

Legend of Munzur

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Dersim has a rich oral tradition.

A large part of it consisted of legends.

Mountains, rivers and lakes, many of which are seen as sacred have a legend of their own.

The legend of Munzur can be given here as an example.

This is how the River Munzur emerged according to this legend.

“Once upon a time in Dersim there was a king called Cemşit.

Munzur was his sheperd.

One day this king went away with his army to fight wars.

When on front he wished some ‘helva’ to eat.

Munzur knew what his master wished for.

He told this to his master’s wife and asked her to make the ‘helva’ to take to his master.

She thought it is Munzur himself who wishes some and did what he asked for.

He took the helva and disappeared.

Coming back a few minutes later he said to her that the plate would be brought back by his master.

This is what happened afterwards:

People went to welcome and kiss his hands when King Cemşit came back.

He told them about what happened and showed them the plate.

Then asked them to kiss Munzur’s hands instead.

By hearing this Munzur run away.

People went after him.

As he was running with a cup full of milk in his hands, the milk was pouring down.

In each place where the milk dropped a spring was emerging and of which the River Munzur”.