

The Waterman

The legend of the Waterman (Vodník) is one of the best known Czech legends related to water and its vicinity. Originally composed by K. J. Erben in 1850s, it begins with a young maid being convinced by her mother not to go to the lakeside. She disobeys and is drowned and captured by an evil Waterman, who forces her to bear his child. Even though the child is her only happiness, she still yearns for return to the world of the living, and convinces her vile overlord to let her see the mother for one last day. Back on the ground, her mother refuses to let her back and disgruntled Waterman kills her baby as a punishment.