

THE POOR YOUNG STUDENT

PERLOZ

The ancient feudal tower Tour d'Hereraz, the church bell tower, comes with its own beautiful history.

Many centuries ago, a humble hut was in place where the church now stands; the Herera family quietly lived there from the meagre resources obtained from working in the countryside. A boy from this family showed great talent for learned activities and sought every opportunity to educate himself, but his parents were too poor to pay for his education.

One day, as he was sitting pensively on a rock by the side of the road, the boy saw a rider in distress on a runaway horse, as he was about to fall between the rocks.

The young man instinctively jumped to the knight's aid and managed to stop the animal, but in saving the lord's life, he received a kick from the horse that broke his leg. The knight, as wealthy as he was generous, took the young saviour with him and had him lovingly cared for, so that he healed from all his wounds.

Having discovered his aptitude for the sciences, he had him educated and offered him a brilliant career. After a few years, the young man, who by then lacked nothing, returned to his native country.

A beautiful castle took the place of his poor childhood home and he gave abundance and happiness to his family.

All that exists today of that castle is the tower to prove the degree of greatness obtained by the poor boy. According to popular tradition, his daughters later went on to marry the Vallaise barons.

Taken from: J.J. CHRISTILLIN, *Leggende e racconti della Valle del Lys*, Aoste, Éditions Guindani, 1988