

## SAINT JULIAN'S FLOCK

### FÉNIS

Saint Julian, deported as a slave to the Aosta Valley with other soldiers who escaped the massacre of the Theban Legion, was sold to a wealthy patrician from Fénis, who owned vast expanses of meadows and became a shepherd. The goats were the most beautiful in the entire alpine pasture and always had udders so swollen with milk that they often scattered it along the way, so much so that the rocks on the paths where the saint had trodden with his flock are still stained with white patches today.

The other shepherds, who were jealous, treacherously seized Julian and threw him off a cliff. One after the other, the goats followed him with plaintive bleating into the precipice, at the foot of which the chapel dedicated to the saint now stands.

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