

PROJECT BOOK OF LEGENDS



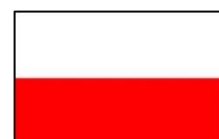
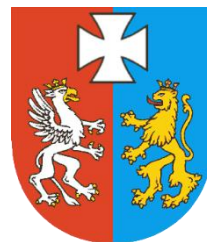
Differences bring Us together

National legends from Poland,
Greece, Turkey, Croatia and Spain



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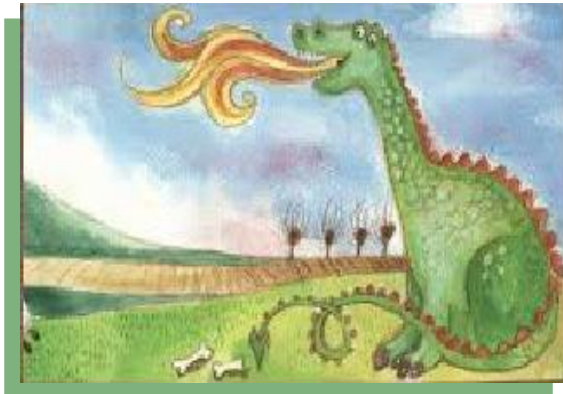
POLISH LEGENDS



'The well of the past is very deep.'

(Thomas Mann, 1875 – 1955; the German prose writer)

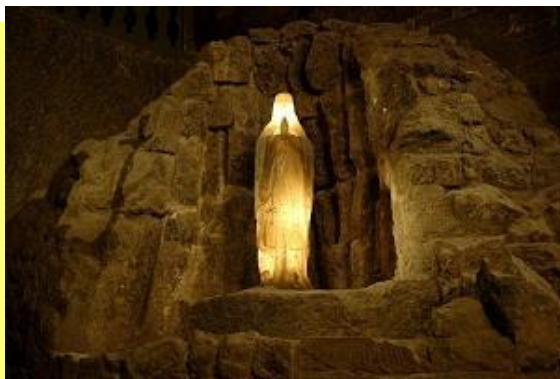
THE LEGENDS



The Legend of the Wawel Dragon



The Legend of Brave Wanda



The dowry of Saint Kinga



The Vislók river saved Jadwiga, the Queen



The stony Spinners

FOREWORD

There are some parts of the world where even now people cannot write. The only way to preserve their history is to recount it as legends, handed down from one generation to another.

Poland is the land of various interesting places. I will concentrate on some places. They are completely different. However they show that Poland itself has large possibilities to surprise and impress everyone.

Rooted in the history of Poland, our legends are connected with these places – real 'pearls' of Polish tradition. They are the set of fantastic stories about persons and historical events. Our legends base on folk tales. Fairy tales and legends have great wisdom encoded in them.

”A man is always better than a book” (C.T.Copeland). So are story – tellers.



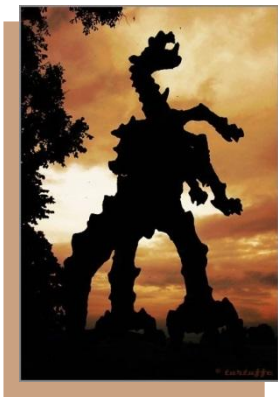
The Legend of the Wawel Dragon



There are many stories about dragons in all cultures. Some people say that dinosaurs were probably the origin. People found dinosaur's bones and fossils. Pictures show that dragons are similar to large reptiles. They've got wings and often breathe fire, of course.

Some time ago, an interesting discovery was made by archeologists in Krakow.

The city must have been prosperous, for it enjoyed a high level of civilization.

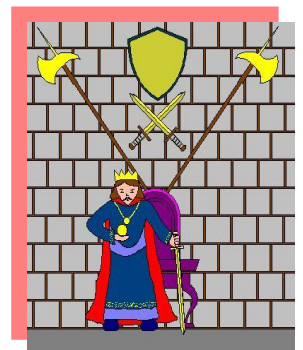


However a long, long time ago, in a den at the foot of Wawel Hill, there lived a terrible dragon. None of the inhabitants of the city of Krakow knew when the beast had appeared. The monster used to come like a thief – in the night, without warning. Everyone trembled with fear if only they thought about the dragon. The knights guarding the town at night felt their hair stand on end when they heard the dragon roar. The

creature seemed to be undefeated.

The days passed. The monster liked its 'home' under Wawel Castle very much. Every day it would devour everything what was moving: sheep, cows, horses. It destroyed fields, crops during harvest. People were afraid of its fiery jaws.

At the same time Krakow was ruled by King Krak. He and his counsel from the wisest of the local citizens thought for a long time what to do with the dragon's problem. In a special decree it was announced by the King that someone who once for all would put the dragon down, he would receive the King's sceptre, crown and the princess as his wife!



According to this announcement many brave, noble knights started to come to Krakow. They tried to get rid of the monster in different ways. But they didn't

succeed. Their swords and arrows shattered on its scaly body. It was like a shield. A snapping of its fire – breathing jaws caused the knights' shaking. Nothing could be done.



Time passed. The dragon destroyed the land around Krakow. Fewer and fewer knights wanted to save the city. But more and more citizens moved from Krakow.

Fortunately one day a young man came to the town. His name was Dratewka, an unknown shoemaker. At first he wasn't

allowed to pass through the gate. But when the guards found out the purpose of his visit they led him to the castle of King Krak quickly.

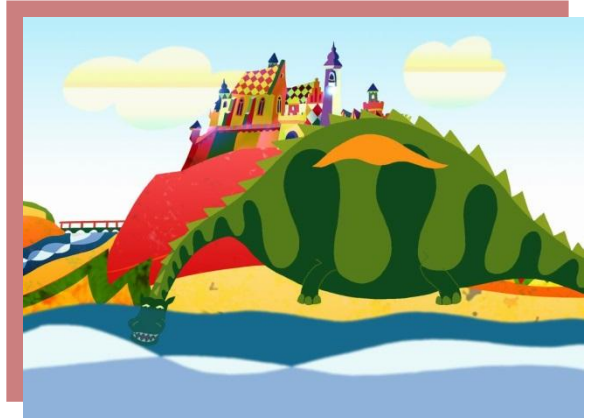
Dratewka told the king that he knew how to kill the dragon. Krak hesitated for a while but the shoemaker explained his smart plan. All Dratewka needed was only lambskin, some sulphur and mustard seed. Then Dratewka wasn't sleeping all night long. A candle burned in his room. Curious Krakovians came close to his windows and observed the young man's work. He took the lambskin, filled it with sulphur, pitch and mustard seed. He sewed up the hole in the belly of the stuffed sheep. The inhabitants of Krakow wondered what Dratewka was going to do. They didn't understand anything.



