

Go home, my cow

Tý poidi, maya karovushka, damoi,
tý poidi, maya buryonushka, damoi!

Akh, tilili, kalinka maya,
f sadu yagoda malinka maya.

Uzh kak yal mayu karovushku lublyu,
uzh kak yal to yey krapivushki nazhnu!

Akh, tilili, kalinka maya,
f sadu yagoda malinka maya.

Kushai f volyushku, karovushka maya,
yesh tý dosýta, buryonushka maya!

Akh, tilili, kalinka maya,
f sadu yagoda malinka maya.

Shtob sýta býla, karovushka maya,
shtobý slivotshek, buryonushka, dala!

Akh, tilili, kalinka maya,
f sadu yagoda malinka maya.

Go home, my dear cow,
go home, my dear brown cow!

Oh, you Lyuli - my juniper,
in the garden there's the berry, my raspberry.

How I love my dear cow,
and how I'll mow her stinging nettles!

Oh, you Lyuli - my juniper,
in the garden there's the berry, my raspberry.

Eat what you want, my dear cow,
eat your fill, my dear brown cow!

Oh, you Lyuli - my juniper,
in the garden there's the berry, my raspberry.

You must be satiated, my dear cow,
that you can give cream, my dear brown cow!

Oh, you Lyuli - 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" / *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 song of a peasant, sung for his only cow, so full of deep affection, good wishes, promises and expectations, also includes a divine blessing: "tilili" actually means "tý, Lyuli" (you, Lyuli) and obviously is an invocation of the old-slavic goddess of the rural people, named "Lyuli", whose sacred plants were "kalinka" (juniper) and "malinka" (raspberry).

The refrain seems to be the classical magic spell to invoke the heathen goddess. We find the same formula in the widely known song "Kalinka", and fragments of it in several other folksongs.

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