

1. In the parish of Svētciems within the territory of the Lielkuiķuļi homestead, there are the Devil's Caves situated. (Latvian Folklore Repository (hereinafter referred to as "LFK") 1736, 1746. Recorded by Harijs Kreišmanis, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)
2. In the parish of Svētciems within the territory of the Lielkuiķuļi homestead, there are the Devil's Caves situated. (LFK 1736, 910. Recorded by Nikolajs Zālamans, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)
3. In the parish of Svētciems within the territory of the Lielkuiķuļi homestead, there are the Devil's Caves situated. (LFK 1736, 351. Emma Everte, 48 years old. Recorded by Biruta Liepiņa, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)
4. In the parish of Svētciems by the Jaunkuiķuļi homestead, there are caves, where people go to. They are called the Devil's Caves. (LFK 1735, 794. Agnese Irbena, Apiņi of Salaca, 50 years old. Recorded by Ilga Irbens, Salacgrīva Elementary School, 1939)
5. In the parish of Svētciems within the territory of Lielkuiķuļi homestead, there is the Devil's or Sacrificial Cave situated. (LFK 1736, 3230. Jēkabs Šmits in Līčupas of Svētciems, 75 years old. Recorded by Arnolds Prauliņš, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)
6. Within the territory of the Lielkuiķuļi homestead on the bank of the Svētupe river, the Devil's Caves are situated. Many people call these caves the Devil's Caves, but in reality, they are the Liv Sacrificing Caves. In the caves' walls, there are many names carved. (LFK 1736, 1927. Katrīna Kuiķulīte, 83 years old. Recorded by Inta Kuiķulīte, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)
7. Once a man let his dog into the Svētciems Sacrificial Cave with a bell tied to his neck, but he himself walked over the ground following the sound of the bell. The dog went out of the cave by the Burtnieki Lake. (LFK 1682, 266. G. Eidmanis in Patkuli of Salacgrīva, 50 years old. Recorded by Georgs Fišers, 1939)
8. There is a river flowing from the Dūņezers lake of Limbaži named the Svētupe River. In Svētciems parish, the banks of the Svētupe river are craggy and in one part of these cliffs, there are the so-called Devil's Caves located. When entering the caves, one finds himself in a large antechamber, from which there are smaller caves stretching in three directions. They say that the other end of one of the caves goes out at the Burtnieki Lake. On one side of the large cave, there is a narrow passage, by which, if crawling, one can enter into a large spacy room. (..) (Latvian Tales and Legends (hereinafter referred to as LPT) XV: 310-311. Narrated by a school boy of L. Bērziņš in Limbaži)
9. In Svētciems parish by the Lielkuiķuļi homestead on the bank of the Svētupe River, there are caves named the Devil's Caves. One can enter these caves up to 20 m far. At the beginning, the entrance is narrow and low, so you must bent, but further you can go upright. 10 meters from the entrance into the cave, there is such a spacy room that 20 people can come together there. Further on there is a passage, which is filled up with sand and collapsed. Elderly people tell that the caves end by Mazsalaca. They say that once they let a dog into the cave, and it went out of the cave by Mazsalaca. (LFK 1736, 693. Anna Mežgaile in Līvkalni of Svētciems, 89 years old. Recorded by Raimunds Mežgailis, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)
10. In Svētciems parish within the territory of the Lielkuiķuļi homestead on the bank of the Svētupe River, there are the Devil's Caves. There are different tales about them. Once a man hanged himself there, that is why it is not allowed to pass by this place at night as it is haunting there. Once another man promised to carry a cross through the cemetery to the other side in the middle of the night. In the middle of the night, he went and fetched the cross, but then he carried it back and stuck it into the ground. He

stuck it and went back, but somebody was holding him tight. He thought that a dead one was holding him, so he tried to release himself and broke loose, but then he was dead on spot at once. Since then, nobody goes there, because everybody is afraid of haunting. (LFK 1736, 1661. Recorded by Harijs Kreišmanis, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

11. Within the Lielkuiķuļi homestead, there are the Devil's Caves. People say that in the Lielkuiķuļi Devil's Caves, it has been haunting many times. Somebody once told me about a case when somebody stuck his head out of the Devil's Cave and started to shoot at them. The ghost went out of the Cave and walked on his hands over the river. (LFK 1736, 1775. Recorded by Harijs Kreišmanis, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

12. Within the territory of the Lielkuiķuļi homestead of Svētciems parish on the bank of the Svētupe River, there are large caves located, which are called by the people the Devil's Caves. Initially they, probably, were used by the Livs, who made offerings to their gods there. But later on people considered this place as Devil's haunted. It was prohibited to anybody to go there at night, because the devil was haunting there. Once a brave man wanted to try his luck. He went there already in the evening well beforehand, climbed a high pine-tree and waited. The time was approaching midnight. All of a sudden, with a loud noise, the Devil raised from the bottom of the Svētupe river, and at once from nowhere six black horses appeared. The Devil climbed on the horses and started to ride them. Having ridden a few times around the Kuiķele cemetery, he rode nine times around the cemetery. Suddenly, a rooster crowed and the Devil with all the horses sank into the depth of the Svētupe river. But the man, having seen all that, was frightened a great deal and never dared to pass by the haunting places at night any more. (LFK 1736, 1325. Alvīne Krastiņa in Līdumnieki of Svētciems, 68 years old. Recorded by Rita Klētniece, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

