

ANTON – JOSEPH ILK, Austria

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Summary

As it did with the carnival days, the imagination world of the Germans from Vișei de Sus (Oberwischauer Zipser) also personified Friday and named it *The Holy Friday*. In the traditional tales of the residents of Vaser Valley (Wassertal), this anthropomorphic creature has two essential characteristics: First, this mythical appearance takes on the shape of a woman, endowed with good character, able to play a positive role in all life situations. Furthermore, this helpful woman, who “knows the people’s lives”, does not act on her own, but on behalf of a higher power. She expresses her mission in the words: “... I have been sent to assist you.” This mythical figure may have entered the story world of the Zipser from the Romanian mythology, where it is called *Sfânta Vineri* or *Sfânta Vinerea*. In the mythical thought of Romanians, *Sfânta Vineri* - in contrast to the terrible phantoms *Marțolea* and *Joimărița* – is encountered with a lot of confidence and given a significant place in the so-called “Calendar of the soothsayers” (Calendarul babelor). For this reason, Friday is the most important day of the week for many Romanians.