

The Book of Armenian Legends

By Rita Khatchadorian

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The legends of Armenia have been created over the centuries. They represent the essence of the nation, convey the national flavor, narrate the origin of important cultural and historical monuments. Below we have collected the most interesting and important Armenian legends which will undoubtedly interest travelers. Here you will get to know the origin of Armenian national bread lavash, will find out why the musical instrument duduk sounds so sad, will read about such important monuments as Khor Virap, Erebuni Fortress, Geghard Monastery and etc.

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Rita Khatchadorian (born June 22, 1998) in Alexandroupoli (Greece) is a Belgian author and blogger of Armenian origin. Rita's father decided to use the invented surname Baberyan for personal reasons, but Khatchadorian has been her family's surname for centuries. She was raised as a Christian and grew up in the Armenian Apostolic Church. Rita speaks seven languages fluently. Most of her life, she went to private schools and loved studying. She began to do art at the age of eight and continued until this day. She found art in everything she loved. Writing songs, poems, and stories has been one of her hobbies since she was little. She attended French schools as a child and would always write a Shakespeare story on a sheet of paper and perform it out with her friends. Shakespeare was one of her favorite writers of all time. She graduated at United Business Institute in business and has now begun her master's degree in psychology. She also finished her bachelor's degree in Criminology. She is the oldest of five children. Her first two works, "My Hope in You" and "Touch of Heaven," are previous works that have been published.

The Legend of Noah's Ark

There are many legends that the mountains could talk about the time when Noah and his family descended from the Ark into the valley. One day the Christians of the area decided to retrace Noah's story by climbing Mount Ararat and finding the Ark. On that day Bishop Jacob of Nisibis grabbed his staff, crossed himself and set off on his journey.

However, he found it very challenging — on his first attempt he stopped to rest and was so exhausted he fell asleep on a warm boulder. When he awoke, he found himself standing at the foot of Mt Ararat, staff in hand. He crossed himself again and began to climb once more.

Three times he tried to climb to the summit of Mt Ararat to see the Ark, but each time he became so exhausted he fell asleep and awoke standing at the foot of the mountain.

Finally, God saw his efforts and sent him an angel who told him there was no reason to climb the mountain because the Ark could not be found. Instead, in reward for his faith and patience, God gave him a piece of the Ark.

When Bishop Jacob woke, he could feel something hard under his head — it was wood from a Shittah tree. According to scripture, Noah, the forefather of all humanity, built the Ark from this wood.

Jacob thought it was best not to question God, and he returned to the people with his recount of what had happened. That sacred piece of Shittah wood was framed in gold and has been displayed in Echmiadzin Cathedral since.