

Monsters and Heroes in Slavic Mythology: A Comparative Study of Polish and Ukrainian Perspectives



Authors: Bartek Dmitruk, Sofiiia Lysiak,
Dariia Kapelist, Janek Błoniarz

Waligóra i Wyrwidąb [Mountain Smasher and Oak Tearer]

Two twin brothers with unusually great strength

The mother died after giving birth to the twins in the forest. One of the twins, Mountain Smasher, was taken care of by a wolf. He had such strength that he could knock down a mountain with his punch. The second, Oak Tearer, was fed by a bear. He had such strength that he could easily uproot oak trees.



Gliński, Kazimierz "Bajki", 1912

Waligóra i Wyrwiąg

[Mountain Smasher and Oak Tearer]

Two twin brothers with unusually great strength

The brothers, acting together, defeated a dragon ravaging a certain kingdom for which the grateful king gave each of them half the kingdom and one of his two daughters as his wife.



In Slavic mythology they are also known as Lel and Polel

https://slowianowierstwo.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/07_lel_i_polel.jpg

Illia Murovlianyyn

aka Illia Murovets

A saint and a bogatyr in one person

The relics of this Orthodox saint are kept in the caves of the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra. It is likely that Ilya of Pechersk and the epic hero Ilya Muromets or Murovets are one and the same person. The saint is depicted with a sword because he was a warrior before taking monastic vows.



Illia Murovlianyyn



The mention of Ilya Murovlianyyn in the 1570s indicates that he was a well-known person in the military tradition of Rus-Ukraine, who lived during XII century

By the way, in the old days he was called Ilya 'Boot'. According to this legend, once Ilya, unarmed, fought off his enemies with his boot and won.

Bogatyr -- warriors with superhuman strength and abilities, princely envoys, border guards and defenders of Kyivan Rus from the steppe people, snake fighters.



Vij

- A spirit that brings death, whose magical gaze penetrates the human soul and opens it up to all kinds of evil.
- A formidable old man with eyebrows and eyelids that reach down to the ground.
- The king of the underworld
- Sholudywy Bunyak or Sly Bonyak



