

# TRADITIONAL ITALIAN LEGENDS

A legend is a story invented to explain a natural phenomenon, a geographical environment, a superstition. Legend, for its active and passive participants, includes no happenings that are outside the realm of "possibility," but may include miracles. Legends may be transformed over time, in order to keep them fresh and vital

In this it is totally different from the fable and the final reference to reality is usually explicit.

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### LEGENDS FROM THE REGION FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

They refer to natural phenomenon like the BORA, the famous local wind or a geographical environment like the Karst or Val Rosandra, while the one refer to a superstition or habits

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### LEGEND FROM TRENTINO

The Magician MASTICABRODO

**The bora :** "When the bora moves, or one or three or nine"

The witches who live in the caves of the Karst are all in love with the "witcher", but they only give themselves to them on some cold sunny days in winter. Obviously, when the witcher is available, the witches run everywhere to look for him, and here are the bursts of bora!



Coming to Trieste you will experience something really strange and unique. **THE BORA**, It is a very strong wind, which influences both climate and mood of the local population.

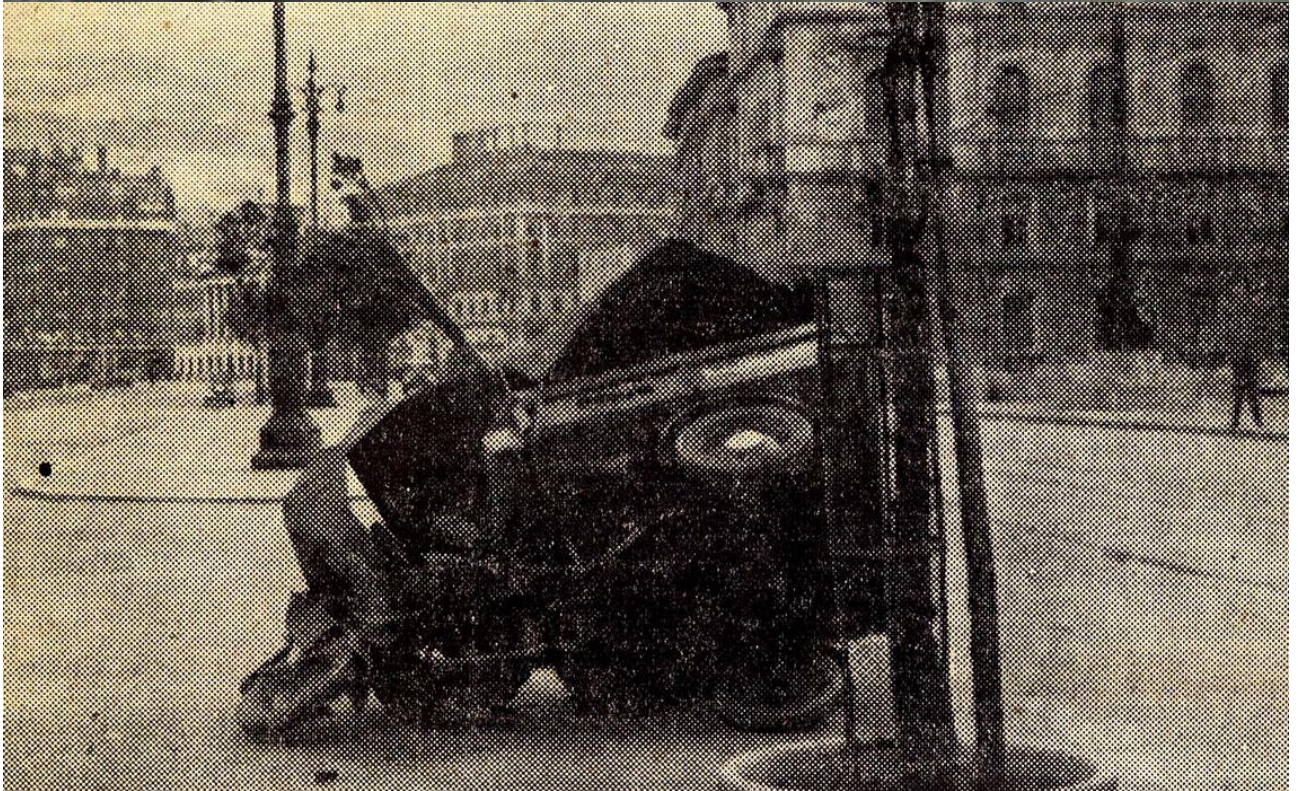
## The legend of Bora

Wind father of the winds, who used to travel the world in the company of his children. Among these was Bora, the most beautiful. One day they came to a verdant plateau, which steeply descended towards the sea. The beautiful **Bora** began to play with clouds, moving away from her father and her brothers. He found a cave and without any fear, just like a child who plays surrounded by nature, entered it. So it was that he met a man, being that Bora had never seen before: it was the **Argonaut Tergesteo**. It was love at first sight. The two young people lived happily in that cave seven days of love and overwhelming passion.

Bora did not warn his father **Vento**, who had already begun to look for his favorite daughter. After a few days of searching, he found her and, seeing her embraced to **Tergesteo**, became so angry that he threw himself at the man, threw him violently against the walls of the cave, killing him. Bora burst into a sob so desperate that his every tear began to turn into stone. So it was that the green lawn of the plateau was completely covered with a mantle of stones: this is also explained the formation of the **Karst**, from a point from a legendary point of view.

Father Vento ordered Bora to leave, but she was destroyed by pain and did not want to know. So Odin ordered Wind to leave on his own and to leave his daughter in the place where he had seen his great love born and die. Mother Nature, displeased by the death of Tergesteo gave birth to the sumac, which since then colors the karstic autumn red. It was the young man's blood that moved **Mother Nature** to pity.

