**DOCHIA AND TRAIAN  
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF THE   
DACO-ROMAN WAR  
 (101-102/105-106 A.D)**

It is said that the Roman emperor would have fallen in love with Dochia, and the young woman, in danger kidnapped, asked the god Zamolxis to be turned into a stone, so that she could remain forever in Dacia.

The scene that would have inspired Dochia’s legend carved on Traian’s column. The legend of emperor Traian, in love with the daughter of the Dacian king, Decebal, became very popular beginning with the nineteenth century, may have its original in the scene with the number 30 of Traian’s column and in the accounts of the Latin historian Dio Cassius, who offered the most information about the Dacian-Roman wars. In the fresco on the column is depicted emperor Traian and two of his comrades, witnessing the climb of a young prisoner on a ship on the Danube.

Dochia, the queen of Dacia, the daughter of king Decebal became the subject of popular stories, ballads and carols.

The first legend claims that Dochia, the daughter of king Decebal, advanced in front of an army to Sarmizegetusa, in aid of her father who was besieged in the fortress. She arrived too late to liberate of fortress, she was also defeated by Traian’s army and fled with the remains of the army in the mountains, to the east. The emperor Traian who saw her fighting and liked her courage and beauty, followed her with a part of his army and when he was about to capture her, the Geto-Dacians army broke in two, one part kept the resistence of the romans, another retreated into the mountains with princess Dochia.

Defeating the princess’s soldiers, the emperor went to the mountains in search of Dochia, who, seeing herself trapped, ordered the accompanying soldiers to leave her alone and climb the heights, confusing the pursuers. Dochia remained alone and hid behind a rock, fell hopelessly to her knees and begged Zamolxis, the god of gods, to defend her, not to let her be defiled by the emperor. And then Dochia was transformed into an old shepherd with a few sheep beside her.

The romantic legend

The second legend explains the shape of a rock in the Ceahlau Mountains, which is said to have been, in fact, the imagery of the old lady Dochia, petrified after defying Gebeleizis, the weather god, along with the 20 sheep that she took care of them.

**Questions**  
  
1. Who built Traian’s column?  
2. Who was Dochia?  
3. What number has the scene on the Traian column in which the ‘’ possible ‘’ Dochia appears?

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