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**Subject: The Phoenix.**

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Dear Saints

With reference to the latest Harry Potter book to be released on Saturday, called HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX, I have great pleasure to refer you to the excellent article below, by Daneman van Wyk.

The article may be freely distributed. Please forward it to friends and family around the globe.

Blessings!

Eben Swart

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The Phoenix  
by Daneman van Wyk (June 2003)

#### Introduction

The word phoenix is not uncommon in our vocabulary today. But the meaning behind the word and the origin thereof is often forgotten. Who or what is or was the phoenix and why is it still prominent today?

The Webster Dictionary defines the Phoenix as "a legendary bird which, according to one account lived 500 years, burned itself to ashes on a pyre, and rose alive from the ashes to live another period."

The Phoenix is also a constellation of stars or an illuminist symbol.

The Phoenix bird exists in various forms and countries all around the world. It is part of myths, legends and fairy tales, always in close connection with gods and leaders, either as their symbol or a god itself. Although it was given different names and used in different times for various purposes, certain features are always similar:

Its plumage was red or purple, with a multicoloured tail and golden neck. It was majestic in flight and sings the most beautiful song. It is described as a bird of prey (an eagle, pheasant, heron or peacock), but always bigger and more colourful. It almost always has a connection with the sun, fire, gold, stars, music, sublimeness, eternity, colour and palm trees. It was born from itself without following the natural laws of reproduction. Only one Phoenix could exist at a time.

#### Background

In many cultures throughout the world, mythical avian deities in the form of birds of prey, and of fantastic proportions, exist. Legends of the mythological Phoenix are far reaching and exists in the Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Chinese, Arabic, Russian and Native American cultures, folklore or mythology. All carry the tale of the great Phoenix with remarkable similarity.

#### Ancient Egypt

In ancient Egypt the bird was known as Bennu (Appendix 2). It was a sacred bird, and the name literally means the ascending one. The bird was an imaginary bird resembling a heron. It had a two long feathers on the crest of its head and was often crowned with the Atef crown of Osiris (the White Crown with two ostrich plumes on either side) or with the disk of the sun. The Bennu represented the sun, which dies every night and is reborn in the morning from the waters of the Nile, the same way it arose as first life from the watery chaos at the creation.

The Bennu was the quintessence of rebirth. Sometimes it was called Ba Ra (the soul of Ra), as the soul was considered to be a bird-like spiritual being. It also symbolised (or manifested as) the deities Kepera, Ra, Atum and Osiris. It was seen as a primordial God, building a nest on the highest willow on a hill in the city of the sun (Iunu).

#### Mythological Greece

In mythological Greece the Phoenix (Appendix 3) is associated with the worship of the sun and the Greek sun god Phoibos (Apollo). The name Phoenix comes from the Greek phoinix, which means purple or palm tree. (The botanical name of the date palm is Phoenix dactylifera).

According to the myth it lives in Arabia for 500 years (some sources say 972 or even 1 461 years). When it feels its death coming, it flies to Syria, builds a nest of aromatic wood and spices (among which were frankincense and myrrh) on top of a palm tree. It then burst into flames spontaneously and is completely consumed by the fire. From the pyre springs a worm, the Ouroboros, which after three days is transformed into a small bird with few feathers. The new Phoenix grows fast, then it embalms the ashes of its predecessor in an egg of myrrh and brings it to Heliopolis, to deposit it on the altar of the sun god. Thus it starts a new cycle of living and dying.

The Greek Phoenix is the symbol for immortality, eternity, resurrection and life after death.

#### Roman Empire

During the Roman Empire, the Phoenix legend was a continuation of the Greek one. Although the bird no longer served as a symbol for a deity, the Phoenix was compared to undying Rome, and it was used on the coinage of the late Roman Empire and served as a symbol of the Eternal City in mosaics.

#### Ancient China

In China the bird was known as Si ling, Feng or Fenghuang (feng means wind; huang means red). It is described in similar terms to the Egyptian and European Phoenix, though the

origin was an owl. It was symbol of the empress, but also associated with the south, the male yang, beauty, elegance, loyalty and honesty.

