

Mountain Stories

2021: „Myths“

Dear Writers!

Our writing series “mountain stories” extends into its 13th year. And this edition should once again become a colourful compilation of short stories and narratives written by renowned authors and ambitious literary enthusiasts.

We are happy to announce for the eighth time a call for entries for our **literature competition**. The growing success of this literary series and the high literary quality of the submissions – last year we also received numerous stories from all over the world – provides us with a rewarding incentive.

Publisher of this trilingual (German/Italian/English) storybook with photographs is the **vigilius mountain resort** on the Vigiljoch near Lana in South Tyrol.

Theme of this Edition: Myths

Issue No. 13 of our mountain stories - an appropriately mythical number - is dedicated to a topic that is deeply rooted in human history: myths are oral stories passed on from person to person; they have emerged in all cultures imbued with a rich symbolism evoking the collective consciousness of a society while continuing to influence that society. The creation of myths is a very human theme in itself, comparable to dreams that carry messages from the unconscious into the perceptible world. They provide answers to archetypal questions about unchangeable or inexplicable phenomena such as natural disasters, about our origins, about life after death,

about the search for meaning, and thus they become an aid for orientation, certainly in a religious sense as well. In addition to the best-known cycles of sagas, such as Greek mythology, which dealt with an entire history of creation with all its human themes and emotions, local mythical worlds have produced their own figures and sagas everywhere, in keeping with their surrounding environment.

The South Tyrolean Dolomite legends - from the vigilius you have a wonderful view of the most beautiful ridges of the Dolomites - are rich in symbolism and figures that deal with phenomena and challenges in the Alpine region. The "Alpine Glow", for example, which makes the Catinaccio stand out among the Dolomite peaks in a particularly vibrant rosa colour, is said to be due to the damnation of the unhappy King Laurin. As a legacy of this rich culture of legends, the rooms for treatments at the vigilius mountain spa bear the names of legendary figures of the Dolomites: the dawn Albolina, the marmot friends Molta and Moltina, the daughter of the sun Elba, the great witch Striona, the lovers Gordo and Vinella and many more.

Myth making is an omnipresent phenomenon and is not only to be found in the past. It seems that they awaken as soon as people are confronted with a collective challenge. Even in our enlightened world, very recent events such as a pandemic quickly became fodder for dangerous myths and conspiracy theories that put human lives in danger.

Myths as the theme of the next issue of mountain stories offers a very wide scope for creative literary activity, although once again the narrative form is preferred.

As a source of inspiration for your short story, you are very welcome to draw on the special location of the vigilius mountain resort. The building, made of natural materials such as wood, glass and loam, deliberately dissolves all boundaries between indoors and outdoors and gives a soulful feeling of freedom at 1,500 m above sea level. As soon as you arrive at the Vigiljoch, you notice a great change, the air is pleasantly fresh and the resinous, mossy scent of the larches that characterise the surrounding woods awakens pleasant feelings of suspension and belonging.

The entire area conveys the impression that time has stood still here, as though you could return to your own childhood, a time 20 or 50 years ago. The landscape is a picture imbued with alpine mountains, larch forests, a black lake, mineral water springs like the Bear Bath, mystically formed stones and a small chapel in the middle of untouched nature - places that both embolden and invite the imagination to take flight and tell stories ...

The vigilius is a place of stories and reflection. With the mountain stories and the philosophy series www.vigilius-sensus.org the hotel dedicates its attention to literature and the questions of today and tomorrow.

Competition and Author Information

A jury consisting of cultural journalists and writers will choose the best selection of stories. Stories (rather than self-reflective texts) which demonstrate a consistent, unified and thrilling handling will receive precedence! Please note the conditions of the competition:

Your unpublished short story **must not exceed 6,800 characters including spaces**, and Your story should **be sent in doc/docx format or as pdf with the specification of characters including spaces listed at the end of the file.**

Selected stories will be published in their original language as a printed and bound hardcopy edition, as well as published in German, Italian and English on the website www.mountainstories.it. In the concluding final pages of the book, every author who wishes will have a short, bio- and bibliographic reference along with name and picture.

The copyright of each story remains by the author; vigilius retains merely the right to show the story to the world at large and in the future.

Prizes: Authors of selected stories receive a voucher for one overnight stay for two, including breakfast and evening meal worth € 510 (travel expenses not included, no cash redemptions).

From the selected stories, the jury will also select **several contributions** to be presented by their authors during a **reading to be held at vigilius mountain resort**. For this reading, the selected authors will also be awarded another additional day at vigilius (dinner, overnight, breakfast). For this event, which will take place **in 2021**, local media and external guests will be invited.

Deadline: Send your stories before **October 31, 2020**

- By email to office@textatelier.at to the curator of this storybook, Uli Dubis, who can be contacted at the same email address should you have any questions or messages at any time
- Or by postal mail to vigilius mountain resort, Pawigl 43, 39011 Lana, South Tyrol, Italy.

Please include your name and return address.

The "small print" according to the Data Protection Act - please read!

By participating in the vigilius mountain stories literature competition, you agree that the curator of the vigilius mountain stories - Mag. Ulrike Dubis - Textatelier, Kastelfeldgasse 40, 8010 Graz/Austria - will keep your email address in order to use it exclusively for information about further mountain stories literature competitions. Your email address will not be given to third parties or used for other purposes. Of course you are free to prohibit further use for the mentioned purpose by making this known when you participate in the literature contest. You have the right at any time to request access to the data concerning you, to ask for it to be changed, supplemented or deleted and, for legitimate reasons, to oppose its processing or to demand that it be restricted. You are also entitled to request that the data in question be transferred to another party responsible for the processing. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the state supervisory authority if you believe that your data has been processed unlawfully.

Wishing you much success and inspiration!

Ulrike Dubis and the vigilius team.