



## South Tyrol – Land of Myths and Legends

### Knappaloch

**N**ot far from the village of Taufers, there is a part of the mountain known as Knappaloch. One day, a poor, tired and thirsty peasant took a rest there before felling some more spruce trees. As he sat, a beautiful woman suddenly appeared before him. She told him that there was a great deal of gold and silver in the area: if he would behave very quietly for half an hour, she would show him where it was – and great wealth would thus be bestowed upon him and his children!

The poor peasant happily agreed to stay as quiet as a mouse and not to move a muscle. The woman disappeared. Suddenly, a small crowd of men came along. They were all dressed in black and each pushed a Gratten (cart) before him, heading straight for the tree stump on which the peasant was seated. Forgetting his promise and wanting to be obliging, he stood up and said, "Don't mind me. Here!" No sooner had he said it than the little men disappeared again, along with the carts.

The peasant found himself beside his spruce trees once again poor, tired and thirsty.