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THE LOVERS OF TERUEL

A SPANISH LEGEND



Legend has it that Isabel and Diego grew up and played together in the 13th century in the Spanish city of Teruel.

They were both from noble families of the city. Isabel, daughter of Don Pedro de Sesato, a wealthy merchant. And Diego, from a less lineage family, the Marcilla's. The two friends were growing and also the love they felt on each other.

One day they decided that they could seal their love with marriage, so Diego asked for Isabel's hand. But Mr. Pedro de Segura didn't like the idea at all. He couldn't afford to marry his daughter to a boy of fewer lineages to his. The two lovers were devastated until they had a possibility to solve their problem. It isn't well known whose idea it was, if it was Isabel and Diego's or her father's. The fact is that they were given an opportunity: Isabel would wait for five years for Diego to get money and honors. With the five fingers of his right hand they swore to wait until Diego's return, even to kiss each other.

Diego went to the fight. They say that it passed through the Navas de Tolosa and even Muret battle. For five long years, Isabel was left alone, waiting and not knowing what Diego's fate would be. They say that the soldiers who returned from the fight of Muret reported that no one was left there alive. It is even said that Segura's family paid a poor rogue from Teruel to spread the word that he himself had seen Diego fall in front. In one way or another, the case is that such fatalities reached Isabel's ears.

Seeing that the agreed five years were already up and that her father was urging her to marry, the young woman finally accepted the proposal of Mr Pedro de Azagra. Her father's favourite suitor and powerful lord of Albarracín, a village closed to Teruel. Five years and one day after that promise that some young lovers made to themselves, the entire city was decked out to celebrate the great betrothal. Everything was fun and joy, everyone was happy except for the poor Isabel.

And by the whims of fate, just that day, Diego managed to return to Teruel. Safe and sound, with honors and riches, with the illusion of finally reuniting with his beloved Elizabeth. The ringing of the bells, the music and the noise raised his attention and he asked what was happening. They announced that the city was celebrating the marriage of Isabel de Segura with Don Pedro de Azagra, lord of Albarracín. At that moment, Diego thought he was going mad with anger because his beloved had not awaited him.

But he composed himself because, in reality, Isabel had not broken the agreement. The term had already expired. He decided then to go in search of his new residence and ask for that kiss that he had longed for so much during the long and hard years of battles. He climbed onto the newlywed's balcony and woke her up to beg this latest proof of love. But Isabel did not feel able to break the vows she had just promised and she refused. The ray of rejection struck Diego's heart, who fell dead at that very moment.

His strange death is said to have shocked the entire city in such a way that he went to the services in masse for Diego's soul. Isabel, heartbroken at having lost her true love, sneaked into the funeral to be able to give him that kiss she had denied him in life. He approached the lifeless body of his beloved and kissed him intensely. And at that precise moment, those present could see how she fell dead on the deceased.