

IVÁN TSARÉVICH charms

The four adventures of Prince Iván Tsarévich are given below and from these folktales you can draw many charms and symbols, from bird feathers to golden apples and cages.

THE BIRD OF LIGHT

Old Tsar Andrónovich had the most beautiful garden in the kingdom with many rare trees, including an apple tree that grew apples made of gold. The tsar was distressed to discover that the Bird of Light was stealing his golden apples and so he asked his three sons to catch the feathered thief.

👑 The tsar's youngest son Iván was the only one who had any luck. He managed to steal a tail feather, which he

presented to his father. The feather was so bright that it would shine in a dark room like a small Sun. But the Tsar was not satisfied with a single feather and desired the whole bird, so he sent his three sons on a quest to capture it. The feather represented to him all that was bright and beautiful in the world.



The Bird of Light stole the tsar's golden apples.

heed advice

Iván had the type of foolhardy bravery that is only found in youth. He lost his horse to the claws of the Grey Wolf as price for ignoring the stone. But he lands on his feet when the Grey Wolf takes pity on him.

👑 During his quest to retrieve the Bird of Light, Iván constantly falls down by ignoring the sage advice of the wolf. For example, the Grey Wolf warns him not to touch

the Bird of Light's precious golden cage but just to take the bird. Iván is tempted to take the cage too and touches it, which alerts the garden watchmen to his presence. But Iván always admits his guilt, for which the Grey Wolf always forgives him and helps him to get out of yet another scrape.



A gold cage symbolises the forbidden.

A NEW LIFE

The adventures of Iván almost ended in tragedy, when on the way home he was killed by his two brothers, who were jealous of the treasures he had acquired.

👑 The Grey Wolf found Iván's body about to be scavenged by ravens and leaped out to stop them. He asked the mother of the ravens to fly across the "thrice-nine lands into the thrice-tenth realm"

The Waters of Death and Life give Iván a second chance in life.

and bring him back the Water of Life and the Water of Death. When she returned, the Grey Wolf sprinkled Iván with the Water of Death and then the Water of Life, and Iván rose as if from a long sleep to confront his brothers and retrieve his treasures.



TRUE LOVE

Through the twists and turns of Iván's adventures, the prince was asked by a tsar of a faraway kingdom to abduct Princess Eléna, also known as Eléna the Fair because of her great beauty.

👑 Iván fell in love with Eléna and she with him, so the Grey Wolf suggested that they trick the tsar who desired her. The Grey Wolf turned himself into the princess

and went to the tsar's palace while Iván and the real Eléna escaped. The Grey Wolf then reverted to his true form. Iván and Eléna married and it was said that from that moment on the couple were never parted.

The Grey Wolf helps to bring true love together.

