

## St. Columba vs. Nessie

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One day Saint Columba stayed in the land of the Picts (Scots) for a few days and needed to cross Loch Ness. When he reached the bank, he sees some inhabitants of the region burying a miserable little fellow whom, as the locals themselves said, a watery beast had bitten with its big teeth a little while earlier as he was swimming. The holy man, hearing this, ordered one of his companions to swim to the other side and bring back the boat which was anchored there. That companion, Lugneus Mocumin by name, took off his cloak without delay and, wearing only a tunic, jumped into the waters.

But the beast, which had hidden in the depths of the loch, sensing that the water above it had been disturbed, suddenly emerging rushed, with a great roar toward the man swimming in the middle of the loch. No more than a pole's length separated Lugneus and the beast. Then the holy man, seeing this, while the natives and the brothers shook with fear, raising his sacred hand, made the sign of the cross in the air, saying: "Go no further; do not touch the man, but quickly depart." Then indeed the beast, at the command of the holy man, fled back quickly, trembling. The brothers, with great wonder, glorified God, in the person of the holy man, and the natives, due to the miracle they had seen themselves, acknowledged the greatness of the God of the Christians.