



· Ş A H M A R A N ·



**T**housands of years ago, snake-like creatures inhabited the subsoil. They were very intelligent and affectionate, and they lived in peace. His queen, Şahmaran, was also very beautiful, half woman and half snake.



Once a young woodcutter, Tahmasp, found a well full of honey in the forest. He wanted to pick it up, but he got stuck in the bottom, and to get out he discovered behind a rock a tunnel that led to a magnificent garden where the snakes lived.

The serpents took care of him, by order of Şahmaran, who told him the story of the history of mankind. In love, Tahmasp spent many years in the garden.

One day Tahmasq decided to return to the surface to visit his family. Şahmaran helped himself, after making him promise not to reveal to anyone the whereabouts of the garden, and advising him never to bathe with other people, because if he did his skin would become scales and his secret would be known.

Tahmasq returned to the world of men and never revealed the secret. But one day the king became ill, and the vizier announced that the only cure would be to eat the flesh of Şahmaran to acquire his youth and wisdom. So, he ordered all the subjects to bathe publicly, to find the person who could know the whereabouts of the serpent queen.



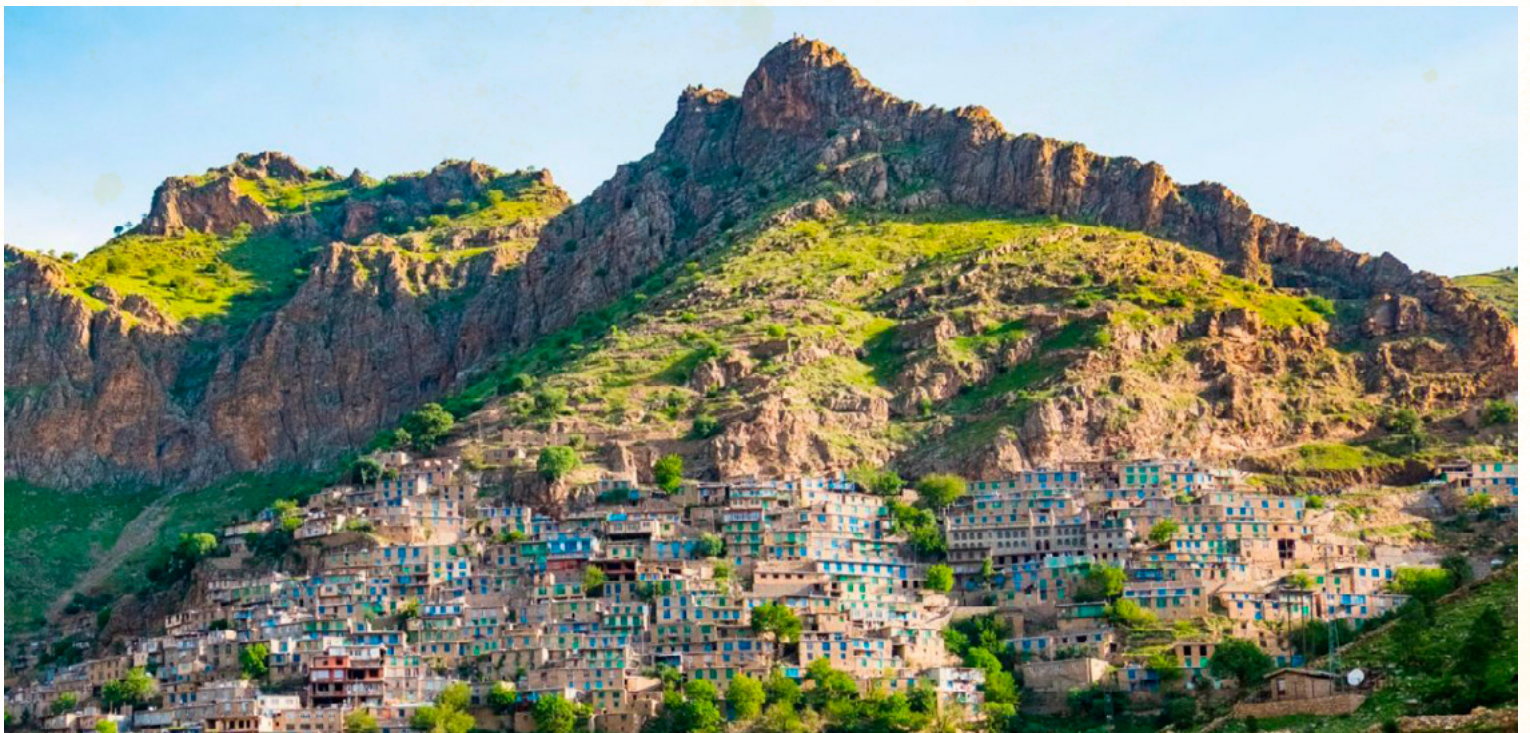
When they threw Tahmasp into the water, his skin became scales and he was arrested and tortured until he revealed the place. So they captured Şahmaran, who was taken before the vizier and told him: ‘Whoever eats my tail will get wisdom, and whoever eats my head will die instantly.’ The vizier cut Şahmaran in three pieces, thus killing the queen of the snakes, and immediately ate a piece of his tail. Tahmasp, saddened by the death of his beloved, wanted to kill himself by eating a piece of his head. But instead of dying, he became a wise man, while the vizier fell dead, all according to Şahmaran’s plan.

Since then snakes have become deadly enemies of men.



Şahmaran is a creature originating from **KURDISTAN**

Current population: 26.000.000





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he stories are a town of Indo-European origin, which is based in its current territory around the tenth century a.C. They occupy a large area dominated by the Anatolian mountains and the Zagros mountains, with a harsh climate of extreme temperatures. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers are born in its mountains, and most of the region's oil reserves are under its feet.

For centuries, the Kurds lived in a nomadic lifestyle, based on the raising of sheep and goats, grazing them along the Mesopotamian plains and the mountains, without knowing agriculture. Its people were grouped into tribes, governed by a sheikh.

Practitioners of the practice of the oldest monotheistic sea in the world, the jzidismo, the Kurds became majority to the Sunni islam during century VII. However, pre-Islamic religions survived and still retain millions of followers. The Kurdish culture, in addition, conserves many vestiges of them, for example, the veneration of the serpents.

Being the largest stateless people in the world, the Kurds have lived much of their history being respected by their neighbors. However, the delimitation of the national borders after the First World War distributed in its territory between the new states of Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq, creating borders that make these shepherds difficult seasonal migrations. Many of the Kurds abandoned their flocks and became sedentary farmers, while others migrated to the cities. Throughout the 20th century the traditional way of life lost its vigor, as did the tribal organization, and the Kurds suffered a harsh policy of assimilation



that prohibited their language, their laws and their customs.

Indicable, the Kurds have led countless rebellions against the states that dominate their territory, always finding refuge in the mountains, perhaps protected by their ancestral creatures.

