



## **The Story of Hafenratte and Fledermaus - a SMart Project**

Through the mist of past, in a southern city far away, grey old Hafenratte – the harbour rat - heard the beautiful voice of a very special creature.

Like being drawn by a rope he followed the sound. He came to a big and heavy gate. Was it a prison? Did they jail her? Why and who did it? The gate opened for a moment and the chanting got louder. Hafenratte slipped in and found himself in a strange room.

It was decorated with candles and crosses and with very disturbing pictures, telling about death and pursuance. But through coloured windows a peculiar light was filling the room. Everything Hafenratte could see was dedicated to some special rituals. A strange odour filled the room which came from a kettle someone was weaving around. Very weird scenery, he thought.

Next to an altar, on a small stage, beautiful Fledermaus – a cute little bat - was singing in her high, clear voice. The song was one of those in an ancient language only adepted people understand. Hafenratte saw that there were other winged creatures accompanying her.

Hafenratte listened in enchantment.

After Fledermaus had finished he secretly followed her down into the vault. Somewhere in a dark and dim corner Fledermaus got caught. Tying her wings so that she could not fly away he kidnapped her and took her away from the other creatures to the big city at the river in the north.

He told her that she will only be set free if she would sing for him. Fledermaus obeyed and so he untied her wings. He allowed her to fly through the night but she always has to return when she is asked to be at his command.

This way the music of the Smart Project is created with sounds coming from underground, words coming from the darkest void of soul, driven by pleasure and pain and the deepest despair of those creatures who call themselves humans.

Bats they fly at night and harbour rats only come out after sunset to stroll the streets of the big city. Only when having the ears and eyes of a harbour rat or a bat you will get knowledge of those things Hafenratte and Fledermaus tell about in their songs. Sometimes they show their sharp teeth when smiling at you.

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