

# THE GLOWING ONE



*The story of the cursed Eersel landowner*



The Glowing One is part of the Myths and Legends Routes

Exciting cycling and walking routes in Brabant

— 30-kilometre cycle route in the vicinity of Eersel —

# THE GLOWING ONE

*In the Kempen, friends and family enjoyed getting together in the evenings and telling each other scary stories. The story of 'The Glowing One' was a particular favourite. This burning ghostly apparition appeared across the region.*

*He has left his mark here, including blackened footprints that can still be found all over the place. The Glowing One was once a stately Eersel landowner. But due to his greed, a curse was put on him. Discover why The Glowing One was cursed and where you can encounter him.*



Myths and legends live on in Brabant. Cycle and walking routes lead you past the most impressive places where the stories come to life. The Glowing One cycle route is 30 kilometres long in the vicinity of Eersel.





# THE GLOWING ONE



## *The story of the cursed Eersel landowner*

**Around 200 years ago, people had little money in the Brabant village of Eersel. Yet they were happy and content. All except for one man. He was alone. He had no wife or children. That was not surprising really as he had only one dream, and that was to get rich.**

It was the middle of winter, it was raining hard, and it was freezing cold. And yet a man set off from Eersel. He was not the only one. Plodding across the swampy Cartierheide (III), the Eerselnaar met a stumbling, drunken weaver. The craftsman had sold his woven goods on the market in Flanders and was on his way home. A leather bag containing his day's earnings hung from his belt. The Eerselnaar robbed the poor weaver and left him behind unconscious on the moor to die from the cold. And that for only one piece of silver.

How disappointing was that! One piece of silver. The Eerselnaar learnt, as the Dutch saying goes, that 'You can't pluck the feathers off a bald chicken'. So he thought of a new strategy to get rich: 'I'll become a landowner.' And no sooner said than done. The man became the master of a large estate. In his new position, he committed fraud with the measurements of the land in the vicinity of Eersel. It meant more land for the residents of the village of Weebosch, at the cost of the land of the residents of the hamlet of Boksheide. In exchange, he collected seven pieces of silver.

The residents of Boksheide did not trust the measurements or their new landlord. 'Swear to us that you are not lying', they demanded. The Eerselnaar secretly stashed some dirt from Weebosch in his clogs and swore: 'I am standing on Weebosch soil, if I am lying may God strike me down.' He was not lying but he was cheating.

'To him that hath shall be given', as the saying goes. Or in other words: 'The rich will only get richer.' And in this case too. Only a few weeks after his act of deception, the Eerselnaar found something on his land: a chest filled with pieces of gold. He couldn't believe his luck.

Two days later, the Eerselnaar came across a desperate pilgrim on his land. He was looking for his chest. The pilgrim was in tears. 'My wife and children are suffering from dysentery. That is why I am on my way to Saint Lucia (IV), the patron saint who has cured so many people before. I brought along a chest filled with gold as a gift, but I have lost it. Dear man, please tell me that you have found the chest.'

The Eerselnaar couldn't care less about the pilgrim's desperate plea. He denied having found it and reasserted his innocence: 'If I had the chest, I would be wandering round here on fire.' The pilgrim left. Without the chest. Without hope. And the Eerselnaar? He was rich. So rich that he bought another plot of land.

He wandered onto his estate in the middle of the night. In utmost secrecy, he moved the concealed poles that marked the boundaries of his land (V). He whispered quietly but incessantly: 'My land, my land, this is my land.' If you listen very carefully, you can still hear those words to this very day. So by then, his estate was huge. Everyone had to know about it! So he built an enormous castle (VI) in the middle of Eersel market. 'Now everyone can finally see how rich I am!'

No sooner was the castle finished than a mysterious pilgrim came knocking. 'I am suffering from dysentery and am burning up with a fever. Please could I have a drink of water?' The Eerselnaar refused even this simple request and angrily threw the pilgrim out of his castle. The clouds gathered. There was the sound of thunder and lightning. Suddenly, the castle caught fire. It was the pilgrim's curse, the one who had been deceived before.

Everything the Eerselnaar owned burnt to the ground. Only the water pump remained, standing defiantly on the market (VI). Flames engulfed the oh so greedy man. Yet, he didn't truly die. As punishment he would 'glow' for the rest of eternity (II). Not dead, not alive...

This story taught the inhabitants of Eersel that greed does not pay. Since then, they are known as 'simply content' (VII). To this very day, The Glowing One wanders past the places where he committed his crimes. Are you brave enough to visit these spots?



#### ROUTE DETAILS

Total route: 30 Kilometre

**S** Start and finish point:  
Natuurpoort TerSpegelt  
Postelseweg 88, 5521 RD Eersel

#### JUNCTIONS

09 – 89 – 12 – 11 – 09 – 08 – 88 – 65 –  
06 – 61 – 60 – 86 – 88 – 87 – 10 – 64 – 09

#### LEGEND SIGHTS

- I** Column
- II** The Glowing Apparition
- III** Cartierheide
- IV** The Tower of Saint Lucia
- V** The whispering poles
- VI** Water pump
- VII** Statue of The Contended Man







## — Get on the bike and explore... —

In Brabant, they used to tell the stories while sat around a typical flat-top stove. If you would like to know what it looks like and how people used to live in the Kempen, go to Kempenmuseum De Acht Zaligheden. It is a versatile museum and an official Brabant Bicycle Café, where they welcome cyclists with open arms. Here, they also tell the story of The Glowing One. You can find the museum on the cycle route between junctions 64 and 09.

The Glowing One still wanders over the vast Cartierheide heath, where he committed his greatest crime. Who knows, you may encounter him on this cycle route: an ominous apparition between the trees. Look out over the swampy heathland and imagine how the Eerselaar and the pilgrim met here long ago. The Glowing One also wanders around other places. To this very day, you can still hear him at the border of the village of Kneysel whispering: 'My land, my land, this is my land.'

After all the excitement, it is time to enjoy Eersel's historic market. The many inviting cafés and terraces await you! Talk about your day and immerse yourself in the friendly atmosphere and hospitality that are so characteristic of this region. 'The Contented Man' looks on with satisfaction from under the old common lime tree on the market square.

Complete your cycling adventure by stopping off at the various Eersel businesses where they will pleasantly surprise you with special products, offers and packages in the theme of The Glowing One. Enjoy a tasty beer and delicious snack, a refreshing ice cream or get a lovely souvenir. For more information go to [visiteersel.nl/en](http://visiteersel.nl/en). There, you will find all the places to go for a bite to eat and drink, addresses for overnight stays and tips for a fantastic day out in Eersel and surrounding area.



### CYCLE ROUTE NETWORK

Follow the route from one intersection to another using the familiar cycle route signs. You simply cycle from one number to the next. You will see the intersection numbers on signs at the side of the road. Arrows then direct you on the route to your chosen number.

[routesinbrabant.nl](http://routesinbrabant.nl)