Sea ordered Waves to cover the body of Tergesteo of shells, starfish and algae, giving life, over time, to a hill on which the men built a **Castelliere**, which, becoming larger, became a city called Tergeste in memory of Tergesteo, today Trieste. Even today, Bora is here because Terra allowed her to reign over the place of her despair and Heaven to relive some days of his love every year: these are the days when **the bora** it blows impetuously. Today, we speak of "*clear*" bora when Bora is in the arms of his love; "*Dark*" when he waits to meet him.



## In the mountain .....

### The elves of the woods: the Sbilfs

In many legends of **Carnia** the protagonists are just them: the strange elves who inhabit the woods of this characteristic region. Skilled at camouflaging, they live in the undergrowth, but often also live near stables and barns, but without being seen by man. Their favorite refuge, however, remains the thick vegetation of the forest: they build their houses inside the cavity of the trees.

Do not be afraid: they are small, intelligent, elusive and often even pranksters, but at the same time ready to help those in the woods find themselves in difficulty. In fact the *Sbilfs* they are eternally children, lovers of games, dance and music. They have a strongly changing character, but never bad. They act, however, according to the typical unconsciousness of the children. Not everyone can see the Sbilfs, since they are the ones who decide who to manifest and who does not. Only good-hearted children can see them, always. They love red, so much so that many people wear clothes of this color and are very greedy of *Zuf* (a preparation of milk and cornmeal that was once used to serve breakfast). The Sbilfs are very many and in their large community, they are divided into particular categories of membership, assuming different names: there is *LICJ* intent on knotting ropes and threads that he finds in the houses; the *Brau* who likes to unpick clothes and curtains; the *Bagan*, stall goblin, that if annoyed he will overwhelm the buckets full of milk and hide the work tools; the *Maçarot*, very skilled at making spite. The latter, anticipates the prank with a hiss, then sbellicarsi laughter. The *Massaroul* that while wearing a red tights, can not stand this color. In Forni di Sopra, the *Maçarot* he is often accompanied by his wife, *Ridùsela*, also intent on combining bricconerie. In Gemona, however, is the *Pamarindo* always intent on blocking the passage expanding to excess. Then there is the *Boborosso*, one of the worst, absorbed in causing nightmares to children



## The Karst PLATEAU IN POPULAR LEGENDS

Friuli Venezia Giulia, a region located in Northern Italy, hides various legends, including that of the **Karst**. The Karst is a land burnt with stones, rocks, thorns, without water, vegetation, people. The Karst was deforested by the Venetians to build ships. The slaves chained to the oars threw their curse on those woods and so the bora was born. It is true, however, that deforestation removes any brake from the wind, which also sweeps the earth, helping to dry up the ground.

The burning of the Karst has given its name to this popular legend.



