

# ANNA AKHMATOVA

RUSSIA (1889–1966)

LANGUAGE: RUSSIAN

Но я предупреждаю вас...  
NO YA PRYEDOOPRYEZHDAYOO VAS...

Но я предупреждаю вас,  
No ya pryedoopryezhdayoo vas,

Что я живу в последний раз.  
Chto ya zhivoo v poslyedniy raz.

Ни ласточкой, ни кленом,  
Ni lastochkoy, ni klyenom,

Ни тростником и ни звездой,  
Ni trostnikom i ni zvezдой,

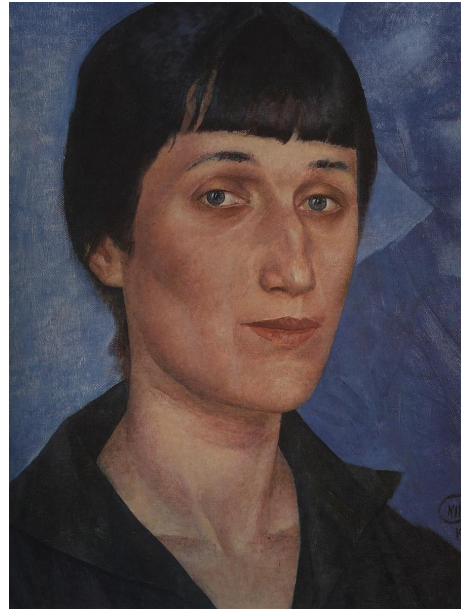
Ни родниковой водой,  
Ni rodnikovoyoo vodoу,

Ни колокольным звоном—  
Ni kolokol'nim zvonom—

Не буду я людей смущать  
Nye boodoo ya lyoodyey smooshshat'

И сны чужие навещать  
I sni choozhiye navyeshshat'

Неутоленным стоном.  
Nyeootolyennim stonom.



Anna Akhmatova was born Anna Gorenko and later took the pseudonym Akhmatova to honor her grandfather. When the dictator Joseph Stalin took power in Russia, Akhmatova's son was arrested and she was no longer allowed to publish her poems. The secret police watched her apartment and tapped her phone. Still, she refused to stop writing or leave Russia. Instead, she hosted secret parties where she passed around her poems on scraps of paper. Her friends memorized the poems, and then Akhmatova burned them.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY			
RUSSIAN	ROMANIZED	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
буду	boodoo (v.)	used to express an action that will take place in the future	will, am going to, shall
чужие	choozhiye (prep. + n.)	belonging to those that are different from one already mentioned or known about	of strangers, of others, of other people, of them, their
что	chto (pron.)	used to refer to someone or something already mentioned	that
и	i (conj.)	in addition to	and, plus, as well as
кленом	klyenom (n.)	a tall plant with a trunk and branches, and which produces sap	maple tree
колокольным	kolokol'nim (n.)	hollow objects that widen at the lip and sound clear musical notes when struck	bells, chimes, gongs, church bells
ласточкой	lastochkoy (n.)	any of numerous small, long-winged birds noted for their swift, graceful flight	swallow, barn swallow, bank swallow, robin, bird
людей	lyoodyey (n.)	human beings in general; male human beings	people, persons, souls; men, mankind, guys, gentlemen, fellows
навещать	navyeshshat' (v.)	to be persistently and disturbingly present somewhere	visit, haunt, assail, afflict, bother, vex, trouble, disturb
ни	ni (conj.)	used to introduce a following negative statement	neither, not as, nor
но	no (conj.)	used to introduce something contrasting with what has already been mentioned	but, yet, still, however, nonetheless, all the same

RUSSIAN	ROMANIZED	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
не	nye (adv.)	used to form the negative	not
неутоленным	nyeootolyennim (adj.)	having unfulfilled expectations, needs, or desires	hungry, lonesome, unsatisfied, complaining, displeased, insatiable, insistent, yearning
последний	poslyedniy (adj.)	coming at the end of a series	last, final, uttermost, ultimate
предупреждаю	pryedopryezhdayoo (v.)	to inform someone in advance of an impending or possible danger, problem, or other unpleasant situation	warn, am warning, caution, advise, counsel, alert, inform, forewarn
раз	raz (n.)	an instance of something happening or being done	time, occasion, instance, occurrence
родниковую	rodnikovoyoo (n.)	a place where liquid wells up from an underground source	spring, creek, fountain, wellspring, geyser
смущать	smooshshat' (v.)	to cause distress, inconvenience, or effort of any kind	trouble, perplex, disturb, disconcert, bother, pester, burden, confuse
сны	sni (n.)	the thoughts, images, and sensations occurring in one's mind during sleep	dreams, reveries, sleep, slumber, shut-eye, rest
стоном	stonom (n.)	deep, inarticulate sounds made in pain or despair	cries, moans, groans, howls, whimpers
тростником	trostnikom (n.)	the straight stalk of any of various tall grasses growing in marshes	reed, cane, tule, cattail
в	v (prep.)	used to indicate duration of time or extent of space	for
вас	vas (pron.)	referring to the person or people that the speaker is addressing	you
водой	vodoy (n.)	a colorless, transparent, odorless liquid that forms seas, lakes, rivers, and rain	water, H <sub>2</sub> O, lake, ocean, river

RUSSIAN	ROMANIZED	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
я	ya (pron.)	referring to the speaker	I
живу	zhivoo (v.)	to remain alive; to remain in a specific place	live, am living, exist, subsist, dwell, stay, reside
звоном	zvonom (n.)	a loud vibrating sound	ringing, ring, jingle, sing, toll, clang, clank, peal, ding-dong
звездой	zvezdoy (n.)	a fixed bright point in the sky	star, heavenly body

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## PHRASE BY PHRASE

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Ni lastochkoy, ni klyenom, \_\_\_\_\_

Ни тростником и ни звездой,

Ni trostnikom i ni zvezdoy, \_\_\_\_\_

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Неутоленным стоном.

Nyeootolyennim stonom. \_\_\_\_\_



## REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Pick a scribe for the group, and work together to answer the questions.

What are the best parts of this translation, and why do you think they are good?

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What elements of the original poem did you lose in the translation? What did you manage to keep?

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Did you achieve something new with your translation, and if so, does it make sense in the poem or not?

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