

Slavic Sea Folklore

Birth and Death of Humans and the Earth

Birth of the earth:
river of lava to the
ocean, Hawai'i' Island.

• *The river is a path to
the otherworld (the
sea).*

Boats and Birth/New Life



Rocking Boat,
Rocking Cradle



• In Eastern Slavic
Proverbs, babies are
brought by water (rain,
marshes, lakes, rivers).

Sadko sails a river to the
open sea, where he
crosses into the
otherworldly sea realm.



The Water Sprite, Gvidon Birolla
(Möderndorfer 1957)

Faronika the Fish



*“The earth floats on water,
and two big fish swim around
it. When one of them snubs
the earth or hits it with its
tail, this causes an
earthquake”.*

• *When these fish dive, it will
cause the end of the world.*

Boats and Death/Funeral Rites



• Just like the Sea Tsar in
Sadko, the Slavic Water
Sprite of seas, lakes, and
rivers creates storms to
sink ships, demanding an
offering or sacrifice of
the man who has
angered him.