Next day at dawn the shoemaker took the stuffed lamb with him and set off to the dragon's den. He threw his bait on the ground near the den. He hid himself in the bushes and waited what would happen.

Suddenly the monster awoke and got out of its den. It was hungry, as usual in the morning. It saw a lamb and greedily with one snap of his jaws swallowed the stuffed lamb. The sheep was an easy morsel for this large creature.

But what Dratewka saw was worth waiting, seeing and sacrifice. The sulphur which he put in the artificial lamb began to burn inside the monster's belly. The dragon hurried to the banks of the Vistula River to quench its thirst. But the more it drank the more it felt the fiery flames in its belly.



The dragon swelled up like a balloon. As a result the dragon exploded into pieces unexpectedly. The explosion was so strong that furniture in all the chambers of Wawel castle shook a lot. The pictures fell from the walls. The china in the castle kitchen was broken and cracked.

The Krakovians had a good time when they learned of the dragon's destruction. The King was crying because of happiness. The ruler kept his royal promise. To his surprise, Dratewka wanted neither the princess for his wife nor kingdom for his prosperity. He didn't mean to become a hero. He was very modest. He wanted only to help the people of Krakow. So after the rumour he continued to make shoes.



The Legend of Brave Wanda

Once upon a time, after the death of the King Krak, his only child - daughter Wanda - took over the throne in Wawel castle. The people didn't know if this very young princess would manage to be a queen. But Wanda ruled wisely and justly. The inhabitants of Krakow loved their young queen for her good heart and calmness. Words about her beauty, grace and wisdom spread around the whole world. Princes from abroad began to come to Wawel castle. They brought gifts and wanted to marry the queen. However Wanda dreamt about a husband from the house of Piast, a hard-working, noble Pole who would, like her, devote his life to the country.



Simultaneously, at the Łaba river, a young German prince – Roderyk – reigned the country. He was interested in the beautiful Krak's daughter. Roderyk was going to marry her at any price!

One day, a great number of German knights came to the gate of the castle. They were travelling a long way. They were astonished at the magnificent city Krakow and the beauty of Wanda. She looked wonderful like a sunny, spring morning.



The knights spoke to her in the name of prince Roderyk. He asked her to give him her hand. The envoys brought valuable jewellery, priceless rings and necklaces. When they stood in front of the queen they started to extol the power and force of Roderyk and his country. They were arrogant and boastful. Wanda looked at the gifts but she didn't enjoy them. A smile disappeared from her gentle face. She grew sad. Wanda raised her proud head and said:

– Thank to your master, please. I can neither accept his presents nor be his

wife.

I belong to this land, which I love with all my heart. I love my people, too.

I will never leave them and go to the foreign country.

Suddenly the German knights were angry and very rude.

The oldest of them told Wanda not to refuse to marry Roderyk. In the contrary he would destroy her land and kill her subjects. It wasn't going to be only a little

skirmish but an outrageous fight. Wanda firmly declined the proposal once more. She knew that it wasn't only the principle of a sword. The offended Germans left Krakow swearing revenge.



The Queen wasn't frightened by the threat. On the other hand she realized how determined Germans were if they desired something. She called a meeting with her noble men to prepare a suitable defense. The inhabitants were gathering food. Knights sharpened swords. Archers oiled

bows and counted arrows. Even old people helped to fill barrels with tar. The town didn't sleep.

Everyone knew what was worth fighting for – the city and the land. There was both excitement and fear, in the same time.

At last the day of battle came. Roderyk's splendid army approached the gate to the castle. His knights formed several black columns. The battle for life or death had begun. The citizens of Krakow defended themselves. Not only soldiers fought but women and children helped as well. The queen herself put on shining armour and mounted a white stallion to fight. It was a murderous and bloody battle.

Although the German army was larger and stronger than the Polish one, the enemy was forced to retreat. The Krakovians gained a victory! The citizens celebrated this special time. Colourful processions marched through the town. Honey flowed in streams. Roast lambs and beef were served to everybody who had a wish.



The queen didn't share the joy of her subjects. Tears of happiness and sadness flowed down her cheeks. She was sure that as long as she was alive, Roderyk would never stop tormenting the city of Krakow. Only her death could bring a real peace to her nation.

Wanda, the queen was sitting in her chamber. In completely silence she thought what to do. She put on a shimmering dress, let her golden hair down and put a wreath of wild meadow flowers on her head. She looked beautifully. She left Wawel unexpectedly in the darkness, at the same night. She didn't want to be seen by anyone. She was running straight at the banks of the Vistula river. She looked around for the last time. The queen heard the sounds of music, coming from the town. Wanda, wiping the tears from her crystal blue eyes, jumped into the waters of the swiftly flowing river.



In the morning somebody noticed her body born by the calm waves of the Vistula river. News of the queen's death spread quickly through the town. The inhabitants couldn't believe what had happened. The castle was in the grief. A heavy rain began to fall on Krakow. A strong wind started to blow. It seemed that the whole nature was crying over Wanda's death. The people who lived in Krakow swore to always remember about their brave queen. They found a right place to bury Wanda. They made a mound above the grave. At the top of the high hill they built a stone monument.

When Roderyk found out about Wanda's death, he regretted being so cruel.

He understood that buy nor get forced. too late for her



love could neither be Unfortunately it was forgiveness.

The dowry of Saint Kinga



Bolesław, called the Shy became the ruler of Poland at the age of six. When he was thirteen the noble men decided to find him a wife. They chose Kinga, the daughter of the Hungarian king. They sent some envoys to Hungary on behalf of Bolesław to ask for approval.

The Hungarian king liked the Polish people for their bravery and a respect to women.

So he agreed for this marriage immediately. He wanted to give his daughter Kinga a very rich dowry – much gold and silver. To his surprise she didn't want to take it.



She said that the Poles didn't need gold and silver because they weren't poor. According to Kinga the Polish State needed other treasure – salt. Poland was buying it from Hungary.

The king was amused by this kind of request. He couldn't understand how many barrels of salt should have been prepared. And how was Kinga going to do it?

Kinga asked her father to show her the place under the ground where the salt was. She claimed that she was able to carry salt to her new 'mother land' – the Polish realm.



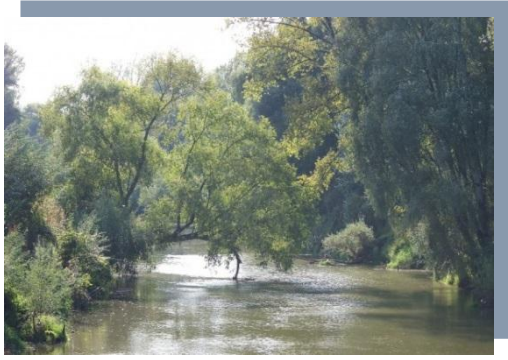
The king loved her daughter very much so he didn't dare to refuse her. He told her to do what she was dreaming about. Then Kinga was led to the place where salt was drawn out. She looked into a dark, deep derrick and threw her wedding ring into a hole.

