**The traditional story**

In the morning of that beautiful spring day, decided more than ever, our three heroes Don Quijote, Nasreddin Hodja and Yordan Radichkov began their great journey, this time towards Romania. They stopped in the capital city of the Romanian Country, Târgovişte. It was a hot summer day, in June. The city Târgovişte was born and bloomed on the shores of the river Ialomiţa, where the hills meet the fields.

**Nasreddin Hodja**: I want us to learn as many stories as possible about these people.

**Don Quijote:** I heard these people are true heroes that would give their life for their country.

It wasn’t long until our three heroes reached the centre of the city Târgovişte. Tired and thirsty because of the heat, they stopped to drink a cup of water from the fountain that was right in the middle of a square.

**Yordan Radichkov:** Do you notice the material this cup is made of?

**Nasreddin Hodja:** How can a golden cup last here without being stolen?

Hearing the conversation between the three travellers, an inhabitant of the city explained them how that cup ended up at the fountain and why nobody dares to steal it.

**Inhabitant:** Vlad the Impaler, the Ruler of the Romanian Country, who is a brave and honorable person, is preocupied that all the people in the **country work and are honest**. He hates the evil in the country so much that he punishes almost any crime. That is why no one dares to take this cup.

After they drank water from the golden cup and were impressed by the words of the man at the fountain, the three heroes decided to go and meet the ruler.

In they way to the ruler, the three men thought they should find out more about other deeds of the ruler, and asked **another inhabitant:**

**Nasreddin Hodja:** Do you know Vlad the Ruler?

**Inhabitant:** Yes

And he told them about the justice Vlad the Impaler did to a peasant who was cheated by a merchant.

**Yordan Radichkov:** We want to hear the whole story. How did that happen?

**Inhabitant:** The merchant, who was passing by through the Romanian Country announced that he had lost a bag with a thousand lei in it. He also said that he would give a hundred lei to the person how finds the bag, but when the peasant brought him the bag, he said he had already taken the hundred lei and the merchant needn’t give him anything. Upset that the merchant considered him dishonest, the peasant went to Vlad the Impaler to tell him what had happened.

**Don Quijote:** And how did he manage to do justice?

**Inhabitant:** It was very easy. The ruler decided that the merchant should give the bag back to the peasant because it belonged to another person who had lost nine hundred lei, and he should wait until his bag with the thousand lei was found.

**Nasreddin Hodja:** And the merchant accepted? Wasn’t he upset?

**Inhabitant:** There was nothing he could do. Our ruler is a fearsome person who punishes the thieves and the lazy and no one would have the courage to question his decisions.As for the merchant, I think he should be thankful that he got away so easy.

**Yordan Radichkov:** My dear, it seems that now we have more reasons to meet the ruler of this country. We have a lot to learn from him so we shouldn’t waste time!

And shortly they arrived at the court of the great ruler.

**Vlad the Impaler**: Welcome to Târgovişte, my dear!

**Nasreddin Hodja:** We are pleased to meet you!

**Don Quijote:** We are three men from three different countries who set out in search of beautiful places, real people and interesting stories. We have seen many things in our journey, but what we saw in the central Square of Târgovişte fascinated us. How did you manage to make everyone use that golden cup without stealing it?

**Vlad the Impaler**: I know I am considered a very mean ruler, but I am still a man who loves his country more than anything, loves the truth and the justice.

The three heroes spent their night with the ruler of the Romanian Country, carefully listening to his stories about the life of the romanian people, about his acts of bravery and mostly about the justice the ruler loves so much.

**Yordan Radichkov:** We will continue our journey towards Polandand we would be very thrilled if you joined us to continue this great journey together.

**Vlad Ţepeş:** I will be honoured to join your great journey, discover the beauty of our beloved European countries, and mostly to find out about the customs and traditions of these countries.

**Nasreddin Hodja:** Our dear friend, we thank you for your hospitality and for your decision to join us.

**Vlad Ţepeş:** I would like to end this memorable evening with a romanian saying: *„The path of justice is very wide; but that doesn’t mean it’s easy to cross,because it has its obstacles and difficult crossings, the road is heavy and stiff, although it still goes toward the valley.”*

At the break of dawn, the four friends began their great journey, this time towards Poland.