

LEGENDS OF GREECE

From the ancient years of the social civilization, there were born evolutionary stories with mythological and historical meaning, which until today they raised many Greek generations always keeping traditions and historical memories that otherwise would have faded from the memory of a civilization that travels like a little boat in a huge wave of a history 10.000 years old... These stories are the legends of our place...

ALEXANDER THE GREAT AS A HISTORICAL PERSON

Alexander the Great isn't just a historical personality for Greece. He is the incarnation of union, long before the politicians of the 20th century unite the entire world. He had very unique character and ideologies, very important to human history. Not only he was an invisible general, a genius in political and strategically matters, but also an excellent character with great spirit. He was the man that united almost the whole world back then, and gave the light of the Greek civilization to Asian nations. He made the Greek language national, and set an effort of civilizing the barbarian race. His purpose is proved by the amount of philosophers, scientists and architects he had with him in his reign.

Alexander the Great was born on July 356 B.C., at Pela the first capital of the Macedonian nation. His father was Philippos the 2nd, king of Macedonia, and his mother was Olympia. At Alexander's 13 years, his father summoned the philosopher Aristotelis to be in charge of Alexander's education. Aristotelis taught Alexander the phrase "in my father I owe many, in my teacher I owe the most". An approval of Alexander's bravery is the way he handled a sturdy horse, Vukefala. Vukefala was brought to king Philippos by a Thesal merchant, no man were able to handle Vukefala until Alexander realized that the horse feared

it's own shadow and so Alexander turned the horse's head towards the sun and waited for it to relax, and then he rided Vukefala for about 20 years. At 336 B.C. and after king Philippos murder, Alexander became king at the age of 20. Since then and until 323 B.C. (where Alexander died probably from fever) he marched in the whole world as a winner and founded cities that became places of scientific and merchandise meaning. His name remains in the historic memory of all the civilizations he conquered, not only with his sword but also with his brilliant character.

For Greece he was a very special symbol through the ages and that's why he is referred to many stories and legends we were told when we were kids... There are many different versions of one story:

- King Alexander and the immortal water

- King Alexander and the mermaid

- The sisters of Alexander the Great

The meaning of these stories is common, the female figure transforms into a mermaid. The mermaid appears in many legends of ancient Greece and exists on our day inside the stories many sailor say. But for now lets see the legend of Alexander and the mermaid just as a grandmother have passed from generation to generation:

KING ALEXANDER AND THE MERMAID

King Alexander fought and conquered all the kingdoms and the whole land tremble him, so one day he summoned the wizards and asked them:

- Tell me, you that possess the fate's future, what can I do to live many years, and feel the joy of the whole world that I made mine?

-My king, your power is great but what history wrote cannot be undone. Only one thing can make you feel your glory and your kingdoms. But it's difficult, very difficult.

-I don't ask you if it's difficult, only which is it?

-Then my king at your commands, I tell you that it's the immortal water, who ever drinks it is immortal. But to acquire the water you must pass between two mountains hitting each other endlessly, even a bird can't pass. If you pass the two mountains, you must kill the dragon that guards the water.

Immediately Alexander commands and they bring him his horse Vukefala that had no wings but flew like a bird. He passed the two mountains, he killed the dragon, he took the glass with the immortal water. But when he returned to his palace, his sister without knowing what the water is, she spills it on a wild onion, and that's why wild onions never dry. After hours Alexander went to drink the water and when he learned his sister spilled it, he cursed her to become a fish from the waist and below, god listen to that curse and from then, people returning with their ships see her swimming in the waves, and when she sees a ship she grabs it and asks:

-Does king Alexander live?

And if the captain didn't know and said:

-He died...

Then the mermaid sinks the ship creating big waves with her long blond hair and her arms. But the one that knows and says:

-He lives and rules the world...

Then the mermaid stops the winds and waves and sings sweet songs...

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