It is said that one day the Lord walked with St. Peter laboriously to cross the fearful stone. They were both poor and had a donkey loaded with simple supplies: bread, water, cheese and some dried fish. From the morning they advanced for the cliffs and the cliffs, looking for some creature in pain to be comforted. They were tired and fed up, so it was time to eat. St. Peter put his cloak on a stone to give the Lord a kind of seat. Then he looked for the provisions attached to the donkey, but the cheese was not there. "*Lord*" he exclaimed, "*c and they stole it*". And the Lord had a flash of indignation: why steal from him that he was always ready to give ?. Then Jesus said: "*Peter, from now on, whoever lives in the Karst will have little water because the thirst of the one who stole our humble food must never be extinguished*". Since then, it is said, the Karst was harsh, stony, without shadow and without sources. Since then the inhabitants, to cultivate that land, must first remove the stones.

2) One day God, disguised as a pilgrim, visited the inhabitants of the Karst, but found them greedy and inhospitable and as a punishment he turned their land into a dry stone like their heart.

## Princess ROSANDRA



Long time ago, on the hill that dominates the valley, there stood a castle where a beautiful princess named Rosandra lived.



The fame of her beauty had reached every corner of the land, and princes and knights from **faraway kingdoms** came to ask for her hand.

**Rosandra**, however, preferred to run and play along the paths of her valley. One day, she met a young knight who had come to see her and she fell in love. But since the handsome knight had to carry out a task in a distant land, the two pledged **eternal love** and promised to marry.

Unfortunately, the ship that was supposed to take him there foundered and sank to the bottom of the sea. When Rosandra learned of his sad ending she went mad from grief and **Heaven** took pity on her, turning her to stone. But her desperate tears continue to flow and feed the stream named after her. So the river Rosandra was formed

## THE TROUSERS OF THE DEVIL



The devil wished to make a bet with a tailor on who could sew a pair of pants faster; in case of victory, the tailor would receive a lot of coins, the devil the soul of the tailor. The devil missed the sewing technique and the tailor won, but the devil, to make him spite, cut the base of his trousers. To remedy, the tailor shortened his trousers up to his calf and made two small side cuts, then sold them to a herdsman for little money. Since then **the farmers and herdsmen of the Karst bring that kind of trousers, among other things very practical because they do not interfere with the movements of those who must move with agility**

## LEGEND FROM TRENTINO –MASTICABRODO



The protagonist is the sorcerer [Masticabrodo](#), Chew broth . The magician was called this way because in his wandering, from town to town, he stopped to ask for hospitality, and to eat he asked for soups and soft foods, since he had a toothless mouth.

Masticabrodo was very generous to those who offered him an abundant meal. As happened for example at a Sant'Andrea farm. The landlady complained about the scarcity of eggs, so the sorcerer worked with the magic, and made sure that all the hens of the district went to lay down in his henhouse. He also had great capacity for metamorphosis, which at times also caused him problems. Masticabrodo, in fact, was a great gourmand and often used his arts to transform himself and eat like a dough. He once saw a peasant woman preparing cream. For the cream went crazy, so it turned into a mosquito and slipped into the container to gorge. But the woman noticed the insect, took it between her fingers and freed it. Imagine his surprise when he suddenly saw Masticabrodo , suffering, who was limping visibly. When she asked for explanations, she replied evasively that it was a small accident. Since then he limped for the rest of his days, but the desire of cream not passed at all.

In fact, some time later, at another house in Sant'Andrea, she turned into a fly, to suck again some cream, which a woman had poured into a bowl. The annoyed woman gave him a backhand and flung him to the ground. Then he looked for the insect to crush it definitively , but he did not find it. The luck of Masticabrodo was that, in contact with the ground, his powers increased, and could make himself invisible. Thus he escaped the woman's wrath.

As we wrote Masticabrodo wandered from town to town, often presenting himself as a street vendor; when the opportunity presented itself, however, he offered his "special" services. A vintl (the City of Vandoies ) was talking to the mayor and between a chat and the other brought the talk about the climate, that year was really bad for the crops.

- Everyone around here complains. But nobody moves to solve the question - said the magician.
- And what can you do! Do you believe it is possible to influence the weather?
- Naturally.
- And you would be able to?
- Sure. If you get an appropriate fee, of course. For me, time makes no difference, I do not own fields. But it's different for you clearly. Coming here I saw how the land is reduced due to drought.



