

# *São silvestre night legend*

A long time ago in the Atlantic Ocean there was an amazing island named Atlantis with the most marvelous civilization. However, the population became very arrogant and wanted to take over the world using their king to challenge heaven. They then heard the voice of God saying that there was nothing that could win the divine power, but the stubborn king decided to try again and conquer Athens. During the battle, the Atlantis king heard God saying to him that the victory would be to Athens to punish the king's arrogance and ingratitude. After the defeat, storms, earthquakes, and floods followed which swallowed the beautiful Atlantis forever.



**Hundreds of years later, on New Year's Eve, Saint Silvestre approached the Virgin Mary whilst she was sitting on a cloud looking into the ocean. Saint Silvestre believed that the New Year should represent a new beginning. He thought that they should put the past behind them and move on by regretting their mistakes and hoping for a better life. The Virgin Mary agreed with Saint Silvestre. As she looked at the sea with sadness in her eyes remembering the beautiful island which had been flooded because of the populations sins she started to cry. Whist the Virgin Mary cried Saint Silvestre noticed that they were no regular tears but that they were pearl tears. One of those tears fell into the ocean to where the island Atlantis had once been and the island Madeira was born which is also known as the pearl of the Atlantic.**

## **Machico legend**

It is said that the name Machico has a romantic origin: there were two desperate lovers, Robert Machim, (or McKean) and Anna d'Arfet (or Dorset) fled from Bristol by boat around 1370. A terrible storm caused them to crash on the shores of Madeira, close to where Machico is now. Sadly, the two lovebirds didn't last long on the island, but locals say that Machico was named after Robert Machim.



# **King Sebastian's legend**

Since King Sebastian's disappearance, the Portuguese expected his return to the monarchy. Therefore, the legend says that the Portossantenses believed that the king could be found on a small island, located behind the island Porto Santo, but no one was able to see it, because it was submerged. However, they believed that one foggy day, the island would emerge, and the king would appear in Porto Santo.

However, there is another version to this legend, which says that King Sebastian would appear on a Thursday, on São João day. On that day, Funchal would be devastated and the Monte's ladder would be served as a quay. The local people say that he would appear on a beautiful beach in Porto Santo. When he appeared the people would have to escape and never look back otherwise they would be transformed into marble stones.



# **Legend of the Miracle of Senhora do Monte** **(lady of the hills)**

In the first half of the colonization of the Portuguese island Madeira, there was a river called “Ribeira de Cales”. The water was clean and the lands were fertile due to the large quantity of water.

One day, a powerful man decided that he wanted to keep all the water to himself so he could use it on his land. The population became desperate for water because it is essential for survival, so they decided to do a pilgrimage to ask Senhora do Monte for a miracle. A miracle did occur and water started to flow under the earth,

They blessed the miracle and they started to dig and direct the water into their fields. The vineyards and the farming lands became fruitful again and that miracle was never forgotten by the population.



# **Cavalum legend**

The local people say that the Furnas do Cavalum is where a monster lives. They describe the Cavalum as a devil in the shape of horse, with bat wings and fire coming out of his nose. On stormy days it is possible to hear the screams and the rumble when he attempts to escape.

The tale to how he got imprisoned is as follows: Many years ago, when Cavalum was still free, he went to a church and knocked on the door, wishing to speak to God. God asked what he wanted, and he responded: "I want to propose a challenge. I plan on destroying this church and all the people living in the village, and I want to see if you are able to stop me". God sent him away saying he didn't have patience and didn't find what he had said amusing.



**Cavalum believed he had done the right thing in warning him so he called the wind and the clouds to form a huge storm. He stood on a cliff top satisfied with all the misery he had brought upon the population.**

**God was tucked up in blankets in front of the fireplace and didn't take any action to stop what he was doing as he believed he would soon get bored and stop. However, Cavalum continued and the situation only got worse. God became extremely irritated and decided to take action to stop what he was doing. He first made a boat and then called the sun which moved away the clouds, the wind, the thunder, and the lightning. The blue sky returned and the happiness returned. God decided to imprison Cavalum in a cave, which was called Furnas do Cavalum. Cavalum is imprisoned until today, and during every storm we are able hear his anger and despair.**