

THE BIOLEY BOULDER

AYMAVILLES

Legend has it that, during a period of heavy rains, the devil, angry with the inhabitants of Aymavilles, detached a large boulder from the top of Mount Bioley and was carrying it on his shoulders, intending to throw it on the houses of Ozein. He was nearly above the village when some women, catching sight of him, sensed his evil intent. They promptly ran to the chapel of St. Theodul, pulled the ropes ... and the tolling of the bells stopped the evil one on the edge of the ravine, who was about to drop the rock on the town.

There the boulder remained, firmly embedded in the ground, prodigiously suspended over the void, attesting to the new victory obtained by the saint over the forces of evil.

In order to witness their gratitude to St. Theodul, the locals decided to carry his statue in procession through the village every year, on the patronal feast day, invoking his protection over the village.

Source: T. GATTO CHANU, *Fiabe e leggende della Valle d'Aosta*, Rome, Newton & Compton Editions, 2004