

1. FLIGHT INSTRUCTIONS

A few years ago I took the book “Italian Fairy Tales“ by Italo Calvino in hand.

The first memory that came up, while I read it, was that as a boy I loved flying on a broomstick.

Oh yes, I launched myself off great cliffs, flew over deserts and mountains, crossed entire oceans, never being brushed by the doubt that all of this was not true.

Then with the school, the multiplication tables and the logical analysis that broom slowly returned to being a simple tool for cleaning the floor.

As a kid I also liked cogwheels. Or rather, the grains of sand that sneaked in and blocked them. It was amazing to see how sometimes a simple blow of breath was enough to remove those tiny obstacles and thus restart the gears in motion.

I do not know if Calvino was an expert in winds, but no doubt his book blew a breath on my life, restarting it.

And thusly, the first thing I did after finishing the book was go to the old tool shack in the garden.

I knew I'd find it there.

And indeed in the end, after having rummaged amongst a thousand and one widgets, there, waiting for me, set against the wall.

It was old, with a worn handle. With an automatic movement I found myself astride her.

No, I do not take off.

But it was as if I'd done it. A part of me really flew.

And so, thanks to that old broom, I now understand a bit more that which Calvino meant when he spoke of the truth of fairy tales.

Since always Man has told stories. They can be short stories or sagas, legends or fairy tales, but narration has always been in the human DNA: how come? Besides, where do the stories come from? Did they already exist or did we invent them? And, eventually, have they still got something to say to contemporary men?

This book tells of my journey in the world of fairy tales. I describe it so that everyone, if willing, may find some reading keys to take forth an individual path, which will be unique and unrepeatable.

The final goal of this journey is to realise that, if we learn to amplify the symbols within fairy tales, the plane of our daily reality and that of the stories, which we generally believe parallel, can touch each other. And when they establish contact, even if just briefly, a small or big intuition will surface, that can reveal something of significance in our life.