

THE JUMP OF THE BRIDE

It is said that the valley of Ricote, which is a place of unquestionable beauty, is also famous for its numerous stories of Moors and Christians. Some were dramatic, some almost miraculous and other heroic, such as the one which befell two lovers. In this place and according to the legend, the knight commander of Santiago had a daughter of renowned beauty. She had no other life of being always in the castle, but one day she fell in love with a Christian official, famous for his courage and determination in the struggle with the Arabs. His duty was to preserve the territories of enemy attacks. One day the brave soldier had to leave one morning with his soldiers in search of the enemy that prowled those territories. Several days passed before they could spot the enemy. So they hid in a ravine where they slept and planned the battle that took place the next day. For hours the battle remained uncertain but the captain managed to open a gap in the enemy's army ranks; wounded but still with strength he jumped of his horse and stabbed his dagger in the throat of an Arab. But the screams of pain of the Arab soldier made several Moors come to the place and managed to kill the Christian captain. In spite of this tragic end and the many casualties, who were buried in the gentle slope, the battle was decided in favor of the Christian side.

The rest of the victorious army, returned jubilantly to the castle, where the daughter of the commendor expected the return of her beloved captain. She went down to look for him, but his father while holding her said, "As a man of courage he gave his soul to God." The news stunned the girl, who ran through the galleries of the castle and sought refuge in the solitude of her room.

That night, there was a party in the fort to celebrate the Christian triumph. But during those hours of jubilation, the girl remembered her heroic captain with bitterness. They went in search for her after not finding her in the castle. It was known afterwards that she went mad because of her grief, and went to look for the body of the captain. Not finding him and with no other obsession than death, she walked through the mountains along the river. When she reached a cliff, she plunged blindly into the river. That is why this place is known as the "The Jump of the Bride".

It is one of the most beautiful places in the Valley of Ricote. In addition, in the left margin is located one of the most important archaeological sites of the Region of Murcia and this is the reason why many travelers decide to visit this place.

This popular tale was published in "Our legends" and written by Juan Garcia in 1981.

