Different Legends

Legend is a kind of short story that has been passed down over the years from generation to generation as if it really happened. The events described in the legends can sometimes be supernatural, but most often they are based on real events and people who have really lived. It is not known who told the stories that are called legends. Individuals sanctify people, objects, and places that they consider important for the geography in which they live and interpret issues that they cannot solve in various ways. Legends have been told within the framework of different cultures over the years. According to the historical background and beliefs that societies have, these legends have also taken shape. There are various kinds of legends such as love legends, religious legends, historical legends, etc. To give an example of love legends, Marco Antonio and Cleopatra, Hero and Leandro, Layla and Majnun can be great examples. To elaborate on the Hero and Leandro example, according to the legend, it was told that, Leandros and Hero were in love with each other, but there is an insurmountable sea distance between them. One very stormy night, Leandros sees a light on in the tower and jumps into the sea, thinking that his beloved is calling him. But it is not the Hero who turns on the light, but another person who is hostile to them. When Leandros jumps into the sea, he turns out the light and causes him to drown in deep waters. Hero, unable to bear the pain of this, jumps out of the tower and ends his life. Those who know the story of lovers build a Lighthouse in their name on the site of the tower which is also believed that tower is called Maiden’s Tower. However, this legend is not the only version of the Maiden’s Tower legend. Thus, we can say that some of the legends may have different versions to tell. To give an example, the legend about a king and his daughter is the most popular and known version of The Maiden’s Tower. According to legend, the King is told that his daughter will die by being stung by a snake when she turns 18. Fearing to lose his beloved daughter, the King builds a tower in the middle of the sea and places it here for his precious princess to protect. Although the king thinks that he will protect his daughter from the snake in this way, a snake coming out of the basket of grapes they sent to the tower causes the princess to die. The king, who was very upset, made his daughter an iron coffin and placed it over the entrance door to Hagia Sophia. But again, according to legend, the snake does not leave the princess alone even after her death, it is still said that there are 2 holes on the coffin that were formed by the snake's bite.

To summarize, legends are the stories that people tell in order to make sense of events and sanctify them, it is not known by whom they were told, which have been passed down from generation to generation over the years. Different types of legends can be found, and there can also be more than one described version of a legend.