

# LEKTÜRE ENGLISCH

Rainer Jacob  
Abenteuerges

**MEHR  
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**Autor:** Rainer Jacob

## Ice on Fire

He felt it was getting colder the higher he climbed the mountain. Now and then the sun disappeared behind a dark grey cloud. The first snowflakes started to fall. A cold wind blew them into his face. He was glad his fur<sup>1</sup> coat was a good protection against the wind and the snow. He had taken a long time to hunt the deer and use their skins to make a really warm coat. Now he was glad that he had acted with so much foresight.

He had walked a long way since leaving the dwellings<sup>2</sup> deep down in the valley. Nobody had ever been so high up the mountain before. He would find out what there was on the top of the hill where the sun and the moon lived together. He felt for the little stone in his pocket.

When they were sitting around the big warming fire in the long-house after the hunt the older men told stories about wild elephants and evil spirits. The spirits, they said, lived up on the tops of the mountains. At night they would come out to send down rain or snow into the valley. As a young boy he had always become frightened when he listened to Old Arguru telling the story of the hunter who had seen the

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1 fur – *Pelz*

2 dwelling – *Wohnplatz*

mammoth<sup>3</sup> in the fire. Old Arguru, who had lost all his teeth, always lowered his voice because he did not want the powerful spirit in the mountain to hear what he was saying.

5 “My father’s father told me about Orgen,” he used to begin, “the man who saw the mammoth in flames. For days Orgen followed the small path into the big hills. He went on and on, he climbed higher and higher, until there were no more trees. He camped for the  
10 night because he wanted to go on to the top of the mountain the next morning. Hardly had he lain down when he was woken by loud thunder. Flames were coming towards him. At the centre of the raging<sup>4</sup> fire he saw a huge mammoth with two large white tusks<sup>5</sup>.  
15 The woolly animal lowered its head and wanted to attack Orgen. He jumped to the side, but there was no more rock or soil – and he fell over the side down the mountain. Fortunately he landed in the trees below. That was where the search party found him. His bones  
20 were broken and his hair had become snow-white. Never again did anyone go that high into the mountain!”

But that was just a story. An old men’s tale. He was not afraid. Again he touched the small stone disk in his  
25 pocket. He felt the encouraging warmth of the little stone. It would give him strength and help him to become a hero among his people. He would prove to

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3 mammoth – *Mammut*

4 raging – *wütend*

5 tusks – *Stoßzähne*



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[info@stark-verlag.de](mailto:info@stark-verlag.de)

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