

DIMITRY PRIGOV

RUSSIA (1940-2017)

LANGUAGE: RUSSIAN

Не хочет Рейган нас кормить

Не хочет Рейган нас кормить
Ну что же, сам и просчитается
Ведь это там у них считается
Что надо кушать, чтобы жить

А нам не нужен хлеб его
Мы будем жить своей идеею
Он вдруг спохватится: А где они?
А мы уж в сердце у него



Born in Moscow in 1940, Dimitry Prigov was prolific and influential Russian poet and artist who at one point was incarcerated in a Soviet psychiatric hospital as punishment for his work. In addition to his poetry he wrote plays and essays, created drawings, installations and video art, acted in films, staged performance art and performed music.

For years his poetry was officially banned in the Soviet Union and circulated only hand to hand. Only in 1990 was a collection of his poetry officially published in his country.

He died in 2007 after collapsing in the Moscow subway following a severe heart attack.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY			
WORD	ROMANIZED	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
будем	budem (v.)	used to express action taking place in the future	will, are going to, shall
что же	chto zhe (pron. + adv.)	used to dismiss or question a previous statement	so what, what of it, who cares, all right, fine, OK
чтобы	chtoby (conj.)	expresses causation	so as to, in order to, to
его	ego (poss. pron.)	refers to an object belonging to a man other than the speaker	his, of his, from him
это	eto (pron.)	Refers to the situation or circumstances; things in general.	it is, it's
где	gde (adv.)	in what place or position	where, wherever
и	i (conj.)	just, exactly, namely	it is...that, ...is the one that
идею	ideeu (n.)	a thought or suggestion as to a possible course of action	idea, message, ideology, philosophy
хлеб	khleb (n.)	bread or, more generally, means of subsistence	bread, food, sustenance
хочет	khochet (v.)	to have a desire to possess something	want, desire, wish for
кормить	kormit (v.)	to give food to	feed, keep, provide for, suckle, support
кушать	kushat (v.)	to consume food	to eat, to take food, to have food
мы	my (pron.)	refers to a group of people that the speaker belongs to	we, we all, all of us, Russians, Soviet citizens
надо	nado (v.)	to require because it is essential or very important	need, must have, is necessary, is essential
нам	nam (pron.)	refers to a group of people that the speaker belongs to	we, we all, all of us, Russians, Soviet citizens

WORD	ROMANIZED	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
нас	nas (pron.)	refers to a group of people that the speaker belongs to	us, Russians, the Soviet Union
не	ne (adv.)	used to form the negative	does not
ну	nu (interj.)	expresses an appeal or protest	but, well, now
нужен	nuzhen (v.)	to require because it is essential or very important	need, require, want
он	on (pron.)	refers to a man other than the speaker	he, that man, Reagan
они	oni (pron.)	refers to a group of people	they, those people, the Russians, the Soviets
просчитается	proschitaetsia (v.)	to assess or calculate wrongly	making an error, going wrong, miscalculating
Рейган	Reagan (prop. n.)	the surname of the 40 th president of the United States	Reagan, the U.S. president, Ronald
сам	sam (pron.)	refers to and intensifies the subject	himself, ...is the one that
считается	schitaetsia (v.)	to hold something as an opinion	believe, think, hold true
сердце	serdtse (n.)	center of a person's thoughts and emotions, especially love or compassion	heart, heart of hearts, soul
спохватится	spokhvatitsia (v.)	to remember suddenly	remember, recall, think, check himself
своей	svoei (poss. pron.)	refers to subject	our, our own, homegrown, domestic, homebred, native
там	tam (adv.)	in that place or position	there, over there, in the U.S.
у него	u nego (prep. + poss. pron.)	refers to the property or characteristics of a particular man	his
у них	u nikh (prep + poss. pron.)	refers to the characteristics or property of a group of people	among them, by them
уж	uzh (adv.)	by the time in question	already, by now, by then, now

WORD	ROMANIZED	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
в	v (prep.)	used to express location or containment	in, within, inside
вдруг	vdrug (adv.)	quickly and unexpectedly	suddenly, all at once, in an instant
ведь	ved' (adv.)	indicates opposition or contrast to what has been said previously or a question or qualification—sometimes omitted in translation	you know, because you know, when, but, for, as, isn't it?
жить	zhit' (v.)	to remain alive	live on/through, exist on, survive on, subsist on

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?
