



The drummer boy of El Bruc

According to legend, a young boy called Isidre once lived in El Bruc, a village at the foot of Montserrat mountain in Catalonia. Everyone knew him as the drummer boy of El Bruc because he played his drum so skilfully. He had brown hair, bright eyes and an adventurous spirit.

The story is set in June 1808, during the war against Napoleon's troops. One morning, while Isidre was drumming in the village square, a messenger arrived with worrying news: a French army was approaching.

The villagers gathered in the church to decide what to do. The priest, Father Joan, spoke in a steady voice.

"We must protect our families and our village. We need to organise ourselves and help one another."

Isidre felt that he, too, could contribute. He raised his hand and said:

"I can use my drum. Perhaps its sound will help confuse the soldiers."

His suggestion encouraged the villagers, who began preparing their defences. They looked for sheltered positions, organised the paths and spread out among the hills. Isidre found a place from which he



could see the approaching troops.

The echo of Montserrat

When the fighting began, the boy beat his drum. The sound struck the rocky mountain walls and came back multiplied by the echo. Each roll seemed to be answered from another part of the mountain.

The legend says that the French soldiers thought they could hear the drums of a far larger army than the one in front of them. The powerful sound and the villagers' resistance made them hesitate.

Seeing what was happening, Isidre kept drumming with all his strength. His steady rhythm also encouraged the people defending the village, helping them feel less alone in the danger.

After hours of resistance, the French troops withdrew. The villagers celebrated the safety of their homes and thanked the young drummer for his help.

The story of Isidre and his drum travelled from village to village. In time it became a legend passed down through generations: the tale of a boy whose quick thinking and drumbeats, magnified by the mountain, helped to hold back an army.

The legend preserves the memory of a community's courage and solidarity. It is not an exact account of every detail of the battle, but a traditional story showing how people remember the past together.

So ends the tale of the drummer boy of El Bruc. It invites us to value clever ideas, cooperation and the many ways we can help those around us, even when our contribution seems small.