

*The Legend  
of  
The Ayazmo*



**SOU "Zheleznik", Stara Zagora, Bulgaria**





This story happened in the pagan time when Khan Boris was the ruler of Bulgaria. At that time there was a thick, centuries-old wood spreading on the hill over the recent town. There was a spring over there and a pagan sanctuary /kapishte/ built nearby.

The legend tells that there was a noble man /bolyarin/ who ruled this area then. His name was Tsolyu.



His castle was lying on the feet of the hill and there was only a garden between it and a prison where there were criminals and prisoners-of-war, including those who were Christians from от Constantinople.







**СОУ “ЖЕЛЕЗНИК” СТАРА ЗАГОРА**

The noble man had only one child – his beautiful and beloved daughter Tsvetana.

She was very kind to the prisoners-of-war and often visited the prison bringing them food and other needed stuff.

It happened that Tsvetana fell gravely ill.

Dear father, I'm so sick.

Oh, my poor child. How can I help you?



I need the best doctors.



Her father was scared about the life of his only child, so he called a lot of healers and promised them a big reward if they cure his daughter of her illness.



**СОУ “ЖЕЛЕЗНИК” СТАРА ЗАГОРА**

The healers tried very hard with all the medicine they know, in



all ways they could but nothing happened. Tsvetana remained gravely ill.

Then a man from the bolyarin’s entourage told him that among the prisoners-of-war there were famous doctors Christians. Tsolyu, the bolyarin

called them and asked them to help his daughter.

They agreed but on the condition that he would allow them to do all they think was good for Tsvetana’s health. As the bolyarin was very sad about his daughter, he gave his approval.

The doctors Christians converted Tsvetana to Christianity in the spring near the sanctuary and at this very moment she became healthy. It was just a miracle.





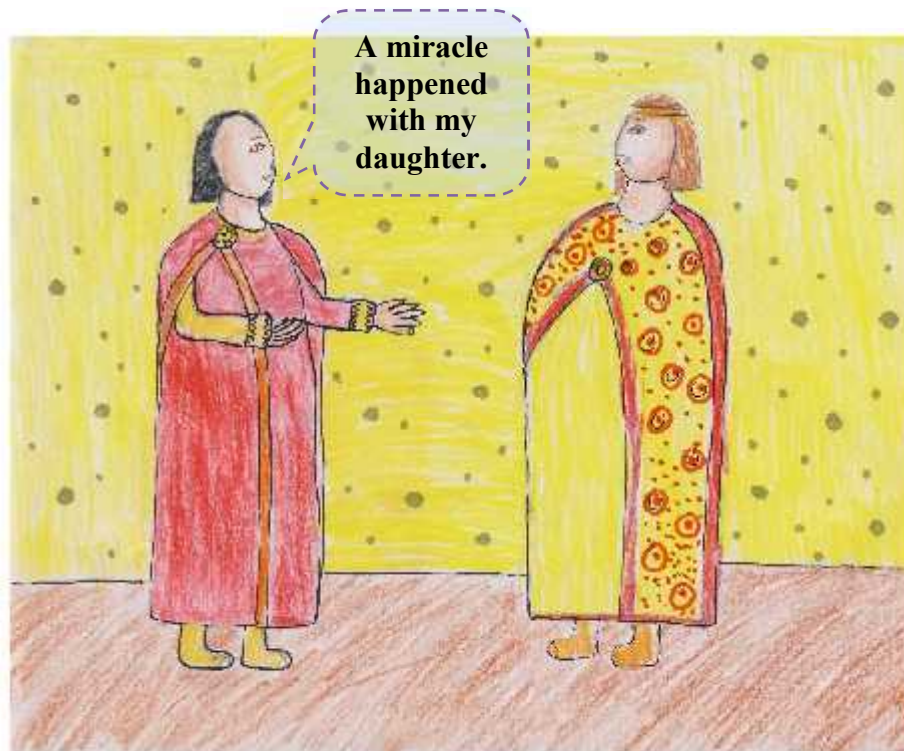


They gave Tsvetana a new, Christian name – Teodora (after the Byzantium emperor Michael III’s mother).



Under the influence of the miracle happened to his daughter, Tsolyu the bolyarin also baptized and converted to Christianity. After that he ordered at the place of the pagan sanctuary a new Christian church to be built.

Then he went to visit Khan Boris and told him about the miracle happened to his daughter and what he did after that.



The legend tells that one year before the Christianization of the Bulgarians (863 or 864 AD) Khan Boris came at that temple to be baptized and converted to Christianity.

This sanctuary and later the Christian church were worshiped by the folk of the town and nearer villages from the ancient days to nowadays. After 864 AD the patron saint of the temple became St. Theodor Tiron (Theodore of Amasea), a young Roman soldier from Anatolia. It was he who was the spiritual patron of Stara Zagora in the early years of Christianity to Bulgaria today.



\* *Аязмо* (from Greek *αἰάσμα*) is a source of water, that is situated nearby a sacred to Christianity object – a Temple or a Monastery. It might be a spring, a fountain or a pool. Water from the holy spring is considered to be healing, miraculous, used after being lit in Christian rituals.





**СОУ “ЖЕЛЕЗНИК” СТАРА ЗАГОРА**

This comic was made by students from 4b and 5b grades, helped by their teachers:

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