

Emeryk and the Deer



Many years ago there were a lot of wild animals and huge old trees in Poland. The forests were on every mountainous range, so the place was attractive for hunters.

In the XI century the king of Poland Bolesław Chrobry invited his cousin Emeryk - the Hungarian Prince. Before coming to our country Emeryk got from his father a gift. It was an unusual present, the relics of the Holy Cross. The pieces of wood came from the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. They were to protect the Prince during his trip and stay in Poland.

Polish knights greeted Emeryk on the border of Poland and Hungary and set out to Kielce, the capital of our region, to meet Bolesław Chrobry.

After their arrival they organized a hunting in the mountains. They went into the forest to look for wild animals. Riding their horses, they were searching the deepest and the furthest places in the mountains. While Emeryk was hunting alone, he saw a huge deer among the trees and started chasing it. The deer was running away, it wanted to escape, hide away among the trees and bushes. Suddenly, the deer got trapped in the bushes. Its antlers were tied among the branches. Emeryk took out his bow and wanted to shoot the deer. Then, something unusual happened. The prince saw a beautiful shiny cross between his antlers. The light coming from the cross blinded Emeryk for a while. He was shocked and started praying as he thought it was some kind of a sign from God. However, the deer suddenly disappeared. When the knights finally found Emeryk, he gave them a promise to build a monastery on the top of the mountains and leave the holy relics there. He did what he had promised.

The monastery was built on the top of the mountain and it was called the Holy Cross Sanctuary as well as the mountains were given the same name The Holy Cross Mountains - The Świętokrzyskie Mountains.