

Here is the story of the dish of the Korrigans
which corresponds to the place named “Korrigans' cave”
between Bourg-de-Batz and Le Pouliguen.



During a winter evening, in the village of Batz, an old woman walks with difficulty on the pavements before stopping in front of the door of a house ; she knocks. A man with a long fair hair falling down to his red *chupenn* (coat) opens the door. The old woman is horribly ugly, disgusting, nevertheless, but the salt worker who is a kind man invites her to sit down on a bench and to drink a good warm soup.

Seeing that the old woman seems numbed by the cold, he goes and fetch a thick sheet to warm her up and a big log to boost the fire in the fireplace, leaving the old and strange woman only surrounded with furniture reddened by blood as it is the custom for the inhabitants of the Guérande peninsula. He notices with astonishment that his dog does not dare to approach the old woman...

Being back, he puts the log in the fire and approaches the old woman to cover her with the sheet, but suddenly she disappears, leaving place to a small but magnificent creature. She – who is no other than the queen of Breton goblins (Korrigans) – tells him, to thank him for his hospitality and for his kindness, the secret which allows to open the door of the Korrigans' cave, which allows to penetrate into the secret tunnels of the little people. These underground passages indeed hide big wealth, and the salt worker will be able to go there, but he must be back in his house before sunrise, or he will see all the treasure which he has amassed disappear.



The salt worker puts on his wide ribboned-hat, and starts in the cold night towards the coast. Going to Le Pouliguen, he arrives in front of the impressive gaping hole which drills the cliff, a place feared by the Ancient. He sinks into the darkness of the cavity and finds the so-told stone which serves as a door between the world of the Men and that of the little creatures. Then he pronounces the words the queen had taught him and penetrates in the other side. Supernatural, a fantastic light surrounds him, and hundreds of small creatures with so strange features are looking at him. A sweet music embalms the atmosphere and diverse and precious goods cover the ground. Bewitched by this atmosphere, the salt worker fills his bag, and keeps

discovering new cavities with more and more precious wealth. The man would indeed spend all his life in this fantastic place surrounded by the Korrigans, but he eventually stumbles and fall.

The pain brings him back later to the reality. He does not know how long he stayed in this bewitching place. He had to leave before dawn. He thus leaves the cave, and sees on the horizon, where the sea gets mixed with the earth, that the sky is clearing up, dawn would soon come up. He leaves his heavy clogs behind to run always faster, but he does not go fast enough.

He gets beside the "long stone", a big stone (*menhir*) which thrones on cliffs in front of the sea ; breathless, he leans against it and feels it moves. So he hides the treasure underneath, so that it is not touched by the sun beams. Then he returns home, waiting patiently till next night when he can go and get his treasure back.

The next day while he is at work, he cannot stop thinking of his treasure, burning with impatience. In the evening, he goes back to the "long stone", near the village of Kervenel. But the grace and the supernatural of the day before are not there any more, the stone can not move any more. Offended, the salt worker falls on his knees, and, seeing so much wealth disappear after so many efforts, he cannot refrain from crying. Seeing the so helpful salt worker in this bad situation, the queen of Korrigans reappears, and tells him *"You were too grasping, so I shall not give you back your treasure, but as you have helped me, and as I know that sometimes life is hard in the marshes, I offer you this dish. A magic dish, which fills itself with all the food you dream about. You will never be anymore in the need"*. Arrived at home, the salt worker puts the dish on the table and begins dreaming about a royal feast-meal, filled with the products he prefers. Then all he dreamed about appears in the dish.

Thus, he will never fall in the need again and will keep within himself, till his death, the secret words which allow to go into the underground passages of the Korrigans' cave.