

MOUNT GĂINA, THE MATRIMONIAL AGENCY OF THE INHABITANTS OF APUSENI MOUNTAINS

Prof. NICOLAE - RUSALIN SICOE
School of Ciuruleasa common, Alba County

ABSTRACT: *The present paper is an essay of the author about the most important mountain in the Western Carpathians, Mount Găina, a true Pantheon of Motians, the inhabitants of these mountains. There are many legends, traditions, customs, celebrations, fairs that once were part of the everyday life of its inhabitants.*

Keywords: *Apuseni Mountains; Mount Găina; Geography; legend.*

MOTTO: *“Barbarians, just like the Greeks,
offer the gods the highest places”*
ARISTOTELOS

Mount Găina (1,484 m) **Geography-legend-festivity-tourism**

Although it occupies a central position in the Apuseni Mountains, having also an important altitude for these mountains, Mount Găina is famous in the country and around the world for the "fair of girls" organized here. Everyone has heard of the celebration, fewer can and locate it.

It is a place with a wide panorama between the "country" of the Apuseni Mountains (the country of Moti and the country of Zarand), as well as parts of the Hunedoara and Bihor countrys (Fig. 1).

Access is made on the Arieș Valley from

Turda and Cluj, on the Ampoei Valley in Alba Iulia, on the Crisul Alb Valley from Brad, Arad and Deva and on the Crișul Negru Valley (then Arieș Valley) from Ștei and Oradea. The roads are good and paved, in the center of Avram Iancu commune, climbs on cobbled roads or on mountain paths, The locals come from all sides, from valleys, slopes and mountain peaks, traveling per - pedes.

Geography

The Găina Massif is located in the southern part of the Bihor Mountains, forming an uneven stage with 400 - 500 m



Fig. 1. Găina Mountain

from them. Gain Peak rises to 1,484 m altitude, at the intersection of the 46 degree and 2 minutes parallel, with the meridian 22 degrees 46 minutes and 9 seconds (Fig. 2).

belong to the Land of Crișuri, and the north to the Land of Moți [1].

At the base of Găina Peak, the slopes are more relaxed, creating a plateau where the



Fig. 2. The location of the Găina Peak

From Găina to the north you can see the "as a rainbow" round peak of the Bihor Mountains (Curcubăta Mare, 1.849 m), the high depression of Moți country and the long peak of the Great Mountain, in the southern depression of Brad and Metaliferi Mountains, at the eastern Munceii Roșia Montană, the limestone peaks of Trascău Mountain and the Arieș gorge, and at the valley Halmagiu depression and the quiet peaks of the mountains beyond the Peaks Vărfurile (Codru Moma Mountains).

The Găina Massif is situated in the center of the Apuseni Mountains, being "glued" to the central Bihor with its Curcubăta Mare. The southern slopes of the Gina massif

waters of the Dobronea and Păltinișului valleys, tributaries of Arieșul Mic, and the southern slopes of Ribița, Bulzu and Obârșia (Fig. 3).

The climate of the massif is temperate continental moderate, specific to the climatic level of the middle mountains. The average annual temperature is 2 to 4 degrees Celsius and the average annual rainfall is 1000 - 1300 mm/year. The peak is 40 days with clear sky, in 160 is covered with total clouds. The snow layer lasts, on average, 120-140 days a year.

The vegetation is characteristic of the forest area, the forested forest floor rising to the pseudo-alpine floor, while the slopes and



Fig. 3. These are the Apuseni Mountains

valleys with northern orientation set up deciduous forests (beech) mixed with the resinous (fir, spruce, yew). The upper surfaces are covered with subalpine meadows intercalated with medium (jnepeni) and small (bushes and apricot) shrubs (Fig. 4).

strange toponym for a mountainous peak.

He said long ago, “in the time of the Giants”, the man who had this mountain had a pickled chicken that made golden eggs. Following a fight between the Giants, the hen's master is killed and the hen with



Fig. 4. Pseudo-alpine floor

The legend

There are many beautiful stories about Găina Mountain, which also explains this

the stolen golden eggs. The eggs broke and since then there is golden sand in the waters of Arieș Valley. The chicken wrestled, escaped and flew directly to Roșia Montană

Mountain where he continued to make golden eggs. Evidence is the golden deposit here, which has so many passions at the moment.

Another story says that for a long time,

sources describe this goddess with a alphorn in hand. Alphorn is one of the most important elements that entitles us to support the close connection between this divinity and the Găina Mountain celebration



Fig. 5. Girls with alphorns in Găina Mountain

on the plateau of Mount Gaina there was a bright palace where a rich and beautiful goddess. Beautiful boys came from far away to ask her for marriage, but she did not want to give up the happy virgin life spent on this mountain. Nothing was more enjoyable to the goddess than to help the surrounding girls when they married.. Every one gave it, if she went to her palace, a golden egg, for the goddess had a hen of golden feathers that made such eggs. The news of this miraculous bird has gone so far, so one night the thieves kidnap her, and since then the mum and her palace have disappeared miraculously! For a long time, golden eggs have been found among the rocks, and since then the boys and girls have climbed this mountain to the mid-summer fair.

