



Paranormal Phenomenon: Ghosts, Spirits & Hauntings



Episode 18:

TOP 5 Haunted Places around the World - Houska Castle



TOP 5 Haunted Locations in the World

1. CASTLE HOUSKA, THE GATEWAY TO HELL PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC



Built in the 13th century in the Czech countryside, practically in the middle of nowhere with no strategic or military purpose or trade routes nearby, it is reported that it was initially constructed to 'seal up' a **bottomless pit** believed to be the '**gateway to hell**'.

Legend has it that the locals reported that '**demonic or black-winged creatures**' would make their way out of the pit after sunset roaming the nearby countryside.

The **terrorized villagers** would not dare leave their homes after sunset or go anywhere near the pit.



Another legend attests that before its construction, all of the **local prisoners** that were sentenced to death would be offered a pardon if they consented to be lowered by rope deep into the pit and report back what they saw.



One prisoner agreed. Once lowered to a significant depth, **he began screaming in terror**. When they hoisted him out of the darkness, they were horrified at his appearance.

The prisoner who was a young man just minutes before, **now had a head of white hair and appeared to have aged 30 years and had gone completely mad**.

As cases of **villagers being attacked and dragged by the demonic creatures and thrown into the pit** increased, they knew something needed to be done.

The early castle had no fortifications, no water source, and no occupants.

It was built for the intent purpose of **sealing the pit**.

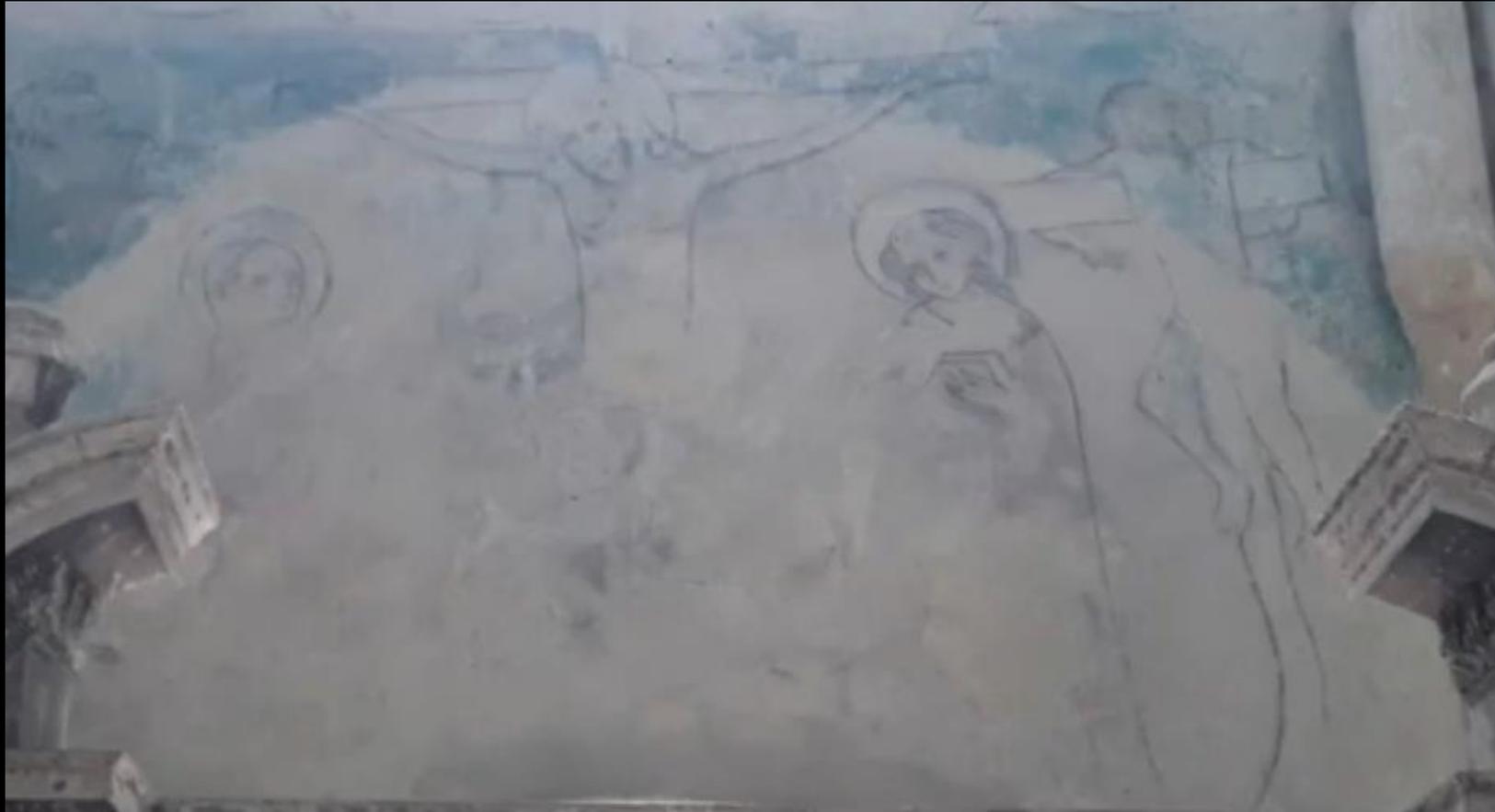
And even after its construction, paranormal phenomenon continued. Workers inside the castle would hear **scratching noises** through the lower floors of the building. There were **sightings of dark figures** and **eerie noises**.