It is believed to be the legendary predecessor of the Shang-tribe - images of the Feng have appeared for over 7 000 years. It was worshipped together with other magical characters like the green dragon, white tiger, the turtle and the dark warrior. It is also believed that the Feng have brought the five tones of traditional music to the Chinese.

#### Arabian Mythology

In Arabian mythology it was known as the Roc, Rukh, Anqa or Simorgh. It is described in various ways: always red and shaped like a heron, but sometimes gigantic or even with two horns.

#### Other variations to the myth

In Islamic mythology the Phoenix was identified as a huge mysterious bird that originally was created by Allah to help people, but became a plague and was killed. The bird is mentioned in various works, from Marco Polo`s travel diaries to Thousand and One Nights.

The Buddhist Garuda is the only Phoenix-variation with a human body. It is usually depicted having a white face, scarlet wings and a golden body. It was so large that it can blot out the sun. It used to be fond of killing, but after a Buddhist prince taught him religious values he became beneficent, defending certain tribes and fighting others.

The Russian Firebird only exists in fairy tales. In the one version a hunter tried to kill the beautiful firebird, which cried out when it was hit by an arrow. Its cry was so loud that mountains tumbled and oceans arose. This is how the noise of the wind developed and mankind got music.

In the other version (Appendix 4), Ivan tried to catch a bird that was stealing apples, but only managed to hold on to one of its luminous feathers. The bird never returned. When the Tsar saw the glowing feather, he was obsessed with the idea of having the bird in his palace. The rest of the tale tells of Ivan's journey to far-away places and enormous difficulties and the magic and protective power of the single feather.

The Thunderbird myth is perhaps one of the most widespread among the Native Americans. It was a benevolent (or sometimes malicious) nature deity. The name thunderbird is often replaced with Phoenix in modern times, when referring to a Native American spirit myth.

The bird's eyes were fire, his glance was lightning, and the motions of his wings filled the air with thunder. Thunder is a spirit and it is an emblem of war; it is winged, mighty and awful and it is called the Thunderbird (according to tradition).

The wisdom of the thunderbird (shamanism) was the keeper of the fire; creation and protector of all fire; death and rebirth regeneration (in which it was also connected to the raven).

The Native American Bird symbol has been seen across Canada and the United States. The Phoenix was depicted on the first great seal of the US in 1782, but it was changed to the Eagle in 1902.

#### The Phoenix in other forms

#### Jewish Legend

In Jewish legend, the Phoenix 's name is Milcham. According to tradition, after Eve ate the forbidden fruit, she became jealous of the immortality and purity of the other creatures in the garden. Eventually, she persuaded all the animals except the Phoenix to share in her fallen state by eating from the forbidden tree.

God rewarded the Phoenix by setting him up in a walled city where he could live in great peace for 1 000 years. At the end of every thousand-year period, the bird is consumed by fire and reborn from an egg found in its ashes. One variation of this Jewish legend states that at the end of each thousand-year period, the Phoenix's body becomes small and featherless like a baby's and then he grows up all over again.

In any case, the Angel of Death may never touch him.

#### Christianity

In early Christianity the church fathers transferred the Phoenix and parts of the legend to Christian symbolism so that the Phoenix is a symbol of Christ and His resurrection. Even the symbolic meanings of the herbs and woods are also taken over: frankincense symbolising intercession and myrrh symbolising the coming of death. Gold is a symbol of power, purity and royalty.

Wherever it is found, the Phoenix is associated with resurrection, immortality, triumph over adversity, and that which rises out of the ashes. Thus it became a favourite symbol on early Christian tombstones. In chapters 25-26 of his letter to the Corinthians, St. Clement, Bishop of Rome, upheld the legendary Phoenix as an evidence of Christ's ability to accomplish the resurrection of the faithful. He quotes Job as saying, "Thou shalt raise up this flesh of mine, which has suffered all these things."

In numerous ways, the Phoenix was found to be a symbol of Christ. In most countries, it was believed that only one Phoenix lived at a time. It was born from itself without following the natural laws of reproduction. During the Middle Ages, it was believed to rise from the dead after three days. Often, as an emblem of Christ, it was found with the palm tree (another symbol of resurrection) or carrying a palm branch (a symbol of triumph over death), or carrying an olive branch (a symbol of God's peace offered to humans).

