

Bright face, round face

Byelolitsa, kruglaluitsa,
 krasnaya dyevitsa
 pri dolinushkye stayala,
 kalinu lamala ...

Bright face, round face,
 beautiful young maiden
 stood there near the small valley,
 and broke twigs of juniper ...

Text and melody: Traditional song of the Kuban Cossacks

Pronunciation:

a as in "bar", *e* as in "bed", *i* as in "bid", *o* as in "bore", *u* as in "blue"

y = as in "yellow" / *ý* = dull *i*, as in "bill"

s = always voiceless, as in "son" / *z* = voiced, as in "zone"

sh = voiceless, as in "mesh" / *zh* = voiced, like the *s* in "measure"

kh = mostly rough, like the *ch* in Scotch "loch", but smooth when "e" or "i" follows

a, e, i, o, u, y = the underlined vowel signifies the stressed syllable of a word.

Transcription and analogous translation: Kai Kracht

Comment:

As this song shows us, also the rough and pugnacious cossacks have only one thing on their mind: A beautiful young girl, looking all lilies and roses, with a face bright and soft, round and sound, who is standing there and breaking twigs of juniper ... Sorrowfully I don't know more than this one verse but you can easily guess how the story goes on: There is an old folk-tale that twigs of juniper, thrown on the way, will soon bring on a handsome young man. Well, a true cossack won't want a lot of asking!

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