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VELIKO ČUĐENJE · GREAT WONDERING
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VELIKO ČUĐENJE · GREAT WONDERING

Translation of the Poems

The poems were written by the Serbian poet Vesna Raos (born 1964). The translation reads as follows:

I PREMEŠTANJE SENKI

Premestile su se senke
U dno dvorišta
Tamo je moja grana
Na njoj uže
Moja ljuljaška
Kao i svakog od narednih dana
Uspavaće me klatno
Uzaludnog hodočašća
Pesma vetra što u ples uznosi lišće
Umesto pokrivača
Gore, dole, sve bliže
Sumrak upija oblike
Blatni zagrljaj zemlje, kiše
I onog što sanjam
Nahraniće drvo
Ptica što u njegovoj krošnji stanuje
Zapamtiće

II IZ LJUBAVI

Iz ljubavi sam
Izudarala psa
Jer je prateći me
Izašao na ulicu
I čitav dan sam surova bila
Za kaznu
Ni hrane ni vode
Vrata mu otvorila
Tek kada se noć provukla
Kroz ključaonice
Iz njegovih očiju lajao je strah

I MOVING OF THE SHADOWS

The shadows moved
To the bottom of the yard
There is my branch
A rope on it
My swing
Like all days to come
I will fall asleep by the pendulum
Of the vain pilgrimage
The wind's song carrying leaves to dance
Instead of cover
Up, down, nearer and nearer
The twilight soaks up the shapes
Muddy hug of soil, of rain
And the things I am dreaming of
Will nourish the tree
The bird living in the treetop
Will remember

II OUT OF LOVE

Out of love
I beat my dog
As he went out to the street
Following me
And I've been cruel the whole day
For his punishment
Neither food nor drink
I opened the door for him
Only when the night crept in
Through the keyholes
A fear from his eyes barked

Iz ljubavi sam
Zacvileh zaplakah
Zalajah
Zagrlih ga
Pa legosmo na pod
Na plafon se urezivao moj zaleđeni
pogled
I ruku mi grizao
A on ju je lizao
Iz ljubavi si, reče
Kunem se, čula sam
Iz ljubavi si, znao sam

III AKO

Ako sam kamen
Neka me bace u reku
Ili u vatru
Nek nekog njime rane
Samo da među drugim kamenjem
Ne ostanem

IV BIOGRAFIJA

Ostarih
Ljuljajući kolevku
Za pesme
Koje tek treba da napišem

Out of love
I whined I cried out
I barked
I hugged him
We lied down on the floor
My frozen gaze etched
Into the ceiling
Biting my hand
And he was licking it
Out of love, he said
I swear I heard that
Out of love, I knew it

III IF

If I am a stone
Let them throw me into the river
Or into the fire
Let them injure somebody
Lest I remain among
Other stones

IV BIOGRAPHY

I grew old
Rocking the cradle
For the poems
I am yet to write

Serbian Pronunciation Guide

The pronunciation of the Serbian language is fairly simple. With a few exceptions, every letter is always pronounced the same way, no matter what precedes or follows:

A	[a]	as a in car
B	[b]	as b in business
C	[ts]	always as ts in nuts ; never as <i>c</i> in <i>car</i>
Č	[tʃ]	as ch in church
Ć	[tɕ]	as ch in church , but softer; if in doubt, you may well pronounce it as the letter above
D	[d]	as d in dig
DŽ	[dʒ]	as J in John
Đ or DJ	[dʒ]	as J in John , but softer; if in doubt, you may well pronounce it as the letter above
E	[ɛ]	as e in let
F	[f]	as f in feel
G	[g]	always as g in game
H	[x]	as h in help
I	[i]	as ea in east
J	[j]	as y in year ; never as <i>J</i> in <i>John</i>
K	[k]	as k in kettle
L	[l]	as l in love
LJ	[ʎ]	as lli in million , or as gl in Italian article gli
M	[m]	as m in mouse
N	[n]	as n in nephew
NJ	[ɲ]	as ni in onion , or as gn in Italian bagno
O	[ɔ]	as au in autumn
P	[p]	as p in put
R	[r]	as r in rice ; when between consonants (eg prvo , srce , meaning <i>first</i> and <i>heart</i>), it should be sung as schwa [ə] with [r] at the end of the syllable, like one would sing <i>first</i> or <i>bird</i> in English, ie, pər-ʋə , sər-tɕə
S	[s]	always as s in sound ; never as <i>s</i> in <i>busy</i>
Š	[ʃ]	as sh in shoe
T	[t]	as t in time
U	[u]	as oo in cool
V	[v]	as v in verb
Z	[z]	as z in zealous
Ž	[ʒ]	as s in pleasure