

TOLD YOU, THERE'S THE SEAL!
LET'S TAKE IT AND GET OUT
OH MY GOD
AND WHAT YOU DOING HERE, CHILDREN?
OH MOTHER OF GOD...
WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU: YOU ARE A RUSSIAN SPY AND YOU STOLE A VERY IMPORTANT LITHUANIAN SEAL...
I KNOW YOU, YOU ARE PIOTREK, THE INNKEEPER'S SON! BUT YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, BOY...
WE HAVE TO CLEAR THIS UP
WE DO, AND LET'S MAKE IT QUICK!
CHILDREN, FIRST OF ALL, YOU SHOULDN'T ENTER SOMEONE'S HOUSE WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION!
SECOND OF ALL, NOT EVERY RUSSIAN IS A SPY!
...AND THIRD OF ALL, IVANOV'S SEAL IS A SEAL OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN'S TAILORS...
BESIDES, MY SEAL IS DIFFERENT, IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A RING.
YOU SAID, A RING? NOW I KNOW WHERE THE SEAL MIGHT BE!
PIOTREK, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO SEE MATILDA!
I'M GOING WITH YOU!

MATILDA, DO YOU STILL HAVE THE RING THAT YOU FOUND LAST WINTER?
I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE...
MOTHER OF GOD! THIS REALLY IS OUR LOST SEAL...
YOU HAVE TO RUN, CHILDREN. TODAY THE UNION OF LUBLIN IS SUPPOSED TO BE SIGNED!
LET'S TAKE IT TO THE CASTLE AT ONCE!
WE HAVE TO GIVE THE SEAL TO SOMEONE IMPORTANT, DALIA...
LET'S GO IN...
GOOD MORNING, WE HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER HERE...
MOTHER OF GOD, IT IS SIGISMUND AUGUSTUS, THE KING OF POLAND!!!
I THINK I'M GOING TO FAINT!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, MY DEAR CHILDREN? SIT DOWN...
IT'S GOOD THAT THE SEAL IS FOUND, BECAUSE NOW THE UNION OF LUBLIN IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING!
TWO STATES: THE KINGDOM OF POLAND AND THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA SHALL BECOME A COMMONWEALTH...
WITH ONE KING, ONE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND COMMON FOREIGN POLICY...
WELL, BUT WE HAVE TO GO NOW. A GREAT EVENT IS COMING UP

JULY 1, 1596 THE CEREMONY OF SIGNING THE UNION OF LUBLIN.
FROM THIS MOMENT, THE KINGDOM OF POLAND AND THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA SHALL BE ONE: THE POLISH-LITHUANIAN COMMONWEALTH!
IT WAS MY HUMBLE SELF, WHO DID THAT...
BE QUIET, PIOTREK, BEHAVE YOURSELF...
FATHER, THIS WAS SO MOVING. I ALMOST CRIED...
THANK YOU, BOY. YOU HELPED ME A LOT!
IT WAS NO THING, SIR...
WELL CHILDREN, EVERYTHING ENDED WELL! AND WE SHALL NOW GO HOME, DALIA...
THAT'S A PITY...
ON THE NEXT DAY
GOOD BYE! REMEMBER TO VISIT ME IN VILNIUS!
I'LL DO THAT! WE NOW LIVE IN THE SAME COUTRY, DON'T WE?

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