



“the Bear Slayer”

Written By Andrejs Pumpurs

Andrejs Pumpurs

(1841-1902)

- ◆ He is one of the greatest Latvian poets in the 19th century.
- ◆ He created the epic poem “The Bear Slayer” using local folk songs, folk tales and legends.
- ◆ He was one of the most powerful leaders of romanticism in Latvia.
- ◆ His creative work is permeated with motives of love to own country, ideas about the future of his nation.



The epic poem “The Bear Slayer”

- **Andrejs Pumpurs wrote this masterpiece for the third Latvian song festival in 1888. It was first published in 1888.**
- **This masterpiece has been translated in many languages and it has been published many times.**
- **It has been translated into Japanese, Russian, Estonian, Lithuanian and other languages.**
- **In 2007 a Latvian born Australian Arthur Cropley translated Latvian epic poem in English.**

The Bear Slayer

- He is the main character.
- He is the Latvian people's hero, his strength is hidden in his ears.
- He is sent by gods.
- He is honest, he trusts people- he symbolises Latvian people who have unfortunately always trusted and relied on those who have bad intentions.
- He is patriotic, tough, loyal, wise, fair and virtuous, he loves nature.



Laimdota

[Lime-dwo-tu]

- She is the symbol of honesty and intelligence.
- She is beautiful, virtuous, learned and a daughter of a wise Latvian lord, teacher of Bearslayer.
- Laimdota reveals to the Bearslayer that he has been chosen by the gods to fight against the evil, against those who betray the country.



The Black Knight

- He is a German knight brought to Latvia by Bishop Albert to kill Bearslayer.
- From the epic poem:
 - “He claimed his mother was a witch
Who guided him with magic charm,
And he in devil’s arts so rich,
That never wound could cause him harm.”



Kangars

[Kun-gars]

- A Latvian holy man who had secretly made a pact with the Devil.
- He betrays his friends, the nation, the land.
- He is clever, but cunning and disloyal.



The Daugava

[Dow-g'vu]

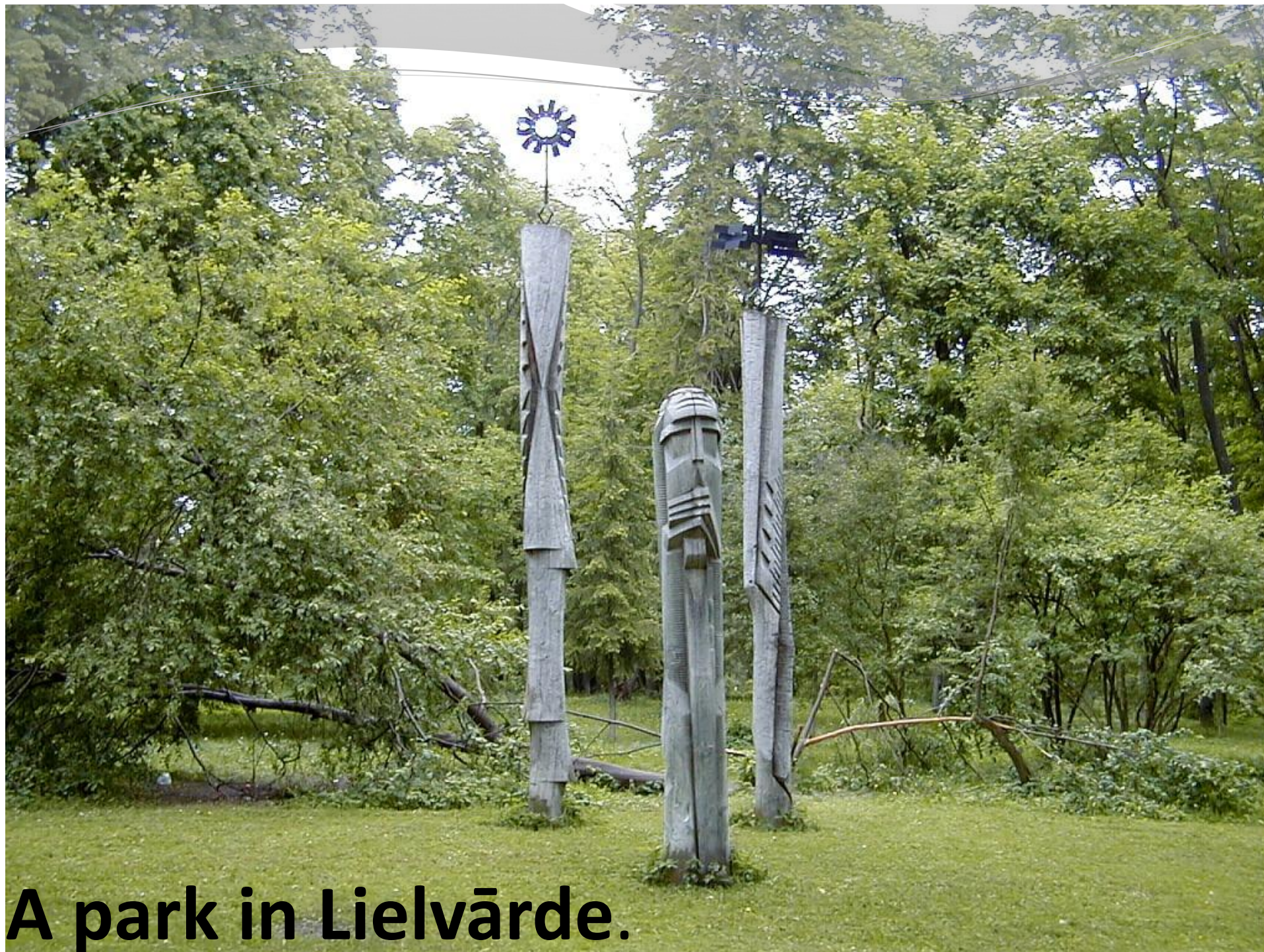
- It is the revered, almost sacred principal river of Latvia.
- Its course lies mainly SE of Riga, but it flows into the sea to the east of Riga. It crosses the very large part of Latvia.
- It is the river where the main part of the story takes place.



Lielvārde

[Lee-ull-var-du]:

- ◆ A Latvian stronghold on the northern bank of the Daugava, about 55 km. SE of Riga.
- ◆ It's home of Bearslayer and his foster father, Lielvārdis.
- ◆ This is a place where the final action takes place.



A park in Lielvārde.



Laimdota and Bearslayer.



• Prepared by Kristine Treimane.