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How San Nicolás de Tolentino, the oldest patron of the Canary Islands, was also soaked in the Charco

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The dedication of San Nicolás de Tolentino was one of the first to arrive in the Canary Islands when the indigenous society was still present and today is the oldest municipal patron with which the Canary Islands count, since it arrived with Santa Catalina Mártir and Santa Águeda, around 1350, of the hand of some Mallorcan friars who thought to evangelize these unknown islands.



already entering the still "Tenebroso Atlántico".

In a cave that almost bathed the sea of the beach of La Aldea, those Mallorcan monks erected a small hermitage where they placed a rough image of the Italian saint. And this later gave name to the valley of the Village in replacement of the aboriginal toponyms still to elucidate.

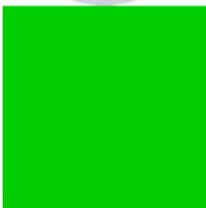


The saint, who from the beach was moved to the bottom of the valley at the end of the seventeenth century, had a new roof in another hermitage, which at the beginning of the 18th century acquired the rank of chaplaincy and in 1742 of Parish Help, at a time when , every

September 10, from all the places of that distant region rose pilgrims to fulfill promises and enjoy – most importantly – the festive atmosphere.



Therefore, one more year yesterday the villagers complied with the tradition around San Nicolás de Tolentino that not only gave toponymy but the representative colors of yellow and black, first in their sports teams, and later in their flag. Perhaps this day so indicated for the villagers needs festive reconduction of more tranquility in its late night, to prepare for the other day that defines a town as much as La Aldea de San Nicolás.



Because today, Día del Charco, recalls the end of the four-hundred-year-old Fiesta de San Nicolás, whose origin is so distant is drawn with people who went down to the beach in convivial and family plan and around the coastal lagoon of El Charco fishing and enjoyed in its waters a revelry that was transformed into that singular party of mullets, lebranchos, timplas and a thousand soaks; event that, in 1766, the Church wanted to cut by prohibiting women and men from entering the "almost naked" wetland.

In this San Nicolás de Tolentino also account because, according to tradition, in an immemorial year of drought, the villagers took him down and gave him a gentle soak in El Charco and that year it rained. Maybe the real story is not like that but San Nicolás de Tolentino year after year, like yesterday, received the accompaniment and devotion of all the villagers on September 10 and their