

## Story 1: The story of Saint Nicholas



Story shared by: *Andrijana*

Representing: *Roma and lives in Belgrade*

### The Story:

In a kingdom, there lived a king who had a daughter, a princess. A disease spread through the kingdom, causing people to suddenly develop sores on their bodies. Most of the population fell ill, including the princess. The king announced that whoever could find a cure would be given everything: the kingdom and the princess, just to heal his people and his child. Various princes and nobles from neighboring kingdoms came forward, but none succeeded in helping. One day, a young man from a village appeared and promised to find a cure. He was so convincing that the king believed him and placed all his hopes in him.

The young man embarked on a long journey - he got into a boat and began to sail, letting fate guide him. Suddenly, a light shone upon him and he heard a voice telling him to go to a nearby island and gather certain plants. Once he gathered them, the voice would return and tell him what to do with them. On the island, the young man gathered the plants exactly as the voice had instructed. After collecting them, the light and voice reappeared, instructing him to go to a nearby swamp, collect mud from it, and mix it with the plants.

The young man reached the swamp by boat, dipped his hand in, retrieved the mud, and mixed it with the plants as the voice had instructed. At that moment, the light appeared for the third time, and the voice announced one more trial for the young man. It gave him a sword with which he had to kill a wolf, and mix the wolf's fat with the plants and mud. The young man found the wolf and fought with



it for a long time. In the end, he managed to pierce the wolf with the sword and extract the fat from its belly. He mixed the fat with the other ingredients as the voice had instructed.

At that moment, Saint Nicholas appeared from the light. He said to the young man, "With this, you will save the kingdom. Now go, and you will see that everything will be alright." The young man returned to the kingdom, where everyone had already lost hope. They first applied the remedy to the princess, and when they saw it worked, they used it on the entire population. When everyone was healed, the king, as promised, gave the young man his kingdom and the princess, with whom he lived happily ever after.