It may appear strange that some characteristic features of the Phoenix in ancient legends from the beginning of Christianity onwards appear as characteristics of Christ, but many Roman pagan practices and feasts were introduced into the Christian church after it became a state religion during the time of Constantine.

#### The freemasonry

The symbol of the Phoenix is an important symbol in freemasonry. Masonic author, Manly P. Hall, 33\$, describe it as follows in his book, The Phoenix: An Illustrated Review of Occultism and Philosophy:

"Among the ancients a fabulous bird called the Phoenix is described by early writers ... in size and shape it resembles the eagle, but with certain differences. The body of the Phoenix is one covered with glossy purple feathers, and the plumes in its tail are alternately blue and red. The head of the bird is light in color, and about its neck is a circlet of

golden plumage. At the back of its back the Phoenix has a crest of feathers of brilliant color ... The Phoenix, it is said, lives for 500 years, and at its death its body opens and the new born Phoenix emerges. Because of this symbolism, the Phoenix is generally regarded as representing immortality and resurrection ... The Phoenix is one sign of the secret orders of the ancient world and of the initiate of those orders, for it was common to refer to one who had been accepted into the temples as a man twice-born, or reborn. Wisdom confers a new life, and those who become wise are born again." [p. p. 176-77]

Barbara Walker, in her book, *Now Is The Dawning*, p. 281: Egyptians believed that the Phoenix was the representative of a god who "rose to heaven in the form of a morning star, like Lucifer, after his fire-immolation of death and rebirth..."

The symbol of the eagle and especially the double-headed eagle is very important in the masonic world. These birds are actually nothing else but the Phoenix. (The double-headed eagle is also the symbol for 33<sup>rd</sup> freemasons, the order of the Knights' Templar).

Manly P. Hall, writes in his book, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*: "These were the immortals to whom the term Phoenix was applied, and their symbol was the mysterious two-headed bird, now called an eagle, a familiar and little understood Masonic emblem." [p. 108]

Albert Pike, in *Magnum Opus*, writes, "... the Eagle was the living Symbol of Egyptian God Mendes ... and the representative of the Sun." [p. xviii]

In freemasonry the Phoenix has evolved into the eagle and the double-headed eagle over time. Is it a coincidence that the Phoenix on the first great seal of the US in 1782 was changed to the eagle in 1902?

The Phoenix carrying the "old" egg to the altar of the sun, has become confused with the cosmic egg, and one often sees portrayals of an eagle/Phoenix on the cosmic egg. The cosmic egg is also often portrayed with a snake coiled around it. This snake is actually the ouroboros, the worm that comes out of the ashes of the old Phoenix and that is transformed into the new one after three days. Often the ouroboros is portrayed as a snake biting its own tail (symbolising continuance or eternity). It is also interesting that the Cadeuceus (the staff of Hermes), has snakes coiled around it and a pair of wings. Is that a possible representation of the Ourbours and Phoenix? If so, it is significant that the snakes of the Cadeuceus are associated with the phallic organ of baphomet.

#### The Phoenix symbol

It is also clear that the Phoenix is not only a mythological symbol of the sun god, but it represents in fact the illuminated one, who is Lucifer and Satan!

This is even more evident if one compares the properties of the Phoenix with those of Lucifer as it is described in the bible (Ezekiel 28:11-18, Isaiah 14:11-17).

In short: Both are extremely beautiful (Eze. 28), and are associated with music (Isa. 14:11). Lucifer is the angel with covering wings (Eze. 28:14); similarly the Phoenix is portrayed with open wings. Both have a connection with heavenly bodies (Isa. 14:12). Both were consumed by a fire (hell?) from their midst and burnt to ashes (Eze. 28:18). (See appendix 1).

The Phoenix was strongly associated with gold, and its nest was built from aromatic woods and spices, including frankincense and myrrh. The combination of gold, frankincense and myrrh is significant.

