

## Žalna e, majko, da znae

Rodope region, Bulgaria

Žalna e, majko, da znae,  
Oti me, malka, oženi  
Žalna e, majko, da znae,  
Oti me, mlada, počerni.

It's sad, mother, to know  
That you married me off early  
It's sad, mother, to know  
That you blackened me at a young age,

I oti me, malka, oženi  
Oti me, mlada, počerni  
I oti me, malka, oženi  
Za toja, majko, budala.

That you married me off early  
That you blackened me at a young age  
That you married me young  
to that fool, mother.

/ I lice mu davam da ljubi  
Pa toj se, majko, ne sešta. /2

I give him my face to kiss  
But mother, it doesn't dawn on him.

/ Snaga mu davam da gali  
Pa toj se nazad preobruša. /2

I give him my body to love  
But he gives it back.

/ Krüşče mu davam da kūrši  
Pa toj se, majko, ne sešta. /2

I give him my waist to squeeze  
But it doesn't dawn on him.

Žalna e, majko, da znae  
Oti me, malka, oženi  
I oti me, malka, oženi  
Za toja, majko, budala.

It's sad, mother, to know  
That you married me off early  
That you married me young  
to that fool, mother.

*Field recording from Mark Levy and Carol Silverman. Words transcribed and translated by Melissa Miller, with corrections "from many generous friends".*

*Presented by Juliana Graffagna, Balkanalia, 2005.*