

Hey, sailor

Tý moryak, tý krasivý sam saboyu,
t'bye atrodu dvatsat' lyet.
Palyubi minya so fsyey dushoyu!
Shto tý skazhesh mnye f atvyet?

Po moryam, po volnam,
nýntshe zdyes, a zaftra tam.
Po moryam, moryam, moryam, moryam,
nýntshe zdyes, a zaftra tam.

Tý moryak, tý uyedish f sinye morye,
m'nya ostavish f silnom gorye,
i ya budu plakat' i rýdat'
i t'bya, moi milý, fspominat'.

Po moryam, po volnam,
nýntshe zdyes, a zaftra tam.
Po moryam, moryam, moryam, moryam,
nýntshe zdyes, a zaftra tam.

Oy, nye platsh, nye platsh, maya Marusya,
ya morskomu dyelu na-utshusya
i nazad, skorey nazad vernusya
na tibya, krasavitsa, shenyusya!

Po moryam, po volnam,
nýntshe zdyes, a zaftra tam.
Po moryam, moryam, moryam, moryam,
nýntshe zdyes, a zaftra tam.

Shto za zhizn moryaka,
tak privolna i lekhka!
Ot zemli i k nyebesam,
sivodnya zdyes, a zaftra tam!

Po moryam, po volnam,
nýntshe zdyes, a zaftra tam.
Po moryam, moryam, moryam, moryam,
nýntshe zdyes, a zaftra tam.

Hey, sailor, you are so beautiful
and just twenty years old.
Love me with all your soul!
What do you answer me?

Across the seas, across the waves,
today here, and tomorrow there.
Across the seas, the seas, the seas,
today here, and tomorrow there.

Hey, sailor, you go away across the blue sea,
you leave me alone in my grief,
and I will cry and sob
and think of you, my dear.

Across the seas, across the waves,
today here, and tomorrow there.
Across the seas, the seas, the seas,
today here, and tomorrow there.

Oh, don't cry, don't cry, my Marusya,
I will study seamanship,
and I'll be back as soon as possible
and marry you, my beautiful girl!

Across the seas, across the waves,
today here, and tomorrow there.
Across the seas, the seas, the seas,
today here, and tomorrow there.

What a life has a sailor
so free and easy!
Away from the land, and towards the skies,
today here, and tomorrow there!

Across the seas, across the waves,
today here, and tomorrow there.
Across the seas, the seas, the seas,
today here, and tomorrow there.

Words and music: Russian sailor's song, originally from the Caspian Sea

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" / *y* = 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:

This sailor's song, like the english "sea shanties", originally was a worksong in the old days of the sailships: The rhythm of the song was the working stroke for the crew to put their back with full power again and again into heaving up the anchor or reefing the large sails.

So, traditionally the verses are sung by a shantyman alone. The shantyman also sings the first two words of the chorus: "Po moryam", and then the crew answers: "po volnam", the shantyman again: "nyntshe zdyes", and the crew goes on: "a zafra tam ..."
and sings the rest of the chorus altogether.

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