

A STORY OF MARTZISOR



It dates back to the time of the Roman occupation of Dacia (current Romanian territory), during an eclipse of the Sun. It is said that the Sun, looking at the people having fun wanted to join in. He decided to go to Earth disguised as a young man and take part in the festivities. But his happiness was short lived because an ogre kidnapped and imprisoned him.

The people were very sad because the Sun was no longer in the sky. The birds would not chirp any more, the children weren't happy, and the rivers stopped flowing. But still nobody dared to face the ogre until one day when a brave warrior stepped forward and, after taking his strength from all the people, went to challenge the ogre.

He searched for the ogre for three seasons (summer, fall and winter) until he found its castle. When he arrived at the castle the brave warrior faced the ogre and they fought for days, until the ogre was killed. In the end the exhausted hero, with almost no strength left, freed the Sun which immediately started to shine up in the sky, thus bringing Spring again into the world. Unfortunately the warrior died before he could see the nature coming back to life. His warm, red blood flowed on to the white snow until the last drop; where the drops fell, snowdrop flowers appeared.

From that moment on, young men twist white and red strings which are offered to the girls whom they love, to mothers, or to people close to them as lucky charms. The red color reminds of the warrior's blood and the white string is a symbol of health and purity. The snowdrop is believed to be the first flower of spring.