A Legend about Giresun/Aretias Island

There are many legends and stories written about Giresun Island and we would like to share one of them.

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful daughter of a cruel king named Mitridates. The daughter of him was a not only beautiful but also modest person. This young girl fell in love with the shepherd of the castle, and this showed her modesty even in choosing the right one to marry. And the shepherd loved the young beauty as well.

The loving couple would meet, talk and hug each other secretly. As the time passed by, the King Mitridates heard about the affair between these two lovers. Without any investigation and wasting time, he ordered his men to hang the shepherd on a cherry three on Aretias/Giresun Castle. Upon hearing this sad incident, the young girl lost her mind and soon after died. Consequently, the king got ill and became a bedridden person.

He suffered from this illness for many years in his garish palace on Aretias/Giresun island that his moanings and cries were easily heard by the others in the highlands of Giresun city. After a while, the king died with endless and severe pain. The folk living around the island believed that the king was cursed upon his cruelty to the young lovers and that the shepherd’s soul wandered around the island. The folk also believed that Mitridate’s soul was there as well, still in pain and suffering. And this belief has reached even us today.