

# The Story of the Christmas Witch

## An Austrian tale

**In the dark nights of winter**, especially close to Christmas, when you hear the wind and thunder roaring and rumbling through the mountains and woods, do you know who is on its way? It is the Christmas Witch who carries many names, for now we will call her by the name Frau Perchta. She has a beaked nose made of iron and is all dressed in rags with small pieces of mirrors and bells. The legend says that in cold and dark winter nights she flies through the air surrounded by an army of lost souls, including the Perchten, her army of servants. This is called the Wild Hunt. The Perchten are covered with fur and wear large bells around their hips.

Despite their evil looks it is said that Frau Perchta and her army actually bring luck. With their horned masks they scare away demons and evil creatures, they stomp on the ground and with the bells and their screams they evict the demons of winter and awake and welcome spring. So when Christmas is getting closer, watch out for Frau Perchta and her army. Maybe you get a glimpse of them.

**But nevertheless you better not come too close to them, otherwise you might get pierced by their horns, tusks and teeth.**



Erasmus+

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