

MARTIN KRPAN

Martin Krpan is a fictional character created on the basis of Slovenian oral tradition by the 19th century Slovene writer Fran Levstik in the short story Martin Krpan from Vrh. Published in 1858 the story became very popular and made Martin Krpan a folk hero.

Martin Krpan comes from Vrh pri Sveti Trojici. He is a smuggler by profession, he makes a living by illegally transporting salt. With the help of his loyal mare he carries the salt from the Adriatic Sea coast to the Slovene lands and in Austria. On one of his travels Krpan meets the imperial carriage on a snowbound road, and he makes way for it by picking up his horse and moving it aside. The Emperor John notices his extraordinary strength. Several years later, the Emperor summons Krpan to Vienna to fight against Brdavs, a brutal warrior who has set up camp outside the capital and challenged all comers, and has already slain most of the city's knights, including the Crown Prince.

Reluctantly, Krpan accepts the challenge. He defeats the brute in a duel by using both his strength and his ingenuity. In gratitude, the Emperor gives him a special permit to legally traffic in English salt as well as a pouch of gold pieces.

Match the words with their definitions.

a smuggler	faithful
loyal	hesitating before doing something because you do not want to do it or because you are not sure that it is the right thing to do
to summon	a person who takes goods into or out of the country illegally
brutal	a formal fight with weapons between two people, used in the past to settle a quarrel
reluctantly	a small bag, usually made of leather, and often carried in a pocket or attached to a belt
a pouch	violent and cruel
duel	an official document that gives somebody the right to do something
ingenuity	the ability to invent things or to solve problems in clever new ways
permit	to order somebody to come to you