13. There are also the Devil's Caves at the Liekuķuļi of Svētciems. They say that devils used to live there, and that there is a lot of money in there. (LFK 1736, 1018. Recorded by Erna Felkere, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

14. In Svētciems parish near the Kuiķule inn, there are the Devil's Caves or Sacrificial Caves. Devils used to live there. One can also be infatuated there. In ancient times, elderly people used to sacrifice themselves at these caves. (LFK 1736, 4068. Recorded by Zenta Veide, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

15. In the field of the Lielkuiķuļi homestead of Svētciems parish, there is a cave. In older times they used to make offerings to gods there, but later they say that devils lived there. That is why this cave is called the Devil's Cave. (LFK 1736, 3113. Recorded by Eriks Mauriņš, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

16. In Svētciems parish by the Lielkuiķuļi homestead, there are caves. People call these caves the Devil's Caves. They say that devils used to live there. In older times, people used to sacrifice themselves there and now they call them also Sacrificial Caves. (LFK 1736, 3970. Recorded by Leonīds Ozoliņš, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

17. In Svētciems parish by the Lielkuiķuļi homestead on the bank of the Svētupe River, there is the Sacrificial Caves or the Devil's Caves. They used to make offerings to gods there. (LFK 1736, 3822. Recorded by Egons Martinsons, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

18. In Svētciems parish at the Lielkuiķuļi homestead, there are Devil's Caves. There are three caves called the Devil's Caves. They used to sacrifice humans, animals and

crops to the God there. (LFK 1736, 2169. Recorded by Fannija Lundberga, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

19. In Valmiera county, Svētciems parish, within the territory of the Lielkuiķuļi homestead, there are the Sacrificial Caves, where in older times the Livs made offerings to their gods. But now these caves are called the Devil's Caves. During the World War, many people were hiding there. These caves are partially collapsed nowadays. Our school's boys have been there. The boys brought bats out of these caves. (LFK 1736, 2397. Recorded by Viktors Amoliņš, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

20. Within the territory of the Lielkuiķuļi homestead of Svētciems parish, there is the Devil's Cave. In older times the ancient Latvians maybe made offerings to their gods in front of the cave. The cave is large, a man can even enter it. The Cave is situated right at the water edge. (LFK 1736, 3610. Mārtiņš Bahmans, 60 years old. Recorded by Teodors Priekulis, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

21. Within the territory of the Lielkuiķuļi homestead of Svētciems parish on the bank of the Svētupe River, there are caves called by the people the Devil's Caves. They used to be sacrificial caves of the ancient Livs. They say that devils live there, thus they are called the Devil's Caves. Elderly people say that the caves end at the Burtnieki lake. A dog was let into the caves, and it came out of the caves on the edge of the Burtnieki Lake at the Devil's bush. (LFK 1736, 3676. Jānis Šterns in Jesperi of Svētciems; recorded by Pēteris Šterns, Svētciems Elementary School, 1939)

22. Sacrificial Caves at the Svētupe River. The Svētupe river begins in the Dūņezers lake by Limbaži. It flows in the direction of Salacgrīva. Nearby it, in the former parish of Pāle, on the craggy banks of the river, there are caves called the Sacrificial Caves. They say that an underground cave begins there leading up till the Burtniekezers Lake. The ancient Livs used to make offerings to their gods in these caves, these are cult sites. (LFK 1978, 3181. Marija Galeviuse in Aloja, 66 years old. Rec. by Jānis Rozenbergs, the 20th scientific expedition of the Latvian Folklore Repository, 1966)

23. Taking into account that the Sprundas are located about 3 km away from the Liv Sacrificial Caves, Dzidra narrated the following tale about them. The caves are called the Sacrificial Caves due to the fact that the Livs made offerings to their gods there till the middle of 19th century. It has been also proved during archaeological works. The fact that the Livs used to live in this area can be proved by the names of the local homesteads: Pērkoni, Ūziņi and place names — the Svētupe River, Svētciems village. Dzidra reminisced that there was an inscription in the cave, about which they said that it was an ancient Estonian name "Lembids". It was the name of the leader of the Estonian uprising against the German Crusaders. Estonian rebels used to hide in the Cave. There is an opinion that there are people who still make unconsciously offerings to the gods, because many have lost some belongings in the cave, for instance, a ring, money, etc. (LA-92 (Archive of the Folklore and Linguistics Centre of the Humanitarian Institute of the Liepāja University). Dzidra Šterna of Salacgrīva Country Territory, born 1919. Rec. by Sarmīte Saukuma, 1996. According to: S. Laime. Holy Underground. Folklore of Latvian Caves. (Svētā pazeme. Latvijas alu folklorā) – Rīga, Zinātne, 2009)