

THE BLESSED *CLAPEY*

ARNAD

On the hill of Arnad, about a three-hour walk from the old village, lies an area strewn with rocks, where three devils once lived and went to great lengths to dispose of those boulders.

In order to better organize their work, they divided a needle into three parts and took one piece each: the first one scratched the smaller stones with the point, to reduce them to sand; the second one sifted the sand, passing it through the eye, while the third one, using the middle part as a lever, rolled the larger rocks down the slope.

The dismayed peasants begged their elderly prior to celebrate a mass at the cursed clapey; and as they set out in procession, following the cross, they heard the devils exhorting each other concisely to push the stones onto the worshippers. The three devils, powerless because the bells were ringing out, were forced to retreat and fled toward the col Fenêtre.

The peasants raised a large stone cross in the middle of what has since been called Clapey Béni, the Blessed Stone.

Taken from: T. GATTO CHANU, *Fiabe e leggende della Valle d'Aosta*, Rome, Newton & Compton Editions, 2004