Another mythological version tells about Gaea, the mother of the Greek gods, which was made by the romanians "Baba Dochia". This comes from ancient Greeks and Thracians. The famous sculptor Fidias, working on the Gaia statue for her temple in Athens, portrays her on the throne holding a alphorn (tulnic in Romanian) . Other ancient

(fig. 5).

Usually, the celebration did not begin on the morning of Sunday, but from the evening of the day before, when some of the visitors arrived at the top of the mountain, where according to custom burned fires burning all night around which the "henchmen", they were saying fairytales, singing and playing. These fires were probably preserved as a reminiscence of the sacred fires of the past by burning a portion of the sacrifices brought in honor of this deity. It is very likely that in this place the heathen ritual that Christianity has replaced with the sign of the cross has been celebrated. A divine show does, at its appearance, THE SUN! It appears from the Detunate Mountains, overcoming the darkness of the night! Magnificent! **The Sunrise is welcome through souls of alphorns!**

The Festivity

Here, every year, at the weekend closest to July 20 (Holy Prophet Ilie Tesvitean), the

famous "Fair of Girls" on Mount Găina took place. [2]. Not that virgins have ever been sold! Here they met the people of the mountains, sold, traded something, then began dancing and fun, and often the boys knew their future bride (fig. 6).

patriotic society in Romania, has an important role to play in organizing these events (including raising the cross and bust of white marble). They are members of this patriotic society here, from Romania and from all over the world!



Fig. 6. The Festivity in Găina Mountain

Many written and unwritten sources bear witness to this fair, undoubtedly the most famous of Romanian space.

In the last few years, the celebration has "globalized", degenerating, and the Chinese commodities, manners and many other garbage that have nothing in common with the old spirit of the "girl fair". Pity !

An important contribution to the good relations between the inhabitants of the mountains was the friendship between the heroes of Apuseni Mountains: Horia, Cloșca and Crișan, or the fact that Avram Iancu, another hero of the mountains, was born on Arieș, and died at the Crișul Alb (Fig. 7).

In the last quarter century there have been numerous cultural and patriotic manifestations on the Găina Peak, which somewhat represent the ethno-folklore and economic manifestations that took place in the Middle Ages lately and throughout the modern and contemporary period of Romania! The "Avram Iancu", cultural-

Tourism

I recommend visiting Mount Găina outside the so-called traditional feast. Two days and adequate equipment are required. On the first day you can reach the mountain after visiting Avram Iancu Memorial House, Pisoia Waterfall and Hill with the Slips that are on their way. It is obligatory to use the tent on the mountain to see the magnificent appearance of the Sun from dawn! The next day, go down and visit, in the evening, the sights of Câmpeni city, where you can also have a night out.

Make this soul journey, for any Romanian, in the warm semester, preferably in the summer. And winter is nice, but you have to be specially trained.

The ones who want to go by car, can go to Mount Găina by going through the well-maintained forest road that goes up (10 km). The road takes them to the plateau from Avram Iancu on the Dobrana valley at

the foot of the Gaina peak, where a parking from Avram Iancu on the Dobrana valley at the foot of the Gaina peak, where a parking space is arranged. The descent can be done on the forest road from the Vidrișoara valley

the fair takes place. Hiking that comes to the "girls fair" can go through this route in two variants:

- he was climbing up the mountain after Saturday afternoon, here on the night, in



Fig. 7. Avram Iancu, the most famous hero of the Apuseni Mountains (statue on Găina Mountain)

to the entrance to the center of Avram Iancu village (8 km).

Tourists eager to hike, walk through the route Avram Iancu-Mount Găina, marked blue band, walking time approx. 3 hours. It departs from the center of the commune, climbs through meadows and woods, on the eastern slope of the Stones Hill, among the sparse houses of Cocești. We cross a fir tree mixed with beech and we reach an open place, sprinkled with many "mutes", a wonderful place to stop. From here, after a climb of approx. half an hour, we reach the plateau at the foot of the peak Găina, where

tents and huts, around hundreds of fires;

- stay down, in Avram Iancu village, until around 1 o'clock, when in groups, with torches, go on the route presented above.

The time of departure is conditional upon reaching the top of the mountain in such a way as to catch the Sunrise, a fascinating, unforgettable spectacle, when the fiery disc appears from the distance, from the high peaks of the Trascau Mountains. Still, in the midst of the gentle winds, they send from Găina to the mountains and valleys the so-known signal of the beginning of the celebration.

REFERENCES:

- [1]. Resiga, C. (2002), *Muntele Găina - Olimpul moșilor*, in rev. Pangeea, no. 2. Ed. Aeternitas, Alba Iulia.
- [2]. Ludușan, N.; Hanciu, Melania; Hanciu, I.; Munteanu, M. (2003), *Geografia județului Alba*, Editura Aeternitas, Alba-Iulia.