

Ще Невмерла Україна

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Ні слава ні воля
Ще нам братя молодії
Усміхнется доля

Згинуть наші вороженки
Як роса на сонці
Запануєм ще ми братя
У свої сторонці

Душу тило ми положим
За нашу свободу
І покажем що ми братя
Зкозацкого роду

Proudly battles our great homeland
In honour and glory
Fortune beams at us, my brethren,
As we unfold our story

Foe and rival will we vanquish
They fade like dew in sunlight
Rightful rule will we establish
In our cossack birthright

Soul and body will we forfeit
For our liberation
To be counted, not forgotten,
Foremost among nations

Ever onward, our great people,
In freedom and in glory
Fate and fortune smile, my brothers,
As they unfold our story

To their knees will fall our rivals
Burned like dew by sunshine
With joy and full revival
Of our cossack heart line

Spirit, body, we'll surrender
For our rights and freeholds
Be it known that we are Cossacks
Strong at Ukraine's thresholds

A short while ago, I had occasion to enjoy a moving rendition of our Ukrainian anthem by the Winnipeg group, **ГУСЛІ**, to their notable credit.

Although it is in fact questionable as to whether a national anthem should be required to tolerate, indeed endure, a translation to a language other than its own, I have always felt that non-speakers of Ukrainian miss out on the heart-tug of the message of the lyrics of our Ukrainian anthem. While they may certainly feel the rousing emotion our anthem inspires by its verve and aria, they are denied a verbal representation of the sentiments the lyrics deliver.

So I have attempted, above, some translation into English of the anthemic language but, I am sorry to say, my efforts seem to come off as stilted and contrived. No sweet-flowing idioms suggest themselves. This is, however, only an indication of my lack of skill in this endeavour, and should not discourage better heads than mine to find more suitable words to accomplish this. So I offer my translations as a starting point, or perhaps just as encouragement or inspiration, for others to address this task.

While purists may contend quite convincingly that any translation from the original Ukrainian can only be of demeaning and deleterious effect, I wish to argue for its value in providing non-speakers of Ukrainian a deeper appreciation of our anthem than may be gleaned solely from its tempo and melody.

Anyone who wishes to take up this challenge has my full blessing for the unrestricted usage of any or all of my attempts at this translation, should they be found fitting.