

## **Italian Myths and Legends**

This is the story of a Sicilian boy named Cola. He loved the sea and spent his days swimming and diving.

Cola lived in Messina, a beautiful city on the east coast of Sicily, with his mother. She didn't like Cola's strange habits and she used to tell him: "Sooner or later you will turn into a fish"!

Colapesce used to go out and tell all the wonderful treasures he saw while diving.

One day Frederick II, king of Sicily, learned of Colapesce and his strange adventures. The king was curious and asked him to take a look into the deepest sea to find out what can hold the Sicilian back. Both the inhabitants and the king were scared. They begged him to help them. Colapesce, even though he knew diving that deep was extremely dangerous, decided to go.

Everyone said that Colapesce had become half man and half fish and had remained under the sea helping the third column to remain stable.

Until now he holds Sicily and prevents it from being submerged by the sea.



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