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PROLEĆNA PESMA · SPRING SONG
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PROLEĆNA PESMA · SPRING SONG

Translation of the Poem

The poem was written by the Serbian poet Desanka Maksimović (1898-1993). The translation reads as follows:

Osećam večeras, dok posmatram laste
I pupoljke rane,
Kako srce moje polagano raste,
Ko vidik u lepe nasmejane dane;

I feel, this evening, while watching swallows
And early buds,
That my heart is growing slowly,
As the horizon of smiley days;

Kako s mladim biljem postaje sve veće
I lako ko krilo,
I kako mu celo jedno nebo sreće
I pakao bola ne bi dosta bilo;

That it's getting bigger with all the plants
And as light as a feather,
And that a whole Heaven of happiness
Or a Hell of pain wouldn't really matter;

Kako čezne za svim što bi život mogo
Lepog da mu dade,
I da mu ničega ne bi bilo mnogo:
Tako su velike čežnje mu i nade.

That it's longing for everything beautiful
Life could give to it,
And that nothing would be too much:
So big are its desires and hopes.

Osećam da dosad sve je bilo šala
Moga srca vrela,
Da još nikom nisam svoju ljubav dala
Koliku bih mogla i koliku htela;

I feel that everything until now was
My warm heart's joke,
That I haven't given my love to anyone yet
As much as I could do and as much I desire;

Da u meni cela nežna plima
Reči nerečeni;
Da bih srce mogla poklanjati svima,
I da opet mnogo ostane ga meni.

That there is a gentle tide
Of unspoken words inside me;
That I could give my heart to everyone
And that it could still remain a lot inside of me.

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