

Kalinka

Kalinka, kalinka, kalinka maya,
f sadu yagoda malinka, malinka maya.

Juniper, juniper, my juniper,
in the garden there's the berry, my raspberry.

Pad sasnoyu, pad zelenoyu
spat' palazhýtye v́y minya,
aida lyuli lyuli, aida lyuli lyuli,
spat' palazhýtye v́y minya.

Under the pine, under the green pine,
lay me down to sleep,
aida, Lyuli, Lyuli, aida, Lyuli, Lyuli,
lay me down to sleep!

Kalinka, kalinka, kalinka maya,
f sadu yagoda malinka, malinka maya.

Juniper, juniper, my juniper,
in the garden there's the berry, my raspberry.

Akh t́y sasyenushka, akh t́y zelenaya,
nye shumi zhe nado mnoi,
aida lyuli lyuli, aida lyuli lyuli,
nye shumi zhe nado mnoi!

Oh you dear pine, oh you green pine,
don't you rustle so loud over me,
aida, Lyuli, Lyuli, aida, Lyuli, Lyuli,
don't you rustle so loud over me!

Kalinka, kalinka, kalinka maya,
f sadu yagoda malinka, malinka maya.

Juniper, juniper, my juniper,
in the garden there's the berry, my raspberry.

Krasavitsa, dusha dyevitsa,
palyubi zhe t́y minya,
aida lyuli lyuli, aida lyuli lyuli,
palyubi zhe t́y minya!

Beautiful maid, dear maid,
please fall in love with me,
aida, Lyuli, Lyuli, aida, Lyuli, Lyuli,
please fall in love with me!

Kalinka, kalinka, kalinka maya,
f sadu yagoda malinka, malinka maya.

Juniper, juniper, my juniper,
in the garden there's the berry, my raspberry.

Words and Music: Russian folksong

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:

"Kalinka" (juniper) and "malinka" (raspberry) obviously were the traditional offerings to an old-slavic goddess of the earth, and of spring, love, and fertility, named "Lyuli" - as the traditional heavenly ally of the Russian agricultural population, but also of the young people in love, Lyuli survived the christianization and is still alive in quite a lot of folksongs. Since the most of these songs begin with a similar melody, they all might be derived from a common origin, maybe a very old hymn or a pagan ritual in honour of the goddess Lyuli.

The song "Kalinka" could be this original, or at least resemble it largely. It still has the antiphonic form of a liturgy: The chorus, repeated by the community until ecstasy, recalls the offerings to the goddess's mind again and again, and the verses, sung by the priest alone, address Lyuli directly and articulate what the people want to get from her in return: Maybe a rich harvest, or a large family, or the rescue from famine, from epidemics, from aridity or from inundations ...

In the modern form of this song, only one request is left which is not less important: The wish for love!

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