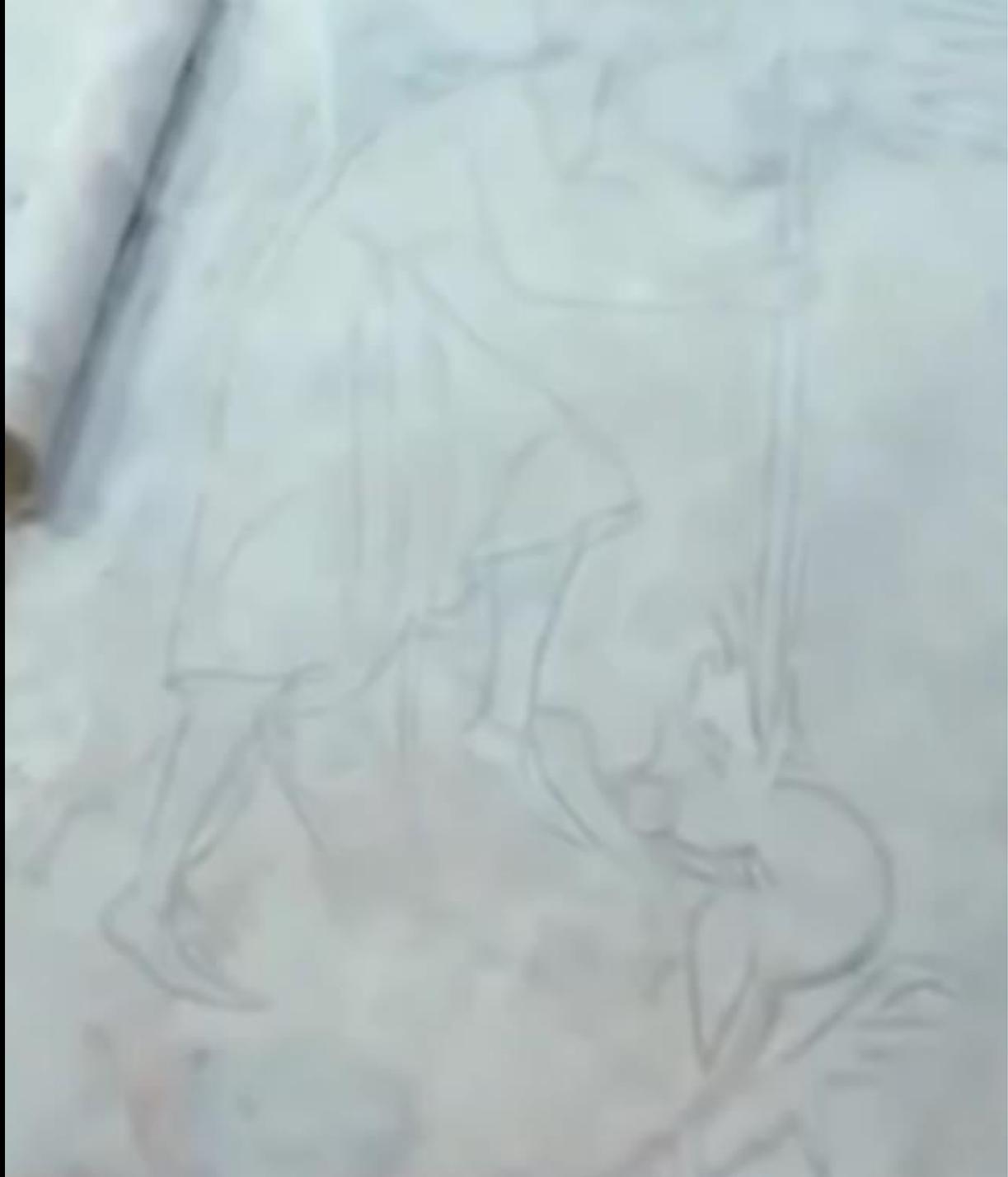
Once the chasm was covered and sealed, a chapel was built atop it.

