

## The Pedro fort (Folladela-Melide-A Coruña)

There are three sticks on the roof in this fort, one of gold, another one of silver and the last one of tar. They are from Paradela fort. The one of tar cannot be touched because everything will blow up so neither the other ones (the gold and silver) in spite of the fact that the whole neighbourhood will be rich for ever.

It is also said that there is an enchanted woman in the fort. The woman is enchanted because there is a neighbour who was made prisoner in the Moorish territory at Castilian times. It was snowing and at that time the man said: "When it snows here, I don't know how it will be in the Pedro fort and Paradela fort". The Moorish heard it and asked him if he knew the forts he was talking about. The prisoner nodded and the other Moorish said: "You would be rich if you knew how to disenchant the enchant which is in the Pedro fort".

Thus, the Moorish gave him three buns, each of them with a bread stick telling him: "Look, do not take them out and do not take out a chunk of bread either. When you arrive at the Pedro fort, grab one of the buns and throw it in the middle of the land saying: Aureana, aureana, grab the bread roll which Ana gives you. Do exactly the same with the second and the third".

The neighbour from the Pedro fort realised he was free and without touching the buns arrived home. His wife, who was very curious, wanted to know what he had in the bag and searching and searching she found the buns. Of course, she couldn't wait and take out a bread stick.

When he found out what she had done, he was very angry. However, he decided to do what the Moorish had ordered him. When throwing the first bread roll, a beautiful woman on a burdened mule came out although she disappeared as a lightning. He threw the second bread roll and another woman appeared and disappeared. She was very similar to the first one. When he threw the third bread roll that was without the stick, a beautiful woman appeared too. However, the mule that was carrying her was lame so she couldn't escape.

The woman was really mad at the man because of the bread stick. She realised that the bread roll was not the same as the other two. She also asked the man why he had left that bread for the third woman as now she was the only one in the fort. The man decided to give her a lace to put on her head.

But later on, he decided to put the lace around a tree which, all of a sudden, was made ashes.



Castro Pedro, Folladela, Melide  
The Pedro Fort, Folladela, Melide

It is said that a man from Fonte-Xoán gave the enchanted woman who remained in the fort clothes and food, mainly beef meat and wheat bread. She, on the other hand, gave him a lot of money. It is also said that with the money sir Leoncio, the priest of Mr Saturnino Calderón, could even study a degree.

Tale from Terra de Melide, included in *Lendas Galegas de tradición oral* (Galician legends from oral tradition) by X.M. González Reboredo, ed. Galaxia, 1995 Vigo