Soon she went to Krakow to marry Bolesław, the Shy. After the wedding she told Bolesław that she had lost her ring. But she knew where to find it. She and her young husband went to Wieliczka. Miners tried to dig a deep well. They were digging under the ground. One day they stopped working because of a hard rock. They told Kinga, the queen, that a hard boulder didn't allow to dig more. Kinga was stubborn, she didn't give up. She asked them to cut off a piece of the rock and bring it to her. When they put the cut part on the ground the miners shouted loudly in astonishment. The piece wasn't a rock but a real salt. Everyone started to stare at it and touch it.

Kinga ordered them to chip the clod of salt. When they did this her wedding ring fell down on the ground. Kinga was proud of herself. Furthermore the ring brought her happiness.

There has been a lot of salt in Poland since this event.





The Visłok river saved Jadwiga, the Queen

In mediaeval times boundaries between states or shires, rivers were crossed by fords which became the sites of towns, or by bridges which were often points of battle. Upon rivers the people of that time depended for food, power and transport.



The story begins in 14th century. Our beautiful land, Subcarpathian Voivodeship was covered with huge, lush forests. The main church (Fara) was about to be built in Rzeszow. There were neither tenement houses nor rock pavements in the town. Travelling was tiresome because people went on muddy roads, across the wooden bridges and the river's shrubberies.

Some day the Queen Jadwiga was heading to Krakow from Łańcut. Near Rzeszow, in the forest, she and her followers were attacked by the horde of bandits. They saw rich carriages and large trunks. Ladies-in-waiting, courtiers were wearing

valuable clothes. The robbers thought about an easy and a precious prey. It lured them.

Suddenly the queen with her followers came into the Vislok river. All of them were in a hurry. The ruffians were very close to the queen's coach. On the other hand they stayed at the back and far away from the followers.

The Vislok river caused this unusual situation. Shortly speaking the river's current defended the queen from the ruffians. The water made a chase harder because the river was winding perfectly. Falling ground was filled by the water of the river immediately. That's rather steep! The robbers were both furious and exhausted by this kind of hunting. The bandits couldn't help the forces of nature.

They gave up and ran away. The danger was averted. The queen was safe.

Nowadays it is said that only rushes and reeds whisper what happened over six hundred years ago.

SUPPLEMENT:

Jadwiga was a queen and the saint. She was a very special woman. She loved her subjects and Poland. She helped the poor, took care of science. She gave the money to develop the Jagiellonian University. The people admired her for determination in creating a powerful country.

Jadwiga was the wife of Władysław Jagiełło. She died in the age of twenty five, several days after her daughter's death.



The stony Spinners

Once upon a time the castellan's wife bore triplets (three daughters). The girls were as like as peas. They were also beautiful like stars in the sky. The castellan of the Odrzykoń castle boasted of his issue - although they weren't boys. None of his neighbours had never seen such beautiful children.

Bogna, Sława and Miła loved entertainment. They were able to ride a full gallop and shoot at a hawk with a bow at the same time. Three sisters often hunted in the forests and never came back without dead animals. Their beauty and charm were seen specially in the evenings. They were wearing rich gowns, laughing and dancing.





Their mother loved them very much. But she wanted them to learn both embroidering and weaving. The girls always started their work but never had time to finish it. Bogna gave up weaving towels. Sława avoided reeling off a thread for curtains. Miła didn't mention about

making a chasuble to the church. When their mother reminded them about the duties of young ladies, the sisters had a lot of excusations at once - of course their rooms are dirty so they have to dust the tables and they will prepare everything on time. The sooner the better – it wasn't their favourite sentence.

Besides the castellan's daughters didn't have an intention to get married. Many knights came to the Odrzykoń castle and asked for the hand of one or another sister. But they preferred to be admired instead of being wives and mothers.



One day the situation changed when three brothers (the triplets) came to the castle. They were the king's knights. And they were to go to the war soon. The handsome boys fell in love with the wonderful sisters. And unexpectedly three sisters fell in love with these noble knights. The castellan and his wife were satisfied at last. A splendid engagement was held to celebrate a great love.

One of the brothers announced that they had to fight for the country in the name of the king. In fortnight on their way to Krakow to the king, three brothers will visit Odrzykoń once more to say goodbye. On the other hand they wanted their beloved to weave a little souvenir – a linen handkerchief. If the time of death at the battlefield comes, it will be a relief to look at the piece of material made by 'dear hands'.



The girls had to think about weaving. However they had never worked much earlier. So they couldn't stand this kind of effort. They enjoyed the fun and now the sisters felt a sudden lack of laughter, singing and dancing. The careful mother noticed an easy life of her three daughters. The days passed and there was less time to the knights' arrival. Nevertheless the girls said that everything would be ready soon.

On Saturday, the day before the knights' returning, the girls thought about the work again. They were trembling, weaving in silence. They glanced in horror at the setting sun. Their servant was ordered to light the fire at night. But the night was



too short for the castellan's daughters. At dawn the mother told them to stop the work. It was a new day, Sunday – a special, God's day. The sun rose quickly. The girls were glad of the bright morning. The work will go faster than at night. They ran to the castleyard straight to the hill to continue working. From time to time



they were raising their heads to see three brothers. The church bells rang. The girls didn't care of the people, going to the first mass. The old women and men whispered about the sin and that the girls were cursed.

While Sława, Bogna and Miła were weaving step by step, the dust appeared on the road suddenly. The flashes of the armour were seen even at the castle's windows.

The castellan with his wife went out to greet the worthy knights. The young men asked them why their fiances hadn't come themselves to the appointment. Then in despair the mother showed them the hill near the castle.

The boys were paralysed by the view! To their surprise three large, white rocks stood

in front of their sight. The stones were covered with dew. When the church bells rang

the noon, the girls were changed into stones. The boulders resembled the spinners.

It's an extraordinary story. The legend says that the stones grew higher and higher with the devil's power. Their size threatened the inhabitants of Odrzykoń and Korczyna to collapse. But fine, smart and happy idea saved the countryside. The stones were sprinkled by the holy water. They stopped growing immediately. The evil, hidden inside the rocks lost its strength forever.





Ancient Greek myths and legends

Icarus and Daedalus

Daedalus was a craftsman whom King Minos had invited to Crete to build the Labyrinth, a maze for the Minotaur.

Daedalus designed the maze. However, King Minos imprisoned him and his young son Icarus in the Labyrinth, to punish Daedalus who had helped Queen Pasiphae to have an affair.

Daedalus thought of using wings to escape. He gathered bird feathers, glued them together with wax and made two pairs of wings. He warned Icarus not to fly too close to the sun as the wax would melt.

