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The Magic Ring of Tove

A long time ago, in what is today known as Denmark, lived a king called Valdemar. He had lost his wife and when his daughter Tove died as well, he was left inconsolable.

Such was the love he felt for his daughter, that he would not part from her urn or allow her to be buried. He took her with him wherever he went. All this caused great surprise among his vassals and his guard.

But one of his esquire discovered, while embellishing the corpse, that one of the princesses' fingers had a ring. No one knew it had been given to her by her mother before dying and had a powerful charm to insure the king's love even after death. The esquire decided to take the ring and keep it in his pocket.



Next day, to everyone's surprise, the king ordered to bury the princess and the esquire became his favorite. The king consulted every decision with him, took him everywhere and made him his counselor.

With the pass of time, remorse took hold of the squire, since he knew he had no merits to win the king's favor. So, one day, he threw the ring in a lake that was within the Gurre forest. In this way, the sympathy the king had had for him was all gone.

One day in which Valdemar was out for a stroll, he found this lake and loved it so much he decided to build a new palace in an isle in the middle of it. He was so proud of this place, he thought it was better than the Valhalla to the point not even Odin could take it from him.

Odin, the greatest of gods, felt so offended by his words that he condemned him to live there forever, even after his death.

Legend says to this day the wandering soul of Valdemar still roams around the lake.