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## **The Horseman's Stane**

by Jackie Ross

Jock the Giant wis sleepin. 'Zzzzzzzzzzz. Zzzzzzzzz.' Fin a' o' a sudden there wis a holy sound, 'Praise be to God', cum ringin through his lugs. Jock loupet oot o' his bed and bashed his heid on the rafters. 'Oh, mighty me,' he says, 'I've got a stoonin sair heid. I've got bags under ma een. I jist cannae get ma beauty sleep for these monks. I'm sick fed up o't, I've heen enough o' them. I'm gan tae put a stop til't'. And he stumped oot o' his hoose, richt atop o' Bennachie til he come til a muckle big boulder and he bood doon and he lifted it up. It was a great big muckle steen and it teen a' his strength but eventually he got it up on tae his shooder and then he let fling richt at the monastery far the monks were deein their singing. 'Praise be to God'. Well, 'at was maist o' the monks but there was ae young lad fa'd sleepit in. Oh! it wisnae the first time either. This wis the fourth time this wik that he'd been late for Matins and he kint that the Abbot wisnae gan tae be pleased and he wis rinnin and rinnin as fast as he could across the cloisters tae try an' get tae the kirk, an' jist oot o' the corner o' his een, he seen the bolder fleein through the air right towards the monastery. Well, if he'd bin rinnin fast afore, he ran twice as fast noo and he rushed in tae the chapel and he shouted oot, 'There's a great big steen comin right at us'. Well, that very instant, the monks got doon on their knees and they started tae pray tae God. And as seen as their prayers left their lips, that steen stoppit in mid air and it hovered a whiley and then it come splashing doon in tae the River Don. And if you ging tae Monymusk theday, you'll still see it sitting there, richt in the middle o' the water.

*This story was made up based on a wee fragment found in a book produced by the Women's Rural Institute at Monymusk. There was just a little paragraph which said that Jock the Giant threw a bolder at the monks in Monymusk but it landed in the River Don. The boulder can still be seen in the river and it's called the Horseman's Steen. The storyteller and a group of pupils from the Alford area decided to make up a story to explain why Jock threw the stone at the monks.*

This is the transcript of the audio file available at  
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