Those involved in the New Age Movement, occultism, and freemasonry, believe that Lucifer was unjustly thrown out of heaven by God, and will rise again to be ruler of the universe in God's place. According to them, he will become God. So the Phoenix was created as symbol of this belief.

Likewise, followers of Lucifer here on earth, supposedly discover the secret knowledge or gnosis of Lucifer and also after initiation become reborn to become gods! Didn't Lucifer promise Eve in the Garden of Eden that she would become as a god?

#### The seasonal year

The seasonal year and the cyclic variation of the sunshine hours of the day are also part the sun's rebirth cycle. The sun dies every year at the winter solstice, and it is reborn in the days that follow. Ever wonder why 25 December is a pagan feast: it celebrates the rebirth of the sun in the northern hemisphere (Phoenix). In the southern hemisphere the winter solstice (23 June) has similar meaning. In some African religions it is also believed that in the weeks and months following the solstice (spring) their deities are rejuvenated and gaining in strength.

The phoenix in Egypt was strongly associated with the inundation of the Nile (the yearly flood that comes from the south). The annual flooding of the Nile starts when the zodiac sign of aquarius is the active sun sign. It is probably therefore that the region of the night sky in which Aquarius resides is populated by water-related constellations. In Babylonia, this region of the zodiac was known as the Sea. The Egyptians associated this time of year with the god Hapi, one of the four sons of Horus. Hapi was responsible for the annual flooding of the river Nile. In some images he is seen watering the earth from two large jugs. To the Phoenicians, the Aquarian sign symbol was the Phoenix.

#### Recent times

In recent times a huge image of a Phoenix was erected at the origin of the Nile, to serve as an aid to the rebirth of Egypt (Africa). Because of the association of the Phoenix with the south, it is believed that the rebirth of Africa will start in the south (South Africa, Cape Town). This is called the African Renaissance. It is very significant that the Phoenix, now in the form of another bird of prey, the secretary bird, is portrayed on the South African coat of arms. (The Egyptian symbolism on the coat of arms does not stop there). When former South African president Nelson Mandela was released from prison, he said "The Phoenix will rise again."

There is also a deliberate attempt to mix traditional African religions with Egyptian paganism in modern South Africa and beyond.

James Usher, an Anglican priest, argues in his book *Annals of the Old and the New Testament* (ca. 1650) that the creation took place in 4004 bc. Freemasons support this belief and add 4004 to the current year: 2003 + 4004 = 6007, or to simplify things a little bit (with the 4004 rounded down to 4000): 6003.

If the cycles of the Phoenix is taken as 500 years, then it means that we are currently at the beginning of the 13th Phoenix reincarnation according to the masonic year count. And it coincides with the astrological age of aquarius!

Let us take the numeric symbolism even further: It is well known that the illuminati consists out of 13 families. Does that mean that we are experiencing the awakening of the final round of illuminati rule - the Order/Empire of the Phoenix? The year 2003 (6007) seems to be symbolologically significant as well: 6+0+0+7 = 13!

JK Rowling will be in Cape Town for the launch of the fifth Harry Potter book, *Harry Potter and the order of the Phoenix*, on the 21st of June 2003, at 01:01. (Is there symbolic meaning to 101?). This is the day of the winter solstice in the southern hemisphere, the day the winter sun dies and the new sun (Phoenix) arises. Why the southern winter solstice, and what is the connection with the African Renaissance?

Another thought: about Harry Potter and the order of the Phoenix - What is the meaning of the word order? Is it a knightly order (like the Order of the Knights' Templar), or 'order'

being the opposite of `chaos', or `order' as a `command'. What is Lucifer's order?

