



· M A R U X A I N A ·

The Maruxaina is a mermaid that lives in the Cantabrian Sea, off the coast of Galicia, in the cave of Xan Bello in the Farallon Islands.



Like most representatives of this worldwide species, she has the body of a fish and the torso and head of a woman. There are discrepancies about its nature. Since its appearance is associated with dangers at sea, occasional shipwrecks or accidents that almost lead to shipwrecks, some seafarers believe that it is an evil creature that lures crews to the cliffs to bewitch them and force them to keep it company forever, and that it accomplishes this either with a beguiling song or by imitating other people's cries for help. Other sailors, on the other hand, believe that it is a benign being that warns ships of danger or, in the event of a shipwreck, warns nearby ships to come to their aid. According to this theory, the Maruxaina would be mainly terrestrial, spending her time spinning around and climbing a rock before the sea gets rough to warn sailors not to go out to sea or return to port.

Every year, on the second Saturday of August, the sailors catch the Maruxaina on a moonless night, sailing without lights to surprise her and sounding the horns of the boats so that they do not hear her magic voice. Then they take her to the beach of Torno in San Cibrao, where she is subjected to a popular trial. The whole town is there with

candles and lanterns, and the verdict is passed by acclamation. If she is found guilty, she is burned to music and song. If she is found innocent, she is pardoned and a great celebration takes place.



Maruxaina is a creature originating from **GALIZA**

Current population: 2.695.645



Galicia is a people rooted in the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula, which has maintained a strong identity since the first millennium BC, with a very marked Celtic population and culture and

with much communication with the other Celtic peoples of Western Europe. Although successive invasions have erased many traces of this origin, especially the language, they live on in elements of popular culture such as mythology and music.

The country's mountainous terrain and widely dispersed population made it difficult for foreign empires to conquer. The Roman Empire, for example, overcame local resistance only very late, in 23 B.C., and although it managed to replace the local language with Latin, the way of life of the predominantly rural population did not change significantly. A few centuries later, the empire disintegrated and two Germanic peoples settled in the Gallaecia region: first the Suebi, who established an independent kingdom, and later the Visigoths, who ruled the entire peninsula until the destruction of their empire by the Islamic invasion. However, the Muslims were unable to subjugate Galicia, which remained independent and unruled until the formation of the first medieval kingdoms.

During the Middle Ages, the Kingdom of Galicia participated in the wars to expel the Muslims from the peninsula, but did not extend its dominion, remaining subject to the neighboring Kingdom of Castile, which subjugated all the kingdoms of the peninsula except Portugal and led the creation of the Kingdom of Spain at the beginning of the modern era.

Apart from these power struggles, the Galician people developed their own culture and language, Portuguese Galician. It is a very rural people, preferring to spread throughout the territory rather than

concentrate in large cities, historically devoted to agriculture and livestock, but also with a great fondness for the sea, being one of the most important fishing powers in the world. The region, which is not very industrialized, has experienced great waves of migration throughout the world since the 19th century, so that today a large part of the population is scattered throughout South America and Europe.

Although Galicians converted to Christianity at a very early age, they have blended it with their traditional pagan beliefs, which live on in the form of a vibrant folk mythology and even mix with Christian festivals.

