

THE DEFEAT OF GARGANTUA GRESSAN

Many years ago, in the Tower of the Poor in Gressan a maiden lived with her family of Spanish origin. She was so beautiful that the son of the Châtelard of La Salle's castellan fell in love with her.

He did not obtain his father's consent to the marriage, however, except on condition that he first fight against the Saracens who threatened the valley, and had come down in force from the Tsa-Sèche and Drink hills.

A gigantic and bloodthirsty leader called Gargantua was leading the infidels. The daring Châtelard boldly confronted him and, knowing that the beautiful Spaniard followed him with trepidation from the top of the tower, fought with such élan that he stirred the Aosta Valley troops up, leading them to victory.

At the end of the battle, the field was covered with dead Saracens along with their leader. The inhabitants made a big pile of them near Gressan and even threw the little finger of Gargantua over the heap of the infidels, after whom the hill was named.

The two lovers, however, still hindered by the proud lord of Châtelard, had to flee to a distant country in order to fulfil their dream of love. There, they lived happily for more than a hundred years.

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