What to pray for

We must pray for our country and the deliverance from the darkness of Witchcraft into the glorious light of Jesus Christ!. We have to conquer the Phoenix and the spirit of Lucifer, and anything connected or associated with it in both the spiritual and physical realms, as it is not from God. As the ourboros is the beginning of the Phoenix, we must pray in terms of that . to nip it in the bud. God is the only true alpha and omega - the beginning and the end.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. (2 John 5:14)

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Appendix 1:

Ezekiel 28:11 - 19 (Amplified)

11Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 12Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, Thus says the Lord God: You are the full measure and pattern of exactness [giving the finishing touch to all that constitutes completeness], full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, the carnelian, topaz, jasper, chrysolite, beryl, onyx, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald; and your settings and your sockets and engravings were wrought in gold. On the day that you were created they were prepared. 14You were the anointed cherub that covers with overshadowing [wings], and I set you so. You were upon the holy mountain of God; you walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire [like the paved work of gleaming sapphire stone upon which the God of Israel walked on Mount Sinai]. 15You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until iniquity and guilt were found in you. 16Through the abundance of your commerce you were filled with lawlessness and violence, and you sinned; therefore I cast you out as a profane thing from the mountain of God and the guardian cherub drove you out from the midst of the stones of fire. 17Your heart was proud and lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I lay you before kings, that they might gaze at you. 18You have profaned your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities and the enormity of your guilt, by the unrighteousness of your trade. Therefore I have brought forth a fire from your midst; it has consumed you, and I have reduced you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who looked at you. 19All who know you among the people are astonished and appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and shall never return to being.

Isaiah 14:11 - 16 (Amplified)

11Your pomp and magnificence are brought down to Sheol (the underworld), along with the sound of your harps; the maggots [which prey upon dead bodies] are spread out under you and worms cover you [O Babylonian rulers]. 12How have you fallen from heaven, O light-bringer and daystar, son of the morning! How you have been cut down to the ground, you who weakened and laid low the nations [O blasphemous, Satanic king of Babylon!] 13And you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit upon the mount of assembly in the uttermost north. 14I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. 15Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol (Hades), to the innermost recesses of the pit (the region of the dead). 16Those who see you will gaze at you and consider you, saying, Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms?-- 17Who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who would not permit his prisoners to return home?

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The Phoenix

by Daneman van Wyk (June 2003)

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Appendix 2: The Bennu

The Bennu, the sacred bird, is the quintessence of rebirth...

by Athon Veggi and Alison Davidson

Bennu... To Rise, To Shine

The wonderful Bennu, with its brilliant red and golden plumage, was the sacred bird of Heliopolis. Identified as a heron with its long straight back and head adorned at the back with two erect feathers, the Bennu was later called Phoenix by the Greeks and fabulous stories were told about it.

In Heliopolis, the Bennu bird played a major role in Egyptian mythology, dwelling on the ben-ben stone or obelisk within its sanctuary and revered alongside Ra and Ausar (Osiris). For it was in the City of the Sun where the work of creation began.

The Bennu bird was said to create itself from the fire that burned on the top of the sacred Persea tree in Heliopolis, and in the Metternich Stele, Auset (Isis) says to her son Heru: 'Thou art the Great Bennu who was born on the Incense Trees in the House of the Great Prince in Heliopoli.'

(Budge, 1969, vol. 2209)

As the 'soul of Ra,' the sun rose in the form of the Bennu to shine out across the world renewed each morning. But the Bennu was also a manifestation of Ausar (Osiris) and was said to spring from his heart as a living symbol of the god. In the 'Book of the Dead,' there are formulae to transform the deceased into the Great Bennu. Here, the deceased says, 'I am the Bennu, the soul of Ra, and the guide of the gods in the Duat.' In another verse, he says, 'I am pure. My purity is the purity of the Great Bennu which is in the city of Suten-henen.'

For the Bennu is the quintessence of rebirth, it rises from its ashes as the spiritual body rises from the dead physical form, as the new sun rises from the old. It is the new condition reached when the return to life is accomplished, namely the resurrection of Ausar (Osiris).

Herodotus records the Bennu bird -- making its appearance only once in 500 years -- as coming from Arabia, carrying in its beak an egg of myrrh that contained its father's body. This egg is similar to Geb's egg that was laid on the primordial hill and gave birth to the sun, the egg within which the whole alchemical process of transformation is effected.

When the Bennu became old, he built a nest of incense twigs in the sacred tree, and lay down and died. In Pliny's account, a small worm appeared from his body that metamorphosed into a bird, and thus the Bennu was reborn.

The planet Venus was called the 'star of the ship of the Bennu-Ausar' (Osiris), mentioned as the Morning Star in this invocation to the sacred sun bird.

