



South Tyrol – Land of Myths and Legends

Oberkofler's Mouth

There was once a farmer from above Kofel by the name of Oberkofel (Ober = above), who asked a Salige girl to be his wife. She agreed to the marriage. She did have one condition, though: he must not tell anyone that she was a Salige. Oberkofler gave her his word of honour that he would say nothing, and the wedding soon took place. Everything took its course, things were picking up at Oberkoflerhof Farm, and after a year or so there was a little bundle of joy at the farm.

One day, Oberkofler was at the pub – three sheets to the wind – and he began to brag. His drinking buddies starting teasing him and laughing at him. He pulled out his trump card, saying: “You needn’t laugh at me. For I have the most beautiful and most noble woman for miles around: she’s a Salige!”

When Oberkofler came home that evening, his house was empty. There was no trace of his wife and child. The cradle was empty and quite cool. The fire in the stove had gone out. He was surprised at first. When his wife did not come the next day or the day after that, however, he realised what havoc his bragging and big mouth had wrought. He hoped that she would come back, but it was not to be. He had lost his wife and child forever.