

Legendă în lemn Legend cut in wood

Rough translation

Note: this is a highly metaphoric text, packed with symbols, which are representative for the Romanian folklore.

Part I serves as an exposition to the “legend” developing in the two subsequent parts, telling how supernatural forces and beings plan a wedding between a young man and a young woman. Parts II and III unfold the story of a wooden gate making, which is an icon of Maramures county. The gate bears several defining symbols like the sun (prosperity) and the cross (averting ill-omen), and is a sign of pride in the countryside.

There were rumours in the world
That there is grass in the earth
And that stags will die at night
And there won't be any deer
To bury their love at night
Boughs will turn into whips
To calm down the blizzard
To make the poplars pour the rain down
And bend their boughs to the ground
Because the catchers, the high mountains
And the fiddlers have secretly decided
To marry the young girl of the clouds
To the tall beech tree from far away

II

So they all start to dance
To the music of the fiddle
Young men die slowly on the porch
To pity the beech
And its holy forehead
So they secretly set out
Sneaking in the middle of the night
As if going for a swim
To cut down the tall beech

III

So three people came early in the morning
Dragging the horizon behind them
And the pride of the beech tree
Down the village lane

Phonetic transcription

I

(A) [se zvo' nise pre pə' mintu
(Tutti) dor ro' tund zgu' rit dəar' fɪtse
(A) ,bleste' mate 'vefti din vint
(S) al arku' ite pe fur' tunə
'kiten 'soare 'kiten 'lunə
(B) 'zɪtʃe 'luməa kə ,pɛap' roape
se as' kund in 'humə jerbi
(SAT) ʃor pje' ri la 'nɔapte 'ʃerbi
(B) 'ʃute nor maj fi səŋ' grɔape
'dragostea in mjez de 'nɔapte
(S) 'krendzile sor 'faʃe 'biʃ
'viskolul səl ,poto' leaskə
(ATB) ka sə 'iʃte 'plopij 'plɔaje
'krendzile sə ʃi len' dɔaje
kə sau ,sfətu' it pɪn' darij
'muntɕij mari ʃi ,ləu' tarij
sə mə' rite 'fata 'norij
ku un fag din 'kɔasta 'zəri:]

II

[(B) ʃi se ,kləti' narən dans
(T) ʃi se ,legə' narən dans
'ʃerul 'ʃeterijn ba' lans
(SA) 'dupo 'fatə 'fata 'norij
(TB) 'dupə 'fata 'norij
(ATB) mor pe 'prisɔən' ʃet fi' ʃorij
(SB) de ne' kaz sə ,milu' jaskə
'fagun 'fruntea luj ʃe' reaskə
(AT) de ne' kaz səl ,milu' jaskən
'fruntea luj ʃe' reaskə
(T) ʃau por' nit 'mərə pje' zɪʃ
in mjez de 'nɔapte pe fu' riʃ
,sufle' kɔtsi de ,skəldə' tɔare
(B) 'fagul 'munte səl do' bɔare
(T) ku sə' kuri
(B) in ,kodo' ruʃte
(T) 'ʃerul 'bardej
(ATB) sə mil 'muʃte

III

(A) ʃau ve' nit de' vreme trej
ti' riŋd 'zarea 'dupə jej
(Tutti) ʃi min' dria 'faguluj
pe 'ulitsa 'satuluj
ka səl 'fakə cu fo' los
stɪlp de 'pɔartə ,norə' kos
(B) 'ulitsij vor' bind fru' mos
To make a gate pillar out of it
That would bring good luck
And that would be adorned with

Flowers and the sun, cranes,
The moon, and the mountains,
The water and the good
So that it would avert
The bad and the death
And would make
The whole world know
That there will be a wedding
The gate stands unyielding to time
As it is cut in fire and blood
It has turned the beautiful beech
Into a marvellous thing
So that it stands as a symbol
Of dignity and freedom
But there is still the sky
That still swings in the dance
Longing for a girl
The girl of the clouds
Don't the young men still die beautifully.

(Tutti) ,ɪnkrus' tat ku 'flori ʃi 'sori
,rəstɪg' niŋd pe el ko' kor'
(ATB) 'luna 'muntɕij 'sɔarele

(Tutti) 'apele fɪ 'binele
sə rə'mijen 'pragul 'portsij
'rəul fɪ ku 'duhul 'mortsij
(ATB) zvon de 'veste
'vestɛan 'lume
(Tutti) 'nuntan sat in lemn sə 'sune
(spoken) 'portsij 'timpul nuj a'zundʒe
'inkrus'tat in fok fɪ 'sɪndʒe
il fə'ku din fag fə'los
din fru'mos in maj fru'mos//
sə rə'mije 'peste sat
semn de nɛam 'neatɪr'nat
'numaj 'fɛrul in ba'lans
se maj 'klatinə in dans
'dupo 'fatə 'fata 'norij
tot maj mor fru'mos fɪ 'fɔrij]