They fastened the wings to their arms and started flying. But Icarus flew so high that the sun melted the wax on his wings. He fell into the water and drowned. This is now called the Icarian sea.



Peter Paul Rubens

Theseus and the Minotaur

King Minos of Crete had won in a war with Athens and every year he demanded that 14 young Athenian men and women be sent to him to be killed by the Minotaur, a flesh-eating half-man, half-bull monster he kept in the Labyrinth, his maze in Crete.



Amphora, 6th century B.C.

Theseus, son of King of Athens Aegeus, wanted to sail with the next group and kill the Minotaur. Aegeus asked him to put white sails on the ship, if he succeeded.

When they arrived in Crete, Minos asked who would go first into the Labyrinth. Theseus stepped forward. The king's daughter, Ariadne, saw Theseus and fell in love with him; she gave him a long string so he would not get lost. He tied one end to the entrance and entered the maze.

Theseus killed the Minotaur with his sword and found his way out using the string. However, in his haste to get away, he forgot to change his sails to white.

King Aegeus, waiting for his son to get back, saw the ship approaching with black sails and in despair jumped off the cliff into the sea. From that day on, the sea was named the **Aegean Sea** in memory of Theseus' father.

Europa and Zeus

Europa was the lovely young daughter of the Phoenician ruler. Her beauty won the love of Zeus.

The god took the form of a white bull, approached her and enchanted her. When she rode him then he started to gallop away, abducting her and carrying her off to Crete.

She had three sons from her affair with Zeus.

When Zeus returned to Mount Olympus, Europa married Asterion, the king of Crete, who adopted her sons. One of them, Minos, later became King of Crete himself.

Our continent is named after Europa! Her abduction is represented in the Greek 2-euro coin.



Titian

Jason and the Argonauts – The Golden Fleece – Medea

Jason was the son of Aeson, king of Iolcos in Thessaly.

His father's half-brother Pelias seized the throne and for safety Jason was sent away to the Centaur Chiron. Returning as a young man, Jason was promised his inheritance if he went to Kolchis to get the Golden Fleece for Pelias.



Lorenzo Costa

Jason formed a team called the Argonauts and they sailed away on their ship Argo to carry out the difficult task.

After many adventures, Jason got the fleece with the help of Medea, whom he married.

When they returned, Jason got his revenge by arranging for Pelias to be murdered with the help of Medea, but the couple were sent away from Iolcos and found refuge with King Creon of Corinth.

In Euripides's play Medea, Jason leaves Medea when Creon, king of Corinth, offers him his daughter, Glauce. The play tells of Medea avenging her husband's betrayal by slaying their children.

Perseus and Andromeda - Medusa

Andromeda was the beautiful daughter of King Cepheus and Queen Cassiope. Her mother offended Poseidon by claiming that Andromeda was more beautiful than his daughters, the Nereids, and in revenge Poseidon sent a monster to destroy Cepheus' kingdom.

Since only Andromeda's sacrifice would appease the gods, she was chained to a rock for the monster.

Perseus was just returning on his winged horse Pegasus, after having killed Medusa, a monster with snakes in place of hair, whose eyes could turn persons to stone. He had cut off Medusa's head and carried it with him.

Perseus saw Andromeda chained on the rock, killed the monster by turning it into stone with Medusa's head, and rescued Andromeda. Her father said he could marry her.

At their wedding, Andromeda's uncle and fiance, Phineus, objected and Perseus also turned him to stone with Medusa's head.

Andromeda and Perseus had sons and a daughter.



Peter Paul Rubens



Caravaggio

The Trojan Horse

The Greeks and the Trojans had been at war for 10 years. To win the war, the Greeks constructed a huge wooden horse, known as the Trojan Horse. This was supposed to be their gift of defeat to the Trojans and to the goddess Athena after destroying her temple in the war, asking her to protect them as they sailed back home.



Mykonos vase, 7th century BC

However, 30 strong warriors hid inside the horse.

The Greeks pretended to sail away, and the Trojans pulled the horse into their city as a victory trophy.

When night fell, the Greeks crept out of the horse and opened the city's gates for the rest of the Greek army, which had sailed back in the night. The Greeks destroyed Troy and finally won the war.

Midas

Midas was a king of Phrygia, nowadays part of Turkey.

One day his farm workers brought him a satyr they had caught sleeping in their vines. Midas saw that it was satyr Silenus, aid of the god Dionysus, and set him free.

Dionysus was grateful and offered to grant whatever Midas should wish for.

Midas asked that everything he touch be turned to gold. Indeed, everything turned to gold - even food or persons. Even his own daughter!

Midas regretted his decision and Dionysus allowed him to wash away his magic touch in the river Pactolus, which became famous for its deposits of gold.



Walter Crane

Sources: Various internet sources incl. britannica.com, mythweb.com, ancientgreece.com, greece.mrdonn.org, myths.e2bn.org

Sisyphus: The myth (1)



Sisyphus: The myth (2)



Sisyphus: The myth (3)



Sisyphus escaped from me ! He is
again free in the world above...



Sisyphus: The myth (4)



Gods, this time Sisyphus is over all expectations ! He refused my punishment and tied Death and escaped. He deserves a greater punishment !!!



Sisyphus: The myth (5)

Zeus forced me to drag all
my life this rock to the top
of the mountain.
But when I am close, it
quickly goes back down!

This was the price for my
wickedness and my wits!



LEGEND OF TURKEY:

NASREDDIN HODJA

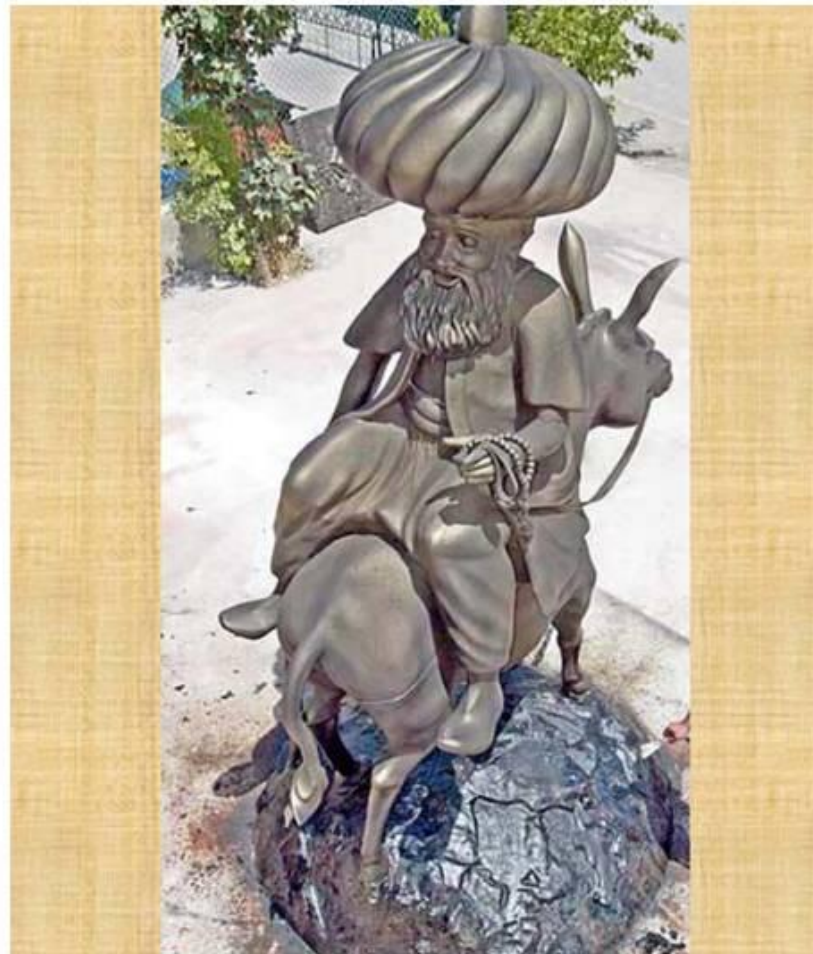
Who is Nasreddin Hodja ?



