

Kazanka

Vdol da po ryetshke,
vdol da po Kazanke
sizý syelezyen plývyot,
aida lyuli lyuli, aida lyuli lyuli,
sizý syelezyen plývyot.

Vdol da po byereshku,
vdol da po krutomu,
dobrý maladyets idyot,
aida lyuli lyuli, aida lyuli lyuli,
dobrý maladyets idyot.

Sam on so kudryami,
sam on so rusými,
razgavarivayet on,
aida lyuli lyuli, aida lyuli lyuli,
razgavarivayet on:

"Komuzh mayi kudrý,
komuzh mayi rusý
dostanutsya rastshesat',
aida lyuli lyuli, aida lyuli lyuli,
dostanutsya rastshesat'?"

Dostavalis kudrý,
dostavalis rusý
krasnoi dyevitse tshesat',
aida lyuli lyuli, aida lyuli lyuli,
krasnoi dyevitse tshesat'.

Ana ikh i tsheshet,
ana ikh i gladit,
volos k volosu kladyot,
aida lyuli lyuli, aida lyuli lyuli,
volos k volosu kladyot.

There on the river,
there on the Kazanka,
there swam a greyish blue drake,
aida Lyuli Lyuli, aida Lyuli Lyuli,
there swam a greyish blue drake.

There on the bank,
there on the steep bank,
there went a good young man,
aida Lyuli Lyuli, aida Lyuli Lyuli,
there went a good young man.

He had curly hair,
blond and curly hair,
and he begins to talk,
aida Lyuli Lyuli, aida Lyuli Lyuli,
and he begins to talk:

"To whom my curly hair,
my blond and curly hair,
will allow to comb them,
aida Lyuli Lyuli, aida Lyuli Lyuli,
will allow to comb them?"

There his curly hair,
his blond and curly hair,
allowed a beautiful maid to comb them,
aida Lyuli Lyuli, aida Lyuli Lyuli,
allowed a beautiful maid to comb them.

And she combs his curls,
and she smooths his curls,
and puts hair to hair,
aida Lyuli Lyuli, aida Lyuli Lyuli,
and puts hair to hair.

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:

"Lyuli" obviously was the name of an old-slavic goddess of the earth, and of spring, love, and fertility – 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, as in "Kalinka", and in this song, too:

The lonely young man takes a walk to the river to ask Lyuli who will ever comb his curls, and the helpful goddess of love immediately sends a beautiful young girl – there are still miracles in this world!

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