

The bear's prophecy

I thought it was a story at first, but it's pretty much true. We were at the bear park in Kero to greet Sulo.

The wife was at the last stages of pregnancy. It was the summer of 1996.

We frolicked with the little bears in the yard and went to visit the shelter to see the big old bear.

He walked peacefully in the cage. A gust of wind blew behind us towards the cages and the bear smelled us. He sprinted at speed next to the fence, raised his paws to three meters against the fence and growled. It just came to me that luckily that fence will last.

The bear came to tell us that a boy is coming, Sulo said.

The bear smells the child in the belly. If the child to be born is a boy, the bear tries to startle the mother so that there would be miscarriage. The bear knows that the baby boy may grow up to be its enemy and persecutor – a bear hunter.

I thought Sulo was just saying things. When 18.8. we had a son, I started to wonder if it could make sense anyway.

As a masseur, my customers are people who in their youth have been and spent the night in the wilderness meadows.

I have asked a few people about this bear's ability to smell the gender of an unborn child. Everyone said that it is true.

You had to be especially careful on wilderness meadows if you were pregnant and at least you weren't allowed to make a pregnant woman to sleep at the edge of the shelter. It was feared that the bear would come to get her.

A woman who was pregnant when she was in a meadow sauna shared her personal experience of staying the night. The crowd had woken up to the fact that the bear was circling the sauna. The bear had nosed near the dirt floor and between the logs but left when there were other people there. After this, a baby boy was born.

Told by

Rauno Säkkinen

Kalevalan style masseur

Kuusamo 2021