Who is Nasreddin Hodja ?

- “Hodja” means “instructor” or “teacher” as well as “religious leader”
- He is characterized by being a wise man with great wit
- He is also often portrayed as a trickster
- He is also often portrayed riding a donkey backwards...

Why is Hodja riding the donkey backwards?



Why is Hodja riding the donkey backwards?

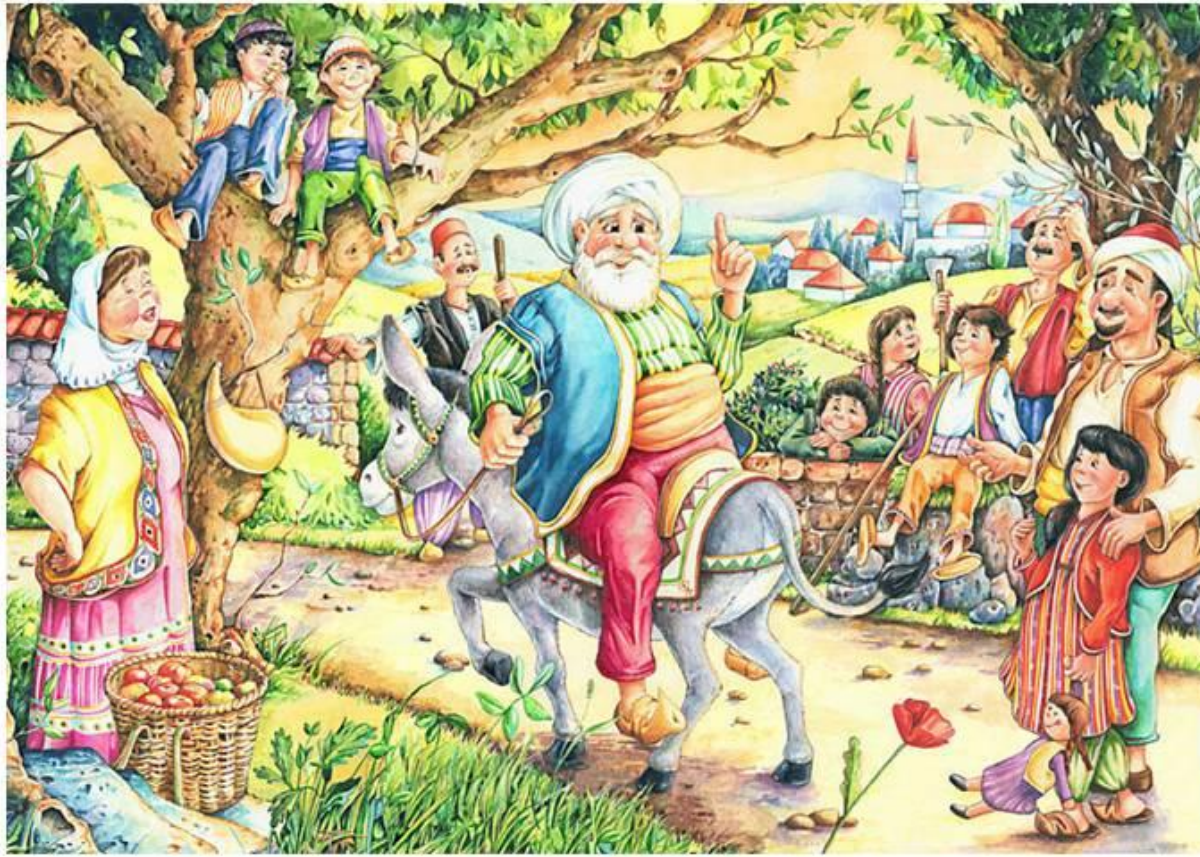
- 1) One day Nasreddin Hodja was riding his donkey backwards, facing towards the back. “Hodja” the people said, “you are sitting on your donkey backwards!” “No,” he replied. “It's not that I am sitting on the donkey backwards, I'm just interested in where I have been coming from more than where I am going, my friends.”

Why is Hodja riding the donkey backwards?

2) One day Nasreddin Hodja was riding his donkey backwards, facing towards the back. “Hodja” the people said, “you are sitting on your donkey backwards!” “No,” he replied. “My friend here wanted to go one way and I wanted to go the other, so we are compromising.”

Why is Hodja riding the donkey backwards?

- 3) One day Nasreddin Hodja was riding his donkey backwards, facing towards the back. “Hodja” the people said, “you are sitting on your donkey backwards!” “No,” he replied. “It's not that I am sitting on the donkey backwards, the donkey is facing the wrong way.”