I am the Bennu, the soul of Ra,

and the guide of the gods in the Tuat;  
let it be so done unto me that  
I may enter in like a hawk,  
and that I may come forth like Bennu,  
the Morning Star.

"The Book of Doors: An Alchemical Oracle from Ancient Egypt."  
From: Veggi, Athon and Davidson, Alison

<http://www.Phoenixarises.com/Phoenix/legends/bennu.htm>

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Appendix 3: The Greek Phoenix

The Story of the Phoenix

There is a bird that lays no eggs and has no young. It was here when the world began and is still living today, in a hidden, faraway desert spot. It is the Phoenix, the bird of fire.

One day in the beginning times, the sun looked down and saw a large bird with shimmering feathers. They were red and gold--bright and dazzling like the sun itself. The sun called out, "Glorious Phoenix, you shall be my bird and live forever!" Live forever!

The Phoenix was overjoyed to hear these words. It lifted its head and sang, "Sun glorious sun, I shall sing my songs for you alone!"

But the Phoenix was not happy for long. Poor bird. Its feathers were far too beautiful. Men, women, and children were always casing it and trying to trap it. They wanted to have some of those beautiful, shiny feathers for themselves.

"I cannot live here," thought the Phoenix. and it flew off toward the east, where the sun rises in the morning.

The Phoenix flew for a long time, and then came to a far away, hidden desert where no humans lived. And there the Phoenix remained in peace, flying freely and singing its songs of praise to the sun above.

Almost five hundred years passed. The Phoenix was still alive, but it had grown old. It was often tired, and it had lost much of its strength. It couldn't soar so high in the sky, nor fly as fast or as far as it was young.

"I don't want to live like this," thought the Phoenix. "I want to be young and strong."

So the Phoenix lifted its head and sang, "Sun, glorious sun, make me young and strong again!" but the sun didn't answer. Day after day the Phoenix sang. When the sun still didn't answer, the Phoenix decided to return to the place where it had lived in the beginning and ask the sun one more time.

It flew across the desert, over hills, green valleys, and high mountains. The journey was long, and because the Phoenix was old and weak, it had to rest along the way. Now, the Phoenix has a keen sense of smell and is particularly fond of herbs and spices. So each time it landed, it collected pieces of cinnamon bark and all kinds of fragrant leaves. It tucked some in among its feathers and carried the rest in its claws.

When at last the bird came to the place that had once been its home, it landed on a tall palm tree growing high on a mountainside. Right at the top of the tree, the Phoenix built a nest with the cinnamon bark and lined it with the fragrant leaves. Then the Phoenix flew off and collected some sharp-scented gum called myrrh, which it had seen oozing out of a nearby tree. The Phoenix made an egg from the myrrh and carried the egg back to the nest.

Now everything was ready. The Phoenix sat down in its nest, lifted its head, and sang, "Sun, glorious sun, make me young and strong again!"

This time the sun heard the song. Swiftly it chased the clouds from the sky and stilled the winds and shone down on the mountainside with all its power.

The animals, the snakes, the lizards, and every other bird hid from the sun's fierce rays -- in caves and holes, under shady rocks and trees. Only the Phoenix sat upon its nest and let the sun's rays beat down upon its beautiful, shiny feathers.

Suddenly there was a flash of light, flames leaped out of the nest, and the Phoenix became a big round blaze of fire.

After a while the flames died down. The tree was not burnt, nor was the nest. But the Phoenix was gone. In the nest was a heap of silvery-grey ash.

The ash began to tremble and slowly heave itself upward. From under the ash there rose up a young Phoenix. It was small and looked sort of crumpled, but it stretched its neck and lifted its wings and flapped them. Moment by moment it grew, until it was the same size as the old Phoenix. It looked around, found the egg made of myrrh, and hollowed it out. Then it placed the ashes inside and finally closed up the egg. The young Phoenix lifted its head and sang, "Sun, glorious sun, I shall sing my songs for you alone! Forever and ever!"

When the song ended, the wind began to blow, the clouds came scudding across the sky, and the other living creatures crept out of their hiding places.

