Legend of Juraj Janosik – The Fist of Janosik

Among the most numerous Slovak legends undoubtedly belong the legends about Jánošík, who robbed nobles and gave the loot to the poor, and his heroic company.

Coming from Ružomberok, near Liskovska cave, you will see a huge chalky rock in the shape of a clenched fist- Rocky fist. There are different legends about this rock. One of them comes from the periods when Jánošík together with his company used to walk around Slovak region.

It was a long time ago when one sunny morning at the beginning of autumn Juraj Jánošík and his companion were getting ready to start a journey from Orava castle to Kráľova hoľa. Early in the morning they were walking behind the Likava castle when they got to the top of the peak Mních. Suddenly there was a sharp sound. All men realized that it was a signal of something suspicious. Jánošík and his company moved to the slope from where they saw a carriage with two lords coming. When they came closer, men were surprised when they recognized a baron Révay with his adjutant. They were accompanied by fifteen armed riders who were familiar to them as they often had to deal with them before.

Baron was known as a ruthless tormentor of poor people and he was their main enemy. Jánošík immediately ordered: "Hrajnoha, Uhorčík, stop the coach, the rest- disarm riders and bound all of them." „I don't want anybody to be killed." So the boys ran from their shelter shouting. When Réway and his adjutant realized what was going on, they were already bound. Jánošík threw himself among fighting men and his strong fists caused that many riders were left lying down on the road.

Jánošík was happy that he avoided bloodshed. He asked the lords: "Do you recognize me?" Réway replied: "Yes, we do, you peasant." "You will be punished for that."

"It is your fault that I am a peasant but I am proud for that," told Jánošík. If there hadn't been peasants who work for you, you would have died of starvation. You will remember this day forever!"

Jánošík's men grabbed the baron and took him to the mountain over the road. They lifted him by his arms and legs and Hrajnoha hit him twenty-five times with a branch. Then they took him to the carriage and poured cold water on him. Jánošík finally said: " And now you will all go where you came from."

Then Hrajnoha addressed Jánošík: " Our captain, you made this day memorable for all of us. By your smart decision you avoided bloodshed, saved our lives and punished Revay. This is an act which we will never forget. To remember it, we will carve a clenched fist to the rock where it all happened and we will use swords of our enemies. It will be standing here forever as a symbol of your strength and courage.

The legend says that the rock under Mních was made into a huge fist and all lords were afraid of it. The fist as a memory of a hero Juraj Jánošík has been there until today.

Jánošík was captured in spring of 1713 in Klenovec and he was sentenced to death.

Povesť - Legenda o Jánošíkovej pästi

Bolo to veru už veľmi dávno, keď sa jedného slnečného rána začiatkom jesene Ďurko Jánošík i s celou svojou družinou poberal z Oravského Podzámku smerom na Kráľovu hoľu. Tu zrazu horou zaznel ostrý hvizd. Hôrny chlapci hneď porozumeli, že je to signál ich predvoja, ktorý musel pobadať niečo podozrivé. Na to Jánošík i s družinou prešli pozorne na úbočie. Odtiaľ zbadali, že dolu po ceste popod Mních sa približuje panský koč s dvoma pánmi a za nimi skupina jazdcov.

V koči sedel rozvalený barón Révay a pri ňom jeho pobočník. Sprevádzalo ich asi pätnásť ozbrojených hajdúchov, ktorý im boli tiež známi, lebo mali s nimi už neraz dočinenia.

Barón bol známy ako nemilosrdný trýzniteľ ubiedeného ľudu a bol ich úhlavný nepriateľ. Jánošík vydal okamžite rozkaz: "Hrajnoha, Uhorčík, zastaviť koč, ostatní odzbrojiť hajdúchov a všetkých poviazať! Nechcem, aby bol niekto zabitý!" A už sa chlapci rútili s krikom zo svojho úkrytu na nič netušiacu skupinu. Révay a jeho pobočník v prvej chvíli nepochopili, čo sa deje a kým prišli k sebe, boli už poviazaní. Jánošík stojaci na briežku všetko pozoroval.

Takto Jánošík predišiel krviprelievaniu, čomu sa i sám potešil, lebo nerád videl krv. Potom sa spýtal vydesených pánov: "Poznáte ma?" Révay vo svojej známej spupnosti odpovedal: "Poznáme, padúch sedliacky! To si odpykáš!" Jánošík nepohol ani brvou a pokojne mu odpovedal: "Vaša milosť, vy ste na príčine tomu, že som padúch a čo sa týka môjho rodu, som pyšný, že som sedliak. Lebo vedzte, keby nebolo sedliakov, ktorí na vás pracujú, tak by ste pre svoje pohodlie a lenivosť hladom pokapali. A teraz, aby ste pamätali na tento deň, okúsite len to, čím ste vy trýznili môj rod, svojich poddaných!"

Jánošíkovi chlapci zdrapili pána baróna a vyvliekli ho na úpätie hory nad cestou. Tam na vyvalenom pni ho štyria mocne uchopili za ruky a nohy a Hrajnoha mu hrubou haluzou vyplatil päť a dvadsať palicou.

Potom Hrajnoha oslovil Jánošíka: "Kapitán náš, tento deň si sa preslávil a nám všetkými ho spravil pamätným. Svojim múdrym rozhodnutím si zabránil krviprelievaniu, ochránil životy svojich kamarátov a potrestal Révaya. To bol čin, na ktorý nikdy nezabudneme. Na jeho pamiatku tu hľa, do tejto skaly, pod ktorou sa to všetko odohralo, vykrešeme šabľami našich nepriateľov veľkú zaťatú päsť. Bude tu večne stáť ako symbol tvojej sily a odvahy." Povesť hovorí, že bola z balvana pod Mníchom vytvorená veľká päsť, ktorej sa páni báli a ktorá je ešte aj dnes pamiatkou na legendárneho hrdinu ubiedeného ľudu Jura Jánošíka.