



## South Tyrol – Land of Myths and Legends

### How Treasure Blooms at the Tobel Castle Ruins

**A**t the entrance to the Valle di Riva (Reintal), about an hour away from Taufers, you'll find the ruins of Tobel Castle, inside which a great treasure is hidden. The people of Mair in der Au, opposite the castle ruins, know a lot about the castle and the treasure inside. In fact, it is true that belief in the treasure among them was so strong that they even went several times to find the treasure. One night many years ago, the castle at Tobel was blazing in flame. The neighbours ran to Mair in der Au to tell the people there personally about it, and extinguish it together. Now the men of Mair ran over carrying buckets of water, but they found no trace of the fire when they came to Tobel.

A herder once drove his flock along the path leading to Tobel Castle, but suddenly all the animals ran down into a field and the herder had to chase them to bring them back to the path. There, below the path, he saw a kettle full of gold. He said: "First I'll drive the sheep from the field, then I'll come back for the money!" Afterwards, though, it was gone. "Oh, if only I had left the sheep and stayed with the money!"

Another time, a woman went to Rein. Along the way, where there are hollows known as Kesselreif on the flat stone, she found a carrying basket full of hazel nuts. She thought: "Alas, I already have too much to carry. Otherwise, I would take those nuts home for the children, to be sure. I'll just put a few in the bag." When she got home and was going to give the nuts to the children, they had turned into little gold crumbs. She immediately rushed back out there, but there was no basket and not a nut in sight.

Two young shepherds once went from the sheep hut back home quite late at night. They saw a lot of gold below the castle path. One said: "What do we do with it?" The other replied, "Let's run home and tell them; it's so late already that nobody else will come by." They ran home, but when they came back to the castle path to get the gold, they didn't see a trace of it.

A maid was once scraping together leaf litter in a forest near the castle. Suddenly, she came upon a pile of pig's teeth that were exceedingly white and brilliant. She scattered the leaf litter to both sides of the pile and looked again for the teeth. It had vanished in the blink of an eye.

Another time, at midnight, the neighbouring farmers saw a whole bunch of lights on the castle, all lined up nicely into a crown. The people said to one another that anyone who dared to go out and get the treasure would be the richest of them all. Nobody had the courage to go to the castle and get it, though, so the treasure has remained unclaimed right unto the present day!