

"They say, the Devil lives in the Ungurpils Lake. His dwelling is in the lake opposite the manor house. One morning, the Devil heard a terrible noise at the lake. The Devil stucked his head out of the water and looked around to find out what the noise was about. Look, the master's huntsman washed his dogs in the lake. The Devil was very agry about such impudent behaviour of making the water of the lake muddy and spoiled. To punish the huntsman, the Devil decided to fill up the lake with ground. If there is none, then none for everybody. He carried soil from the Zaķpurvs Marsh. He wanted to strew the soil out, when suddenly a rooster started to crow. The Devil dropped the burden and cleared off. A hill sprang up from the strewed soil — the Devil's Lap." (Latvian Folklore Repository (hereinafter referred to as "LFK") 1978, 3184. Marija and Kārlis Galeviuss from Aloja; recorded by J. Rozenbergs 1966) "Behind the Ungurpils Lake, there lived indecent wives who always cursed badly. At the opposite side of the lake, there lived the Devil who was very happy about that and helped to sow discord. Each morning he ran around the lake to instigate women to fight with their husbands. The Devil thought about how to get to the wives quicker. He contemplated about that and made it up. He filled up the lake. He grasped soil in his lap and carried it to the lake. But a rooster crowed the third time. The Devil strewed out the soil in a hurry and cleared off. Thus in the field at the Ungurpils Lake, a hill sprang up that is named the Devil's Lap." (LFK 1978, 2342. Emma Ozola from Aloja at Valmiera, 65 years old; recorded by M. Berzinska 1966) "At the lake of the Ungurpils manor house, there is a hill called the Devil's Lap. They say the Devil lived in the marsh at the lake, but his twin children - a girl and a boy — lived on the opposite side of the lake. To meet his children easier, the Devil decided to make a bridge across the lake. The Devil grasped a great heap of soil and headed to the lake. Having reached the lake, a rooster started to crow. So the Devil strewed out the soil at the edge of the lake. Thus the Devil's burden is still there on the bank of the Ungurpils Lake, but the Devil, being scared of a rooster crowing, is no longer building a bridge across the lake." (LFK 1798, 2387. Jānis Dreimanis, 81 years old. Recorded by M. Berzinska 1966 in Aloja.) "Two devils once decided to make a bridge across the Ungurpils Lake. They carried large heaps of soil from each other's side. A rooster started to crow at once. The devils dropped their heaps and made off. There is still a small hill seen on the other side of the lake. On one of the hills called the Devil's Lap, there is a small birch grove, and just in the same place on the other side of the highway one can see a place where the Devil took the soil. The hill on the other side of the lake is called the Snakes' Hill." (Hill in Aloja. „Balss” 1887 No. 39) "In Aloja parish at the Ungurpils manor house, there is a hill called the Devil's Lap. They say the Devil wanted to make a bridge across the Ungurpils Lake. He grasped a large heap of stones and soil and carried it to the lake. It was already at the edge of the lake, when a rooster started to crow. The Devil dropped his burden and ran away, but the Devil's burden is still there at the edge of the lake waiting for the Devil to carry it further." (LFK 1081, 329. in Aloja at Valmiera; recorded by V. Strenga.) "In manor times at both sides of the Ungurpils Lake, there were threshing barns. Devils lived in both threshing barns. They used to visit each other, but they did not want to go around the lake. Thus they decided to make a bridge across the lake. The Devil was carrying soil at night from the nearby marsh and strewed it into the lake, but the marsh soil being light flew away. That is why he took gravel from the road with pebbles and strewed it into the lake. But he did not manage to strew it all. A rooster started to crow, and the Devil in anger stamped his foot, dropped the heap and dashed away. The dropped heap can still be seen. On the road, where the heap of gravel was taken, a

little dale remains called the Bukiņi Dale. The floating islands of the Ungurpils Lake are the light marsh soil brought by the Devil.” (LFK 961, 8386)