

THE LEGEND OF SANT'ARCANGELO

In the south of Italy in a region called Sant'arcangelo, there stands a small church and right there are kept 2 large horns. Legend has it that these belonged to a dragon.

The story goes that centuries ago in a cave near a river which is now called the Agri, lived a terrible dragon.

His foul, fiery breath burned all pastures and houses. He kidnapped the beautiful girls of the village and destroyed the crops of farmers. The desperate peasants tried to defend themselves, but could do nothingthe dragon was too fierce!

Finally they decided to turn to Prince Colonna of Stigliano, famous for his courage! The Prince entered ~~in~~ the village fully armed, riding his steed, following his knights. The flag bearers went in front of him.

He went to the dragon's cave to challenge him. The monster's power was immense and the Prince's sword seemed helpless. He was almost discouraged, when suddenly ... Our Lady appeared, dressed in blue; she encouraged him to continue the fight.

After this vision the prince became even stronger and more fierce, his strength increased and so he defeated the dragon.

He entered the village with his proud knights. Now he wanted the reward for freeing the medieval town from the dragon. The people of Sant'arcangelo's gathered; they were known to be stingy and cunning; they said, "Since the dragon lived in the river, so it's a water beast, from now on the Agri River is your property. "

The Prince agreed. The farmers thought they had done a good deal and that they tricked the Prince.

They had miscalculated. Water from the Agri was needed to irrigate their fields, and because of that they had to pay the Prince as well as his descendants.

This legend is performed every year during the month of August in the Italian village of Stigliano and every year a contest is organized dedicated to the Dragon Legend.