

C**DEATH OF OLENTZERO**

In former times at Martxabaleta in Aralar the ancients were celebrating the winter festival when from the east a cloud of light approached. They were astonished by it and they sought out Olentzero who was very knowledgeable about the stars and understood their portents.

When he saw the cloud he said: “My time has come. Take me up on to the cliff edge and when the light reaches me, throw me over the cliff so that you will remember that Kixmi has come!”

This they did and as Olentzero fell to his death they ran to the grove of beech trees at Arraztaran, and when the cloud hovered over them they buried themselves under the Jentillari. But the spirit of Olentzero was freed to announce to the rest of the ancients that “Kixmi has come!” and this he did every year till now and the Herri Euskaldigi bowed down to Kixmi and worshipped him.

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