

MARINA TSVETAEVA

RUSSIA (1892–1941)

LANGUAGE: RUSSIAN

ПОЭТЫ (Fragment)

РОЕТИ

Что же мне делать, слепцу и пасынку,
Chto zhe mne delat, sleptsu i pasynku,

В мире, где каждый и отч и зряч,
V mire, gde kazhdyj i otch i zryach,

Где по анафемам, как по насыпям—
Gde po anafemat, kak po nasypyam—

Страсти! где насморком
Strasti! gde nasmorkom

Назван–плач!
Nazvan–plach!



As a child, Marina Tsvetaeva escaped from her unhappy family and the frequent violent quarrels with her older half-siblings by running wild on the beach, climbing cliffs, and making up fantasy adventures. When she was eighteen years old, she published her first book of poetry. She had an immensely difficult and dramatic life, living through two world wars, a major revolution, and a devastating famine. Her husband Sergei was a double agent spy who was eventually found out and killed. The Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin did not like her, so none of the writers who admired her poetry dared to help her. She died jobless and penniless in 1941. An asteroid orbiting between Mars and Jupiter is named after her: 3511 Tsvetaeva.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY			
RUSSIAN	ROMANIZED	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
анафемам	anafemam (n.)	people or things intensely disliked or loathed; denunciations of something as accursed	anathemas, evils, abominations, hate, curses, torments
что	chto (pron.)	used to ask for information about someone or something	what, which
делать	delat (v.)	from the verb сделать—to perform, achieve, or complete an action	do, make, create, accomplish, produce, operate, set about doing
где	gde (adv.)	at, in, or to which	where, in which, within which
и	i (conj.)	in addition to	and, plus, as well as
как	kak (prep.)	similar to	as, like, as if, just like
каждый	kazhdyj (pron.)	every person	everyone, all, each, everybody
мире	mire (n.)	our planet, together with all of its countries, peoples, and natural features	world, earth, universe, existence, land
мне	mne (pron.)	referring to the speaker	I, me
насморком	nasmorkom (n.)	a common virus characterized by congested nasal passages, sneezing, and headache	sniffles, snuffles, sniveling, runny noses, sneezes, a head cold
насыпям	nasypyam (n.)	walls or banks of earth or stone built to prevent a river flooding	embankments, banks, mounds, ridges, levees, causeways, dams
назван	nazvan (past part.)	to identify, specify, or mention using words	is named, is called, is christened, is termed, is labeled, is referred to
отч	otch (adj.)	taken care of and watched over by a father	fathered, of a father, parented, cradled, nurtured, raised

RUSSIAN	ROMANIZED	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
пасынку	pasynku (adj.)	rejected or cast out by society or a social group	outcast, cast aside, discarded, forsaken, godforsaken, abandoned
плач	plach (n.)	the act of shedding tears, especially as an expression of distress or pain	mourning, crying, weeping, lamenting, lament, wailing, sobbing
по	po (prep.)	implying direction	over, up to, along, by, in
поэты	poeti (n.)	people who write poems	poets, bards, lyricists
слепцу	sleptsu (adj.)	unable to see	blind, sightless, unseeing, groping, in darkness
страсти	strasti (n.)	strong and barely controllable emotions	passions, desires, sentiments, love, ardor, fervor
в	v (prep.)	enclosed by or on top of something	in, within, upon, on
же	zhe (adv.)	used as an intensive after a word or phrase to express impatience or necessity	again, already, must, should, ought
зряч	zryach (adj.)	able to see	sighted, seeing, in the light, looking

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

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REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: _____

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?

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

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