# Devils jump over babies in Spanish festival

## Vocabulary

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| mythical | mischief | culminating | succession | clad |
| to flee | infants | to cleanse | sin | misfortune |

## Article

A Spanish village is preparing for one of its most unusual celebrations of the year: El Salto del Colacho, also known internationally as the "Baby-Jumping Festival."

The celebration of El Colacho, a local mythical figure representing the devil, involves men dressed in red and yellow Colacho costumes running through the streets of the village, causing mischief with whips and castanets and culminating with the baby-jumping event.

Residents of the village, as well as visitors from elsewhere in Spain and around the world, place babies born during the past 12 months on a succession of mattresses set up on a village street.

A group of black-clad, drum-beating men known as Atabalero chase El Colacho, who flees by jumping over the babies. The babies are then sprinkled with rose petals and returned to their parents, who are usually sitting next to the mattresses to keep the infants calm.

The act of jumping over the babies is said to cleanse them of sin and offer protections against disease and other misfortunes. The tradition dates back to 1620.

## Quiz

1. What does the celebration involve?
2. What are the parents usually doing?

## Conversation

Reporter: Excuse me, señor. Can you tell us how many babies you can jump in a single bound?
El Colacho: Sí, sí! My record is six, yes, six babies! It takes practice, but you can do it, too!
Reported: Ha ha! I don't think so! Please, tell us, have any babies been injured in the event?
El Colacho: No, I don't believe so. But the devils, ho-ho, we often pull a hamstring or two!

## Discussion

1. If you had a newborn baby, would you put your child in this event? Why or why not?
2. Are there any similar traditions for babies in your country?
3. Have you ever been to Spain? What comes to mind when you think of "Spain"?

*Based on a June 17th, 2022 article from upi.com*