

Discovering our roots!!

Narrator 1 :Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our place. Here you will be about to discover a land of green valleys, sharp mountains and deep forests.

A land of sharp cliffs and golden sandy beaches.

A land of sunny days, wet, cold and rainy nights.

A place of proud and friendly people, willing to help each others

A land of people who fight, who make their way through difficulties.

A land full of living history, and religious beliefs, a land full of traditions and legends: Asturias.

Narrator 2: Our legends are related to a time when people lived in small villages near the mountains, with no electricity and no running water but with lots of time to talk.

Legends which are related to the long, long nights spent at home, sitting around a bonfire and to an enormous fear to the unknown.

Many of our legends and traditions owe their origin to the Celts, warriors coming from the north, with a strong character and a deeply rooted culture.

Narrator 1: We haven't invented the stories you are going to hear. These characters are still living among us although, perhaps, because of the advance of technology and modern life, sometimes it is difficult to believe.

Asturias is then, a magical place. Come to walk through its forests, perhaps, who know, during the summer solstice, a witch will cast a spell on you and you will never, ever abandon our land.

1. XANAS:

Xana 1: Good evening ladies and gentlemen, as you may see, I am a fairy but in my culture they call me a Xana.

I have deep blue eyes and long blonde hair, decorated with flowers and I am always dressed in white and gold.

Xana 2: We are the princesses of Asturian mythology. Most of the characters are ugly and monsters but we are charming beautiful girls.

Xana 1: Yes, and that is why everybody wants to meet us.

People think we are so beautiful that we bring luck!! Luck' can you imagine?

Xana 2: We used to live near the fountains, the spring of the rivers and the caves. Yes, near the water!!

I spend my time combing my beautiful hair with a golden comb and looking at my reflection in the mirror or in the water. I love collecting golden objects like rings and necklaces.

Xana 1: We also like washing the clothes by the river and while we wait for the clothes to get dry we enjoy singing and dancing

Xana 2: We are normally hidden but on the night 24 June, the shortest night of the year, the magical night of the summer solstice, you can see us, prettier than ever, trying to attract a beautiful boy's attention.

We sing, comb our hair and dance under the moonlight, well... anything.

Xana 1: We normally sit and wait, near a fountain and if a young man happens to set his eyes on us, he will be miserable forever as "once seen, never forgotten"!! He will think we are the prettiest women on earth!!

Xana:2: He won't be able to forget us and as we are fairies, he will die of love.

2. El Trasgu

1: Hi, there, I am a little dwarf, and in Asturias, everybody knows me if you say my name: "Trasgu". Come on, say my name: Trasgu, Trasgu...

2-I am always dressed in red and I love singing, dancing, shouting and playing tricks on people.

My favourite part of the house is the kitchen, as it is full of delicious food and objects to play.

I love annoying the kids, releasing the cattle and making noises at night, so nobody in the house can sleep, ja, ja, ja!

1-There is only a way to get rid of me. As you may see I have a hole in my left hand so I can't pick small things like grain or seeds.

2-If you tell me to pick up something I will get angry, very very angry and I will behave myself, or at least... I will be relaxed for a time, ja, ja, ja.

1-You can also tell me to bring water in a basket and as it is impossible, you will keep me busy as I like to finish what I start, ja, ja

2-When a Trasgu enters a house, he will never abandon it, he feels part of the family so sometimes, when the family is fed up with him, they pack and go to live in another village, but they can't imagine I can go with them, hidden in a basket or a case, ja, ja, ja

3. Les Llavanderes

1: Good evening everybody. We are washerwomen, that is, women who wash clothes, but, in Asturias, people used to call us Llavanderas.

2: Our story is very simple.

Years ago, in Asturias people didn't have a washing machine at home; they didn't have even water so women went to the river to do the washing.

1: They knelt at the riverside and hit the clothes with a stone, hit and hit, to get the dirt out.

Then they spread the clothes on the country and wait under the sun until they were dry.

2: We used to carry the clothes in a small basket on our head. They were heavy but we did it again and again, winter and summer.

1: We did this for years because it was not until the nineteenth century when peasants got running water at home

2: But les Llavanderes were a bit special. We used to go to the river at night to wash the clothes, yes at night, you heard well.

1: We didn't like being seen and if a human happened to cross our way we could cast a spell on him. That's why people were afraid of us.

2: we could also ask the man to help us to twist the wet clothes and then we pushed the man to the river, ja, ja, ja

1: Imagine his face, in the middle of the cold river at night, ja, ja. But don't worry, we could also be kind if we wanted and help you if you got lost in the wood, ja, ja, ja...

2: if you come to Asturias and have a problem in the forest, call us. We are always around!!

4-El cuelebre:

1: Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Perhaps you don't know us but we are Cuelebres, the most famous character in Asturias mythology.

As you may see, we are awful. You don't really know what we are.

Are we a serpent? A bat? A dragon? Definitely we are monsters, aren't we?

Well, Take your choice.

2-Our origin is not clear. Some people said the Cuelebres used to keep treasures, fantastic treasures: coins, gold, China, well... anything

1-Others said the Cuelebres robbed beautiful ladies to hide them in our cave, well similar to the American King Kong, ja, ja

2-But one thing is sure, we are always hungry, yes, always hungry, so we need food, lots of food.

We love meat so one of our favourite pastimes is robbing cattle to the farmers.

1-We normally hide at night, near the farms or the houses where we smell food and when everybody is sleeping, ZAS, we eat anything we happen to find!!

it is difficult to get rid of us. We are enormous and we can kill, so you had better escape, ja, ja, ja, ESCAPE.

2: we are strong and powerful so perhaps the best idea is to employ us.

We used to be very appreciated as a guardian of the treasures in the castles and of the young ladies virginity

Do you have something to guard? Employ us, please.

5: Las Brujas:

1: Witches are the most famous characters in Asturian mythology.

Many, many years ago, in Asturias, when people lived in small cottages with no electricity and no running water, people were afraid of wolves and of course, of Witches!!

Witch 2: People believed we flew, we enchanted black cats and we could make people suffer with our potions, ja, ja, ja

We used to live far away in the forests, as peasants did not want us around. They said we could speak to the devil!!

Witch 1: on thirtieth April we used to meet in a deep forest around a bonfire to talk about our problems, secretly, of course, as peasants were afraid of us and they said we stole the cattle or the crops!! Nonsense!!!

Witch 2: now the times have changed, we are only a legend but we are the most famous of all legends, because... if you go to a fancy dress party, it is impossible if you don't find a witch disguise

We are still famous for our pointed hat, our dark clothes and our crooked nose, ja, ja, ja

6: Final Part

Narrator 1: And these are our legends, legends of a land called Asturias. They are part of our oral traditions, part of our culture and part of our life, here, in Asturias.

Narrator 2: Legends which have been told from grandparents to parents and from parents to children. And now we tell them to you.

Narrator 1: You may believe them or not, you may pay attention to them or not but you can always enjoy them. Puxa Asturias