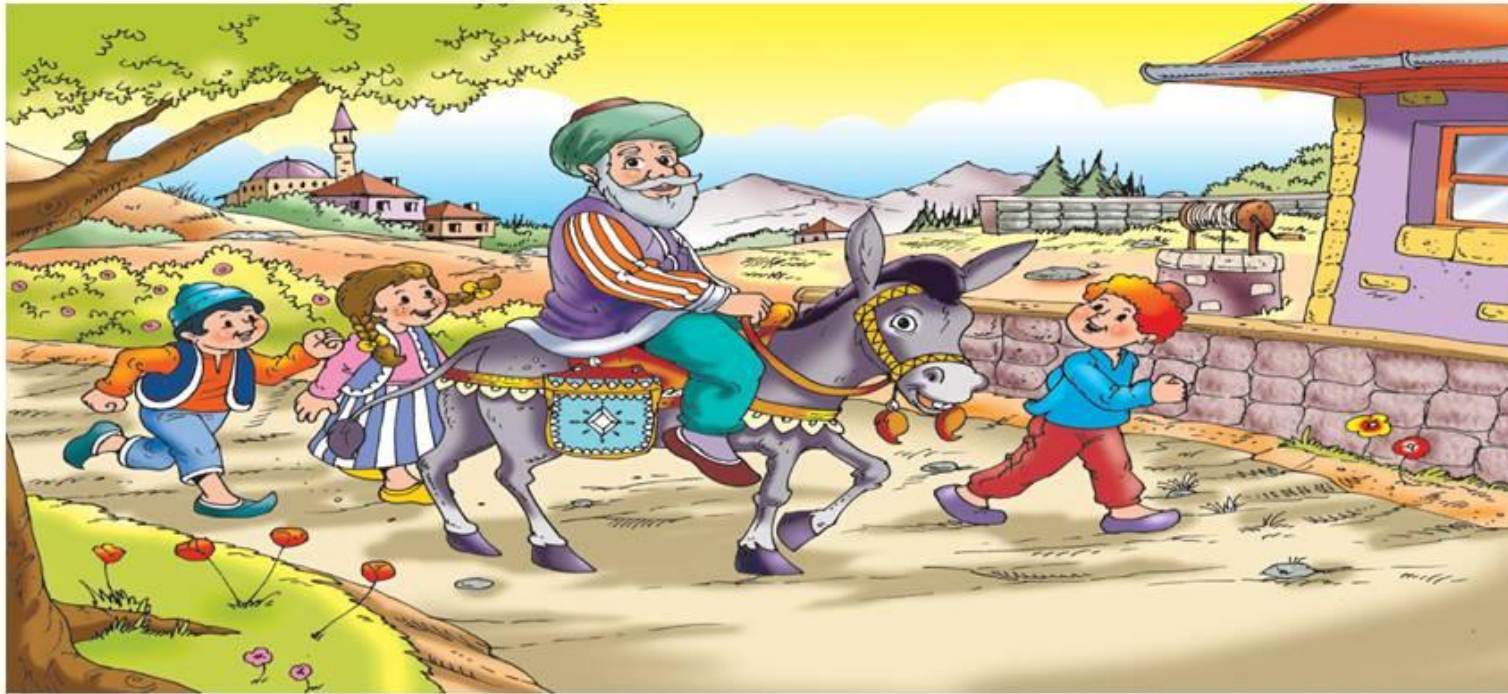
The people in Turkey are very familiar with the jokes and stories of Nasreddin Hodja.



Since their childhood, people have been hearing these jokes all along. They are part of the Turkish culture.



The whole thing began with a man called Nasreddin Hodja who has lived in central Turkey, in the small town called Aksehir. The jokes were part of his daily life and they became accepted and welcomed by the public since his time.



- He was a man with great humor, he was very clever and had an answer to almost all the problems and the dilemmas of his time.



Even today, about 600 years after he has lived and passed away, people in Turkey still laugh and think about his tricks, common sense, anecdotes and ingeniousness.



- Common Turkish citizens and every institution of the Turkish society has received a criticism or remark from his philosophical mind. He did not spare his satire for the state, religion, culture or habits.



- All of the human psychology and social weaknesses received their part of laugh from him. He has seen the human element in each aspect of the everyday life and has used his wit to make everybody aware of the other side of reality. That is why his jokes are still alive today.



His father was a religious leader called "Imam" (leader of the public prayers in the mosque) and he was also qualified to become "Kadi" which is the person who distributes the religious law.



Between July 5-10 of each year, the International Nasreddin Hodja Festival takes place in Aksehir, where his tomb is. Turkish artists have used Nasreddin Hodja in theater pieces, music, movies, cartoons and paintings.



Today these jokes belong to Turkish people and the world. His stories reflect not only his life as a native of Anatolia but also his time and the life of the Turkish people living at that time in Anatolia.



His jokes and stories are told today by the people of different countries and his jokes have been translated to many languages.

The donkey is facing the wrong direction

One day Nasreddin Hodja rides his donkey facing backwards. People who see this say:
-"Hodja, you're riding your donkey the wrong way"

Hodja responds:

-"No, I'm not riding it the wrong way; the donkey is facing the wrong direction"

What if it does

One day, Nasreddin Hodja walks over to Akşehir Lake with copper bucket in his hands and starts pouring spoonfuls of yoghurt into the lake. Seeing Hodja near the lake with a copper bucket full of yoghurt, the curious villagers ask:

- "What's up, Hodja? What on earth you up to?"

- "I'm turning the lake into yoghurt" replies Hodja.

- "Reverend Hodja, could a lake ever be fermented?" the villagers retort.

- "I do know it wouldn't, but what if it does?" is the reply from Hodja

The cauldron gave birth

One day, Nasreddin Hodja borrows a cauldron from his neighbour. When returning it, he thanks the neighbour and puts a small cauldron in it. The neighbour wonders what the smaller cauldron is about. Hodja tells the neighbour that his big cauldron gave birth to a smaller one, so the neighbour is glad. After a long while, Hodja asks his neighbour to lend his cauldron again. The neighbour willingly agrees to give it. However, this time there is no word of either Hodja or the cauldron even after a long time. Finally, the neighbour decides to broach the subject one day. -"Hodja, what's happened to my cauldron?"

The cauldron gave birth

- "My dear neighbour, it's been ages since then and your cauldron has died. I was wondering how to break the bad news." Hodja says sadly. Furious at this, the neighbour asks:

- "What on earth are you saying? Would a cauldron die? It's not alive; how could it die?"

Hodja quips:

- "You believed that it gave birth, so why can't you accept that it is dead?"

Help yourself my fur coat

One day the Hodja was invited to a wedding. Having arrived in his shabby, everybody clothing nobody seemed to take any notice of him. Well, this wouldn't do. He bided his chance and slipped out unnoticed.

He returned, wearing his best robe and his fine fur coat. From the entrance on he was overwhelmed with compliments, given the best seat at the table and urged to partake of the choicest morsels.

Smiling, he began to dip the sleeve of his fur coat into the dishes, saying:

- Help yourself, my fur coat!
- What are you doing, Hodja Effendi? cried the host and some guests in alarm.
- Why, i was just inviting my fur coat to partake of these delicacies, since it seems to command so much respect! A few minutes ago, without my fur coat, i wasn't even noticed. Because of it, i am now being overwhelmed with attentions!.

A FORTY YEAR OLD WINE

One day, a neighbor said to the Hodja: "Do you have a wine that is forty years old ?". "Yes I have", replied the Hodja. "Can you give me a little ", asked the neighbor. "If I gave a little to everybody asking for it ", said the Hodja, "It would not be forty years old !"

WHERE TO GO

The people asked the Hodja, “Dear Hodja, tell us, where should we go in a funeral procession, in front, at the back, or at the side?” The Hodja answered, “It doesn't matter where you go, as long as you don't go in the coffin.”

