

Legend of the Dragon

by Jonathan Bruce

Dragons are found everywhere, all over the world. They are in TV shows, books, movies, culture, and many more things. Brno has a legend of a dragon in its history. It is a big part of the city, with sports teams, pubs, and even a radio station named after it. There are multiple stories of the Brno dragon, but the main story is set in Brno in the 11th century.

In around 1000 A.D, Brno was not the Brno it is today. It was a small settlement based on the river Svatka. It had a large castle, and lots of smaller market villages around the castle. People lived happy lives, working on farms, raising families, and selling goods to merchants. People lived in this peaceful place, raising families, and living their lives without worry. This did not happen forever.

One day, a local farmer never came back from his journey to the market. People did not know what had happened. They did not know that their peaceful lives were about to be ruined by a terrifying creature: a dragon. They did not know where it came from, but the animal had made the area it's home. A cave on the river Svatka had been taken over by the beast.

The dragon attacked the local people, and their livestock. Cows, sheep, pigs, and many more animals were being eaten by the beast, and even the humans of the village were being attacked. The villagers' lives were not peaceful anymore. They lived in fear, scared that they or their families would be the next to be killed by the terrible creature. So much of the local livestock was killed by the dragon, that some people had no food to eat. Many merchants stopped visiting the city, as not only had the stories of the wild animal reached further lands, but there was also no food for them to buy.

The villagers needed to remove the dragon, or else their lives and the area would be no more. They could not let the dragon win. They made plans, some were violent and expensive, some were smart and peaceful. However, no-one was brave enough to do anything about it, all they did was think of plans, not do any actions. The local government offered a reward of one hundred gold coins to anyone that would kill or remove the dragon. The dragon had ruined their lives for long enough.



There was a local tavern, called “The Blue Lion Inn”. Before the dragon, the villagers drank there to have fun, and as a way to enjoy their lives. After the dragon arrived, they drank to forget their problems. A travelling butcher was in the city, and went into the pub. While there, he overheard someone talking about the dragon. When he asked people about the dragon, he heard about the reward of a hundred gold coins. After hearing this, he smiled, finished his drink, and said “I have an idea”.

He asked the villagers for a large block of lime - a material that burns materials and skin. The villagers asked him why, and he told them his plan. They all surrounded him, and he quietly whispered about what he was planning to do. They listened, and when he was finished, there were many different reactions across the room. Some thought he was brave, some thought he was stupid, some thought he was both. However, they needed the dragon to be gone, so they agreed to his plan.

The villagers brought him the lime, and he put it in a huge chunk of meat. He went down to the dragon's cave while the dragon was sleeping, and left the lime-stuffed meat outside. The dragon woke up, and was very hungry. It left the cave, and ate the meat quickly. After it finished eating, it went to the river and drank lots and lots of water. When the water reached the lime in the dragon's stomach, the water began to boil. It got hotter and hotter, and the dragon's stomach got larger and larger. It kept on growing, until the dragon exploded!

The butcher went back to the villagers, and told them that his plan had worked. The villagers cheered, and hugged the butcher in happiness. They ran down to the river, and collected the parts of the dragon, put it back together, and kept it as a reminder they would never live in fear again. The butcher got the gold coins he was promised, and left the village. With the dragon gone, the people in the village returned to their peaceful lives. They were able to make Brno into the city it is today.

What makes this story so interesting, is that the dragon can still be found in the Brno town hall. If you don't think dragons are real, it is because it is a crocodile, which still raises the question of how Czechs found a crocodile in the 11th century. Some say it was killed by servants of “Sir Albrecht Trut”. When Albert's son was appointed to a position of power by a local Prince, Sir Albrecht brought the “stuffed dragon” as a gift. Others say it was brought back by soldiers from a crusade, or that it was a gift from a Turkish Sultan. No-one knows the truth of where it came from. Maybe it really is a dragon killed by a butcher? We will never know.

