

This text was written by Kent Hultqvist and is inspired by the poetry of **Alf Hambe**.

The Dog Cousins' Outing to Steninge - Höje Sten

The dogs walked up the long hill up from the beach and now they were almost by the monolith Höje. It was beginning to grow dark.

- What is a monolith? Whispered Semlan to Stella. She didn't want to talk so loudly because it felt very exciting.

A monolith is a big stone that someone has been placed in a hole. It is in a place where something special has happened a very long time ago, Stella explained.

- Fantastic, whispered Semlan, so quietly that she could hardly hear it herself.

- This nice monolith is the tallest one in the country, said Stella. Its first name is Höje (Tall) and its last name is Sten (Stone) - Höje Sten.

- But look, it's moving, it looks like it's dancing. It is saying something. Stella, can you hear it?

- Yes, actually. This must be a magic stone, whispered Stella with the biggest eyes she had ever had.

- Feel free to dance with me, said Höje Sten with a deep voice.

- What!? Wow!! Yes sure, we'd love to dance, whispered Semlan in the dark.

And so Stella and Semlan danced around Höje Sten at full speed. Höje was singing in his bass voice and the Dog Cousins were singing along.

- This is a a lot of fun, said Höje Sten. Imagine if everyone could dance around me and laugh and sing a little tune. You know that when there is a full moon and someone has been dancing, you can stroke your hand against my rock heart slowly and very softly and then make a wish.

- What can we wish for? Semla was asking, looking at Höje Sten.

- Just about anything, Höje Sten explained.

- There really is a full moon tonight, said Stella.

- How can you tell? Asked Semlan.

- Then you can see all of the Man in the Moon with his eyes, nose and mouth. It is completely round and as big as a beachball. Look up there, said Stella and pointed to the Man in the Moon with her paw.

They both looked up to the sky and were blinded by the moonlight.

- Then we can stroke with our paws. You do it, said Stella trembling a little bit. I will do it some other time.

- Are you afraid? Asked Semlan.

- No, it just feels a bit magic, said Stella bowing at Höje Sten.

Then Höje Sten bowed down too, all the way to the ground and said:

- I don't do this very often, but if I like the person who has been dancing, a lot, then it will happen, whispered Höje Sten. There was an echo of the words all the way to the Molom Mountain.

- It's fantastic to see a stone bow so beautifully and smoothly, said Semlan impressedly.

Semlan slowly walked up and stroked her paw across the heart of the stone, which was so soft. And then she made a wish.

There on the stone the text slowly emerged.

Stella read it to Semlan:

- You can have as much as you'd like!

- What did you wish for? Asked Stella.

- For me to have as much food as I would like tomorrow, said Semlan looking very hungry.

Semlan and Höje Sten both looked very content. Stella was wondering why Semlan had not wished for anything very nice. But she knows that Semlan thinks that food is the best thing there is, apart from all her friends, of course.

They both waved goodbye to Höje Sten and said good night.

GOOD NIGHT! Said Höje Sten so that there was an echo in all of Molom, all the way to the Ingeland Mountains.

Why don't you also try to dance a few laps, sing a little tune, stroke your hand against the stone and wish for something nice! It might work even if there is no full moon and if you are a real pally, maybe Höje Sten will bow, just for you!