

Tender and affectionate salute to Shri Mahesh by Laurent de Brunhoff : Babar's Little Girl.



Laurent de Brunhoff's niece, Isabelle Koch inspired her uncle in the creation of the main character.

In 1987, Laurent de Brunhoff, elder son of Babar's creator Jean de Brunhoff, pays a high tribute to his professor, Shri Mahesh. In his album, " Babar's Little Girl", the author – draftsman stages Shri Mahesh as Mister Picardy.

When Laurent de Brunhoff takes over his father in 1946, the relay of his father and publishes his first album, " Babar's Cousin: That Rascal Arthur", he appropriates an universe internationally recognized.

Eighteen albums later, the talent of Laurent de Brunhoff it is clearly recognized. In December 2011 he was made Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters.

In " Babar's Little Girl", the author tells the arrival of a newcomer within the royal family : the baby elephant Isabelle. Keen and cheeky, Isabelle does not follow rules fixed by her parents. One day she leaves the castle to start an adventure. On her way she met Mister Picardy, a Yoga teacher freely inspired by Shri Mahesh.

The introduction of Mister Picardy is for Laurent de Brunhoff, a tribute to the man who guided him and awakened him in the Yoga practice for many years.



Babar and his friends practising the Yoga. In the background, in his brown suit , Mister Picardy comes on stage.

Today, his niece, Isabelle Koch tells us:

« I look back with pleasure about these moments with *de Laurent de Brunhoff*. This wonderment when I was a child. Watching him draw. When his poetic characters suddenly came alive. I remember, adolescent girl with his bike, interact in thought with cousin Arthur (fictional character of Babar universe) also on his bike. I remember finally this complicity with my uncle during our walks in bicycle in the swamps of the Ile de Ré. The same place where, years later, as Shri Mahesh pupil, I began to draft my book of yoga for children.

In " Babar's Little Girl", with the character of Picardy, my uncle wished to immortalize our professor and FIK's founder. What a beautiful story! »