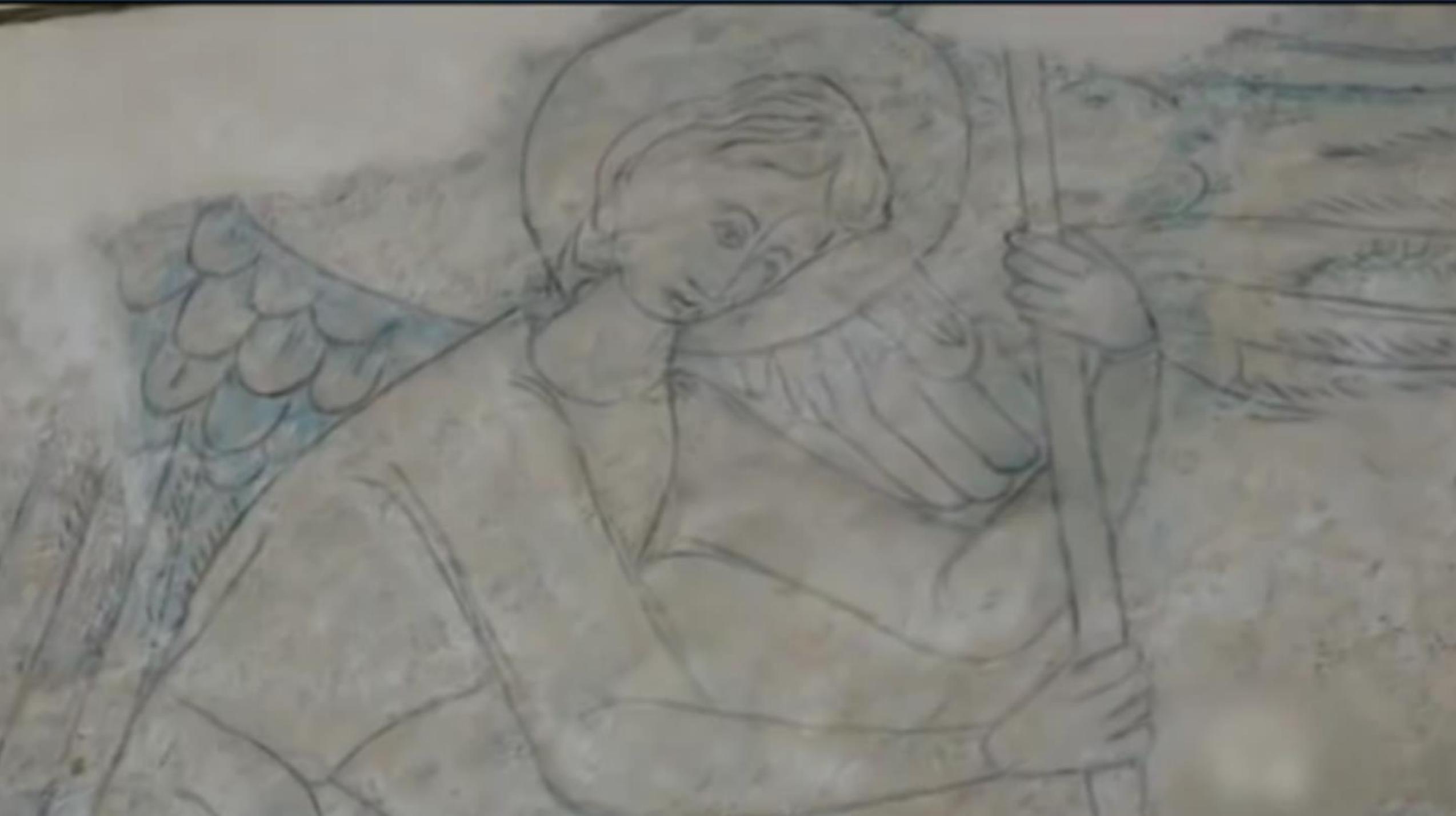


The chapel was built with the specific purpose to **protect all from what lies beneath.**

In the early 1400s the chapel walls were painted in frescoed style with **Holy Figures** (such as Christ, archangel St. Michael, among others) and scenes such as **St. George killing the Dragon.**











At the end of WWII until 1945, the German Army actually used the castle, though not for military nor strategic purposes.

Rather, evidence suggests that it had been used for **ritualistic purposes** since many books on the **occult** and the **Kabbalah** (an ancient book of Jewish mysticism) were found on site afterwards. Even to this day, **shadowy figures** and **spirit orbs** have been filmed in the castle by paranormal investigators.

