

Along the Petersburg Road

Vdol po Piterskoi,
po darozhinkye,
po Tverskoi-Yamskoi
s kalakoltshikom ...

Pyishit milinikoi
ko mnye gramotku,
ko mnye gramotku,
vyest' nye radostnu:

"Nye sidyi, Dunya,
pozno vetsherom,
tý nye zhgi svyetshi
vosku yarovo!

Tý nye zhgi svyetshi
vosku yarovo –
tý nye zhdi k sibye
druga milovo!"

Vdol po Piterskoi,
po darozhinkye,
po Tverskoi-Yamskoi
s kalakoltshikom ...

Along the Petersburg Road,
along the small lane
to the Tverskoi-Yamskoi Quarter
with a little bell ...

He writes to his dear one,
to me, a note,
a small note to me,
a sad message:

"Don't sit, Dunya,
so long in the evening,
and don't burn the candles
of the clear wax!

Don't you burn the candles
of the clear wax –
and don't wait any longer
for your darling!"

Along the Petersburg Road,
along the small lane
to the Tverskoi-Yamskoi Quarter
with a little bell ...

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:

Dunya has good reasons to be grieved about her darling who drives his troika, which always has a little bell to keep the horses running, right to the Tverskoi-Yamskoi Quarter – in the times of the Russian Empire, that was an ill-reputed quarter of Moscow.

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