

## ČATEŽ DWARF

Čatež is a mountain dwarf from Slovenian folk tradition. He is half human, half goat. He has horns, long ears, a beard, a medium-sized figure and an oldish face. He used to bring cold, clean water to the woodcutters when they were thirsty, and gathered strawberries and raspberries for the shepherds in the mountains. People sometimes saw him at the top of cliffs as he basked in the sun or on the swampy ground where he searched for water springs.



One day, Čatež ran into a crying girl in the woods. "Why are you crying?" he asked her. The girl replied frightenedly: "Who are you? I can't see you." Only then did Čatež realize that the girl was blind. Her mother went to a nearby well for water, but when she returned, the girl was not there anymore, blind and all alone she got lost in the woods.



Čatež took pity on the girl and took her to a mysterious cave where his home was. From the stones, a waterfall of healing water flowed with which Čatež washed the girl's eyes. Thanks to the healing water, the girl started to see and found her way home.



When people heard the story of the miraculous healing water, they began searching for its springs feverishly. At places where they saw Čatež, people often really found springs of good water.



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