

La Beò, the Beò, an "Abbadia" similar to the Baia of Sampeyre, recalls when the Saracens were chased away and has its origins in the medieval period. It took place every year in the Quartier n'aot (consisting of the districts Chiazale, Celle and Prafouchier of Bellino) until 1939 and then it was interrupted by the war from 1940 to 1945. The last time it took place before the recent edition of February 1999 was in 1958.

It consists of a procession of people in costume, each having a special role and meaning, but at the same time there is a lot of space for improvisation and inspiration both for the characters and for the public.

In Blins they tell that the encounter of the Saracens with the local population took place in the district of Preifiol, between Chiazale and S. Anna. The invaders forced the people from Bellino to retreat to Lou Fountanil, where they succeeded to annihilate the Saracens with the help of the reinforcement.

Some characters of the Beò can also be found in the Baia of Sampeyre (e.g. the "I Sapeur, Lou Viéi and La Vièio, Les Sarazines"), whereas others appear in similar ritual ceremonies of other valleys ("lou Carabinier, lou Medic", with a role similar to the homonymous character in the Barboeras of Villar d'Acceglio in Maira Valley).