READ YOURSELF

A man brought a letter to the Hodja:

- Hodja, could you read this letter?

Hodja looked at the letter which was all in arabic. He was unable to read and give it back to man.

- Take this to someone else, i couldn't read. said the Hodja.

- How come? you are wearing the turban of a learned man yet you can't read a letter...

The Hodja took off his turban and placed it in front of the man

- Ok, if it is skill of a turban, put it on and read your letter yourself!

MY WORD OR THE WORD OF MY DONKEY

One day the Hodja answered a knock at his door and found that it was one of his neighbours, whom disliked particularly.

-Hodja Effendi, can I borrow your donkey for the day? he wanted to know.

-Sorry, neighbour, replied the Hodja. Of course you could borrow it, if I had it here, but it is not in, just now.

Just then the donkey started to bray!

-I am surprised at you, Hodja Effendi! I can hear your donkey bray, just when you say it's not in!

-I am the one who is surprised; yes, and outraged too! shouted the Hodja. 'A neighbour like you I'd rather not have, disbelieving my word, but believing that of my donkey!'

THE MOON OR THE SUN ?

People ask Hoca;

-Hoca, is the moon or the sun more useful?

-Of course the Moon, replies Hoca. "While the sun enlightens the earth during daytimes, the moon enlightens during the nights. "

CUTTING OFF THE BRANCH YOU ARE RIDING ON

- One day the Hodja was up a tree cutting fire wood. Somebody passing by, noticed he was busily hacking at the very branch he was riding on.
- -Be carefull, Hodja Effendi! he warned. It is the branch you are riding on that you are trying to cut off. Unless you stop at once, you will certainly come a crop-per.
- The Hodja didn't bother to answer the man. Busy-bodies were everywhere. Never doing anything useful themselves, they kept telling you what to do, or not to do. While his mind was on this train of thought, down came the Hodja together with the branch he had just managed to severe.
- His opinion of the man was immediately reversed. Surely this was a man not to be trifled with. In fact, he might be the wisest man he would ever meet in his life. As soon as he got himself disentangled, he ran after the man, but he was too late, for the man had disappeared.
- Probably that was just as well. Because what he had had in mind was to ask the sage to tell him exactly when he was due to die.

WHAT IF I HAD BEEN ON IT

-

One day Nasreddin Hodja loses his donkey. He looks for it everywhere and asks around but whatever he does, he can't find his donkey. Rather than pining over the loss as expected, he counts his blessings.

His neighbours say:

- "Hodja! Take it easy but you've lost a donkey after all. What's to be so grateful for?"

Hodja quips:

- "Oh, dear neighbours, who should be grateful but me? What if I'd been on the donkey?"



CROATIAN LEGENDS



ST. JOHN'S EVE - BONFIRES

- ❖ People were always afraid of an infertile land, of a bad harvest or poor crop yields. If there had been no crop yields in a few years, the wise men would have assembled. Worried, they discussed what is necessary and what is to be done.
- ❖ They would not eat, drink nor halt the assembly. The oddest wise man would talk then: throughout St. John's nights we should light the dark, for a song shall purge and burn bad and black deeds. Bonfires have been lit ever since.



Even nowadays, during St. John's day, with first day of summer (21st June), on the Holy Trinity Square bonfires are lit in hope of better harvest and abundant crop yields.

Jolly and cheerful celebration continues deep into night.







MANDUŠEVAC

❖ **Manduševac** is a famous fountain located on Ban Jelačić Square.

It is of a great historical significance because, according to a legend, Zagreb got its name after it.

❖ On the well, beautiful lady Manda met a knight who requested some water. He told her "Mando, dear, *zagrabi* /draw/some water".

As a result, Zagreb and Manduševac got their names (Manduševac after "Mando, dear", and Zagreb after "*zagrabi*/draw").

❖ During the time when water from the well was drinkable, people were told that you would always come back to Zagreb if you drank some water from the well. Even today lives a tradition of Manduševac as a wishing well in which you toss a coin that makes your wish come true.