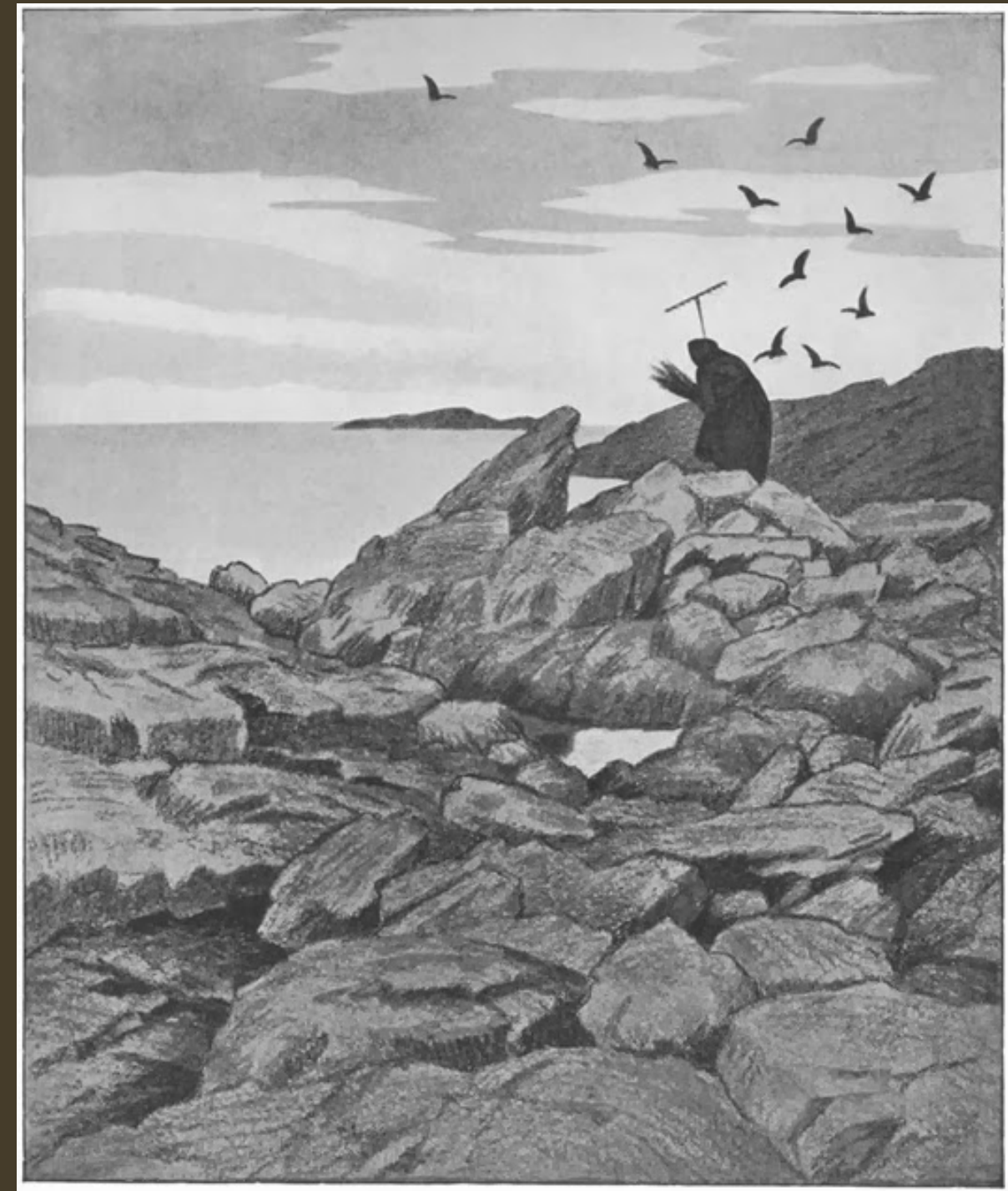
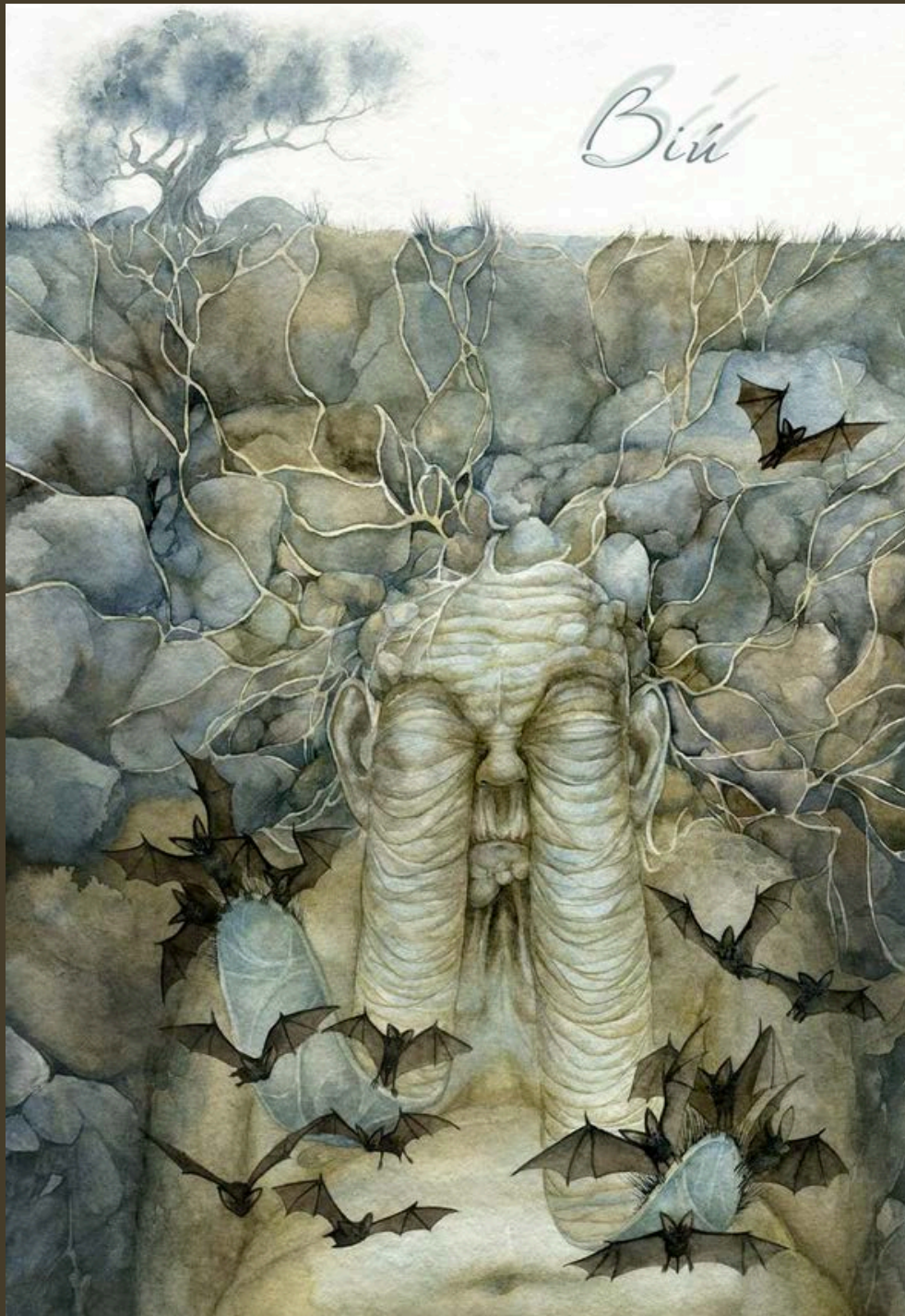


Nyja

- A Polish God of the Underworld of unknown sex
- It's exact functions are not known
- Is often depicted as a deity with dual aspects, embodying both life and death



Vij and Nyja - comparison



Thank you
for listening!

