

Grannie's tales

Many times listened to in
my infancy

Es pretó Jonás⁽¹⁾

A farmer was coming home from the fair. He had to ~~eross~~^{go through} a forest and then go across a stream on a boat – He was well-built and was happy because he had sold his livestock very well – In the middle of the path in the midst of the forest, he saw a big fat ram, which was grazing quietly – he stopped to watch it and suddenly, noticing the shepherd was not there, he became greedy, and getting close to the motionless animal, took it tightly by the legs and put it over his neck – He hastened, joyful for the wealthy loot, and when he got to the bank, he saw another ram standing alone, that raising its head and seeing what es pretó Jonás was carrying, asked him in a human voice this question: “¿avont vás Barrabás?”⁽²⁾ – so, the captured ram by ‘es pretó’ Jonás answered very quietly: “Ell jo'm faix portá”⁽³⁾ p'es pretó’ Jonás- The latter, who heard that the ram he had stolen was devil itself, set it free immediately and started to run hastily and terrified!

⁽¹⁾ - Master Jonás

⁽²⁾ - Where are you going Barrabas?

⁽³⁾ - I am carried by Master Jonás.

These tales are centuries old

Grannie (Catalina Alou de Rebas) was
born in Felanixt (Mallorca) in January
1820 – she died on 17th November 1897
in Buenos Aires
At the age of 78 years old

The stammer

It is said that when stammers suffer a strong impression, they cannot say a word but they can easily say it if they sing.

In a Majorcan posesió (possession) the amo⁽¹⁾ (the master), se madona⁽³⁾, with his young children and all the personnel for the olive harvest were having lunch, joyful due to the good harvest.

An old stammer maid served them.- There was plenty of wine at all times and the maid went down very often to the cellar to fill the jar.

On one of those times, she went upstairs with her hands up, contorting herself, and showing an expression of deep horror – Only high-pitched screams came out of her throat, striving in the middle of her horror to explain the cause of her despair.

When seeing her so unsettled, all the ones who were sitting at the table, started to laugh and make fun of her.

In the end, tired and eager to know what was going on, the master said authoritatively: “Amos, dona dinlo cantant”⁽⁴⁾ – The maid stood straight, put her hands on her hip and sang in a strong voice “Se bota s'es destepada”...⁽⁵⁾ – When they heard this, they all went to the cellar hurriedly at once...

⁽¹⁾ – Country house

⁽²⁾ – The master

⁽³⁾ – The housewife

⁽⁴⁾ – Come on, woman, say it singing

⁽⁵⁾ - The wineskin has uncapped...!

Do you have beard and spin?

*Once upon a time in a town, there was a young couple – He worked at night and came back in the morning – She waited for him spinning, by the fireplace. One winter night in which she waited for him spinning, by the fire, with a shawl on her head and the spinning wheel on her hand, a tiny dwarf jumped out of the fire and leaned back on the wall, next to the embers, gazing at Maria who was a pretty lad... Naturally, she got scared because of the apparition, but she thought it was cautious not to feign, and wait... When her husband came, ^{the little dwarf} disappeared into the fire – She didn't say anything and thought she had had a dream while she was waiting ... the following night, the little dwarf appeared in the same way, always wrapped up in Maria's contemplation – After several days of the same scene, she decides to tell her husband – He listened to her surprised and ordered her to go to bed early. He wore her wife's clothes, tied up her shawl below his nose, to cover up the expression of his face, he took the spinning wheel and sat on Maria's chair... After a while waiting, the little dwarf jumped out of the fire, and as usual he leaned back on the wall and starts to contemplate the presumed Maria who was pretending to spin – Little by little the little dwarf's face changed its expression from admiration to astonishment to mockery... He stepped a little forward and gazing at the half covered face he had in front of him, he said with great sarcasm:
-“Maria, do you have beard and spin...?”*