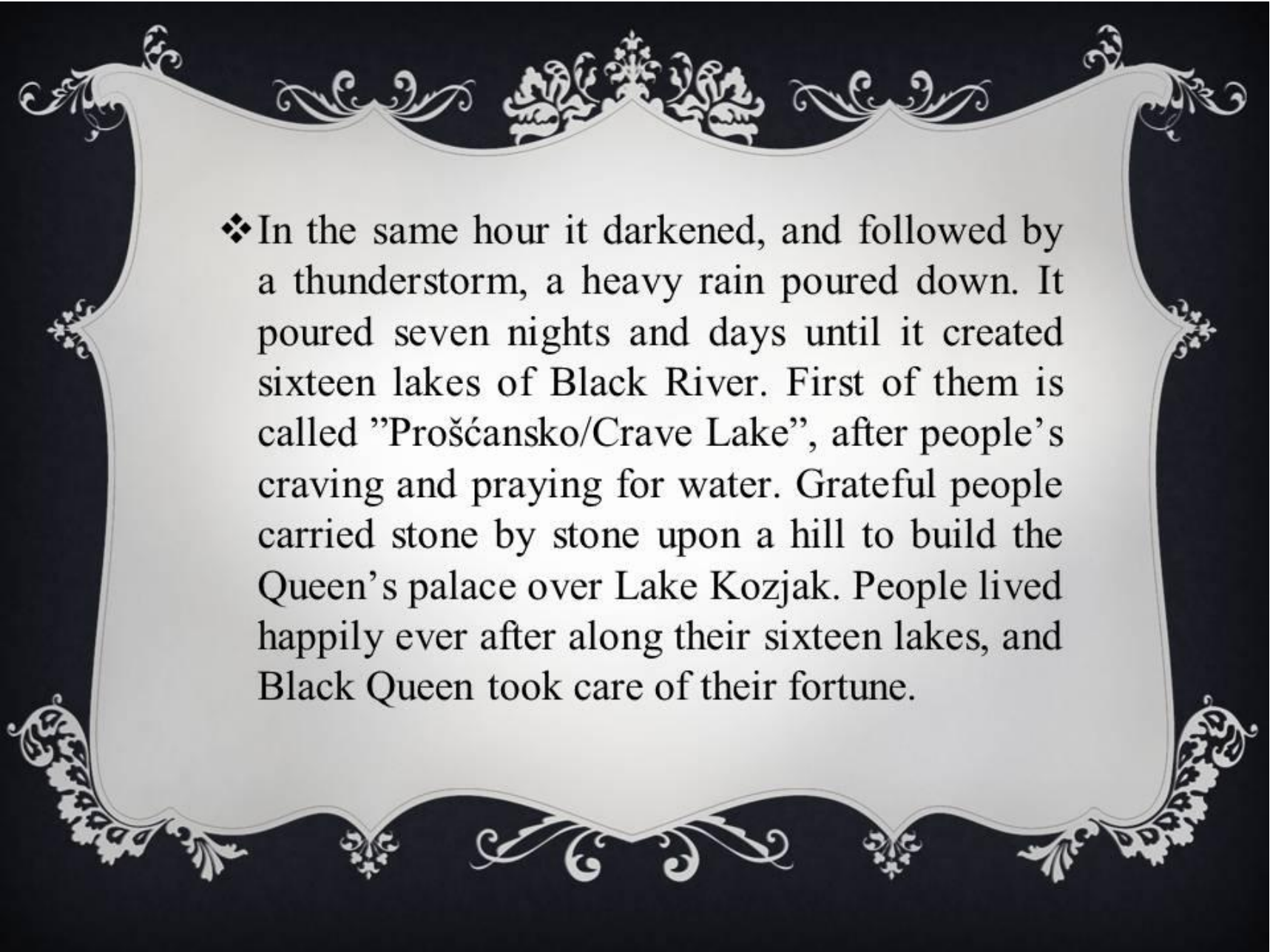




PLITVICE LAKES

❖ There has always been water in parts of Plitvice Lakes, but at a time water was gone and in nine years the whole land turned into wasteland. However, one day Black Queen came into this land with her escort. She came down the Velebit from her fairy castle and when she saw all the devastation, she fulfilled the wish of craving peasants and she emerged water again.





❖ In the same hour it darkened, and followed by a thunderstorm, a heavy rain poured down. It poured seven nights and days until it created sixteen lakes of Black River. First of them is called "Proščansko/Crave Lake", after people's craving and praying for water. Grateful people carried stone by stone upon a hill to build the Queen's palace over Lake Kozjak. People lived happily ever after along their sixteen lakes, and Black Queen took care of their fortune.

SPANISH LEGENDS



The Bella Susona



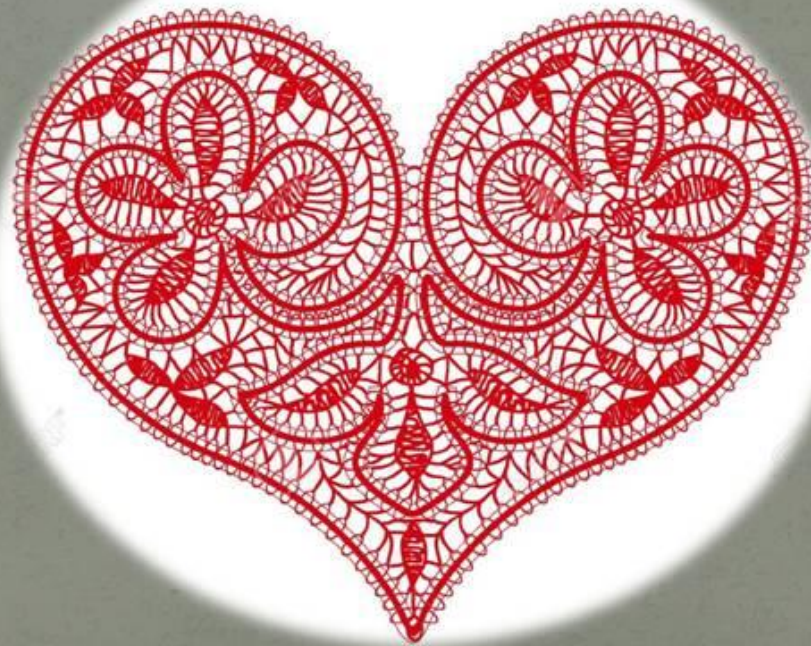
EN ESTOS LUGARES, ANTIGVA
CALLE DE LA MVERTE PVSOSE LA CABEZA
DE LA HERMOSA SVONA BEN SVZÓN,
QVIEN POR AMOR A SV PADRE
TRAICIONÓ Y POR ELLO ATORMENTADA
DISPVSOLO EN TESTAMENTO.

MCDLXXXI

Diego Ben Suson was a converted Jew who lived in Seville with his daughter, Susona.



Susona was a very beautiful Jewish girl. She fell in with a
Christian noble man.



The Jews were planning to rebel against the Christians and take control of the city. Susona's father was one of the leaders.



Susona overheard he father's plan during one of the secret meetings he had. Afraid for her Christain boyfriend's life, she told him of her father's plan for an uprising.



Susona's boyfriend immediately informed Captain, Don Diego de Merlo. The Inquisition arrested her father and other leaders. They were all hanged.



Susona felt very guilty to have betrayed her father. She asked to have her head cut off and placed over the doorway of her house so that nobody would forget her betrayal. After many years, her skull was replaced by a tile.



THE LEGEND OF HERCULES





HIS BORN



Hercules was born in Tebas (Greece). His fathers are Zeus, a god, and Alcmena, a mortal queen.





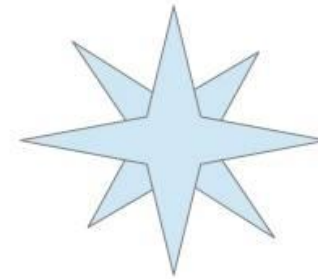
THE 12 JOBS OF HERCULES



- *Hercules killed Nemea's lion and he used his skin for an armour.*
- *Hercules killed the Hydra. It was a snake with 7 heads.*
- *Hercules captured a boar from Erimanto.*



- *Hercules won a race to Cerinea's deer.*
- *Hercules killed the birds from the Estinfalo's lake.*
- *Hercules tamed Creta's bull.*



- *Hercules captured the mares from Diomedes's king because they ate humans.*
- *Hercules killed the Amazona's queen and he took her belt off.*
- *Hercules cleaned Augias's stable and he inverted the river.*



- *Hercules won Geryon and he stole the oxen to give them to Hera.*
- *Hercules stole the gold apples from Hesperide's garden and he lay to the the dragon.*
- *Hercules chaimed Cerbero, he had got 3 heads. He was the guardian of the hell. He was a pet.*



Hercules in Alameda

The Alameda of Hercules is an important public garden located in the historic center of Seville, and its age (1574) ranks as the oldest public garden in Spain and Europe, although one disappeared earlier today was built in 1570 , Paseo del Prado in Madrid, totally transformed , in 1781 , during the reign of Carlos III in a new type of hall walk.



Hércules



Julio César



HERCULES AND THE ANDALUSIAN FLAG

Hercules and taming a young man holding two lions between the two columns of Hercules tradition places in the Strait of Gibraltar, with an inscription at the foot of a legend that says: "Andalucia itself to Spain and Humanity" on the merits of an Andalusian flag. Closes the two columns one arch with the Latin words "Dominus Hercules Fundator" also on the merits of the Andalusian flag.