Then the Phoenix, with the egg in its claws, flew up and away. At the same time, a cloud of birds of all shapes and sizes rose up from the earth and flew behind the Phoenix, singing together, "You are the greatest of birds! You are our king!"

The birds flew with the Phoenix to the temple of the sun that the Egyptians had built at Heliopolis, city of the sun. Then the Phoenix placed the egg with the ashes inside on the sun's altar.

"Now," said the Phoenix, "I must fly on alone." And while the other birds watched, it flew off toward the faraway desert.

The Phoenix lives there still. But every five hundred years, when it begins to feel weak and old, it flies west to the same mountain. There it builds a fragrant nest on top of a palm tree, and there the sun once again burns it to ashes. But each time, the Phoenix rises up from those ashes, fresh and new and young again.

<http://www.Phoenixarises.com/Phoenix/legends/story.htm>

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Appendix 4: The Fire Bird

Russian Sunbirds: Fire Bird

A short version of the folk tale "Prince Ivan, the Fire Bird, and the Gray Wolf."

In a far away land, a thief was stealing golden apples, which had the power of bestowing youth and beauty, from Tsar Berendey`s magic Garden. The guards of the Tsar were unable to stop this, for as hard as they tried, the thief always

got away. None of the guards had even seen this thief. The Tsar was frustrated, for he needed the golden apples for himself, as he was married to a very beautiful young Queen.

The only person who spotted the thief was the Tsar's son, Prince Ivan Tsarevich. As the night came upon the garden, the young Tsarevich hid under a water bucket and listened closely to every sound around him. At dawn, the Prince almost fell asleep, but the silence was broken by a magical being. The Prince pulled the water bucket up slightly so he could just see through the thin opening. And there it was: the Fire Bird.

In the depth of night the Fire Bird would fly into the garden with its feathers blazing with a silver and golden sheen. Its eyes were shining like crystals and would light the place as brightly as a thousand burning fires. The Tsarevich crawled up to the unsuspecting bird, and rushed to grab it by the tail.

The next day Prince Ivan told his father, the old Tsar, about the Fire Bird. He showed his father one of the Fire Bird's feathers. This was all he had managed to get, as the Bird was too smart and had flown away. From that day on, the Tsar was obsessed with the idea of capturing the Fire Bird for himself. In order to find the Bird, he sent his three sons on a journey to another kingdom.

Ivan Tsarevich's adventure begins when, after a long day's ride, he falls asleep, only to awake in the morning to find his horse gone. Wandering through the woods, he meets a gray wolf, who confesses that he ate the horse. Grateful that Ivan has spared his life, Gray Wolf offers to let Ivan ride on his back. Gray Wolf takes Ivan to Tsar Afron's kingdom, where the Fire Bird is kept in a golden cage inside the Tsar's walled garden.

The Prince, although warned by the Gray Wolf to take only the bird and not the cage, takes the cage anyway and triggers an alarm. Captured by Tsar Afron, he is told that in order to have the Fire Bird, he must pay for it with the Horse of the Golden Mane, which is in possession of Tsar Kusman.

The Gray Wolf carries Ivan to Kusman's palace and advises him to acquire the horse but not the bridle. Once again the Prince is tempted by the gold and diamonds in the bridle, so he ignores the advice. He again becomes captured by Kusman, who now says he will only give him the horse in exchange for the fair Princess Elena, who was residing with Tsar Dalmat.

This time the wolf does the work himself and seizes Elena. He brings her back to Ivan and the Prince falls in love with her. The wolf offers to trick Kusman by assuming Elena's shape and also to trick Afron too by assuming the form of the horse.

Ivan returns with Elena, the horse, and the Fire Bird. However when the wolf leaves him, he is ambushed and killed by his brothers.

The wolf then returns and revives him with the Waters of Life and Death. The brothers are banished, and Ivan Tsarevich meets Tsar Berendey to tell his tragic story. When the Tsar's grief fades, the Prince marries Elena the Fair and they live happily ever after.

Composed and translated by  
Paul V. Tyutin

<http://www.sunbirds.com/lacquer/readings/1004>