

The Smith of the Smoldering Runestone Rhymes

I have *mémoires* of verbal exchanges,
sitting in spaces of *variat* tone,
with the smoldering *rúnsteinsmiður*,
who is like the *Shpirt* of stone.

Rond 25 op de klok it was,
when we would *mæta* 'mid the radiance.
The reading would *kòmanse* then as,
he'd howl *i længden* in metered cadence.

Spinning out around the *κύκλος*,
under the light of the *sǿngən* moon,
tales from the land of the rising *taiyo*,
sempre arriving much too soon.

Asking things like "*goomzigahm?* "
in his own ancestral *linguam*.
Humbly conversing with *khambroeng* grace,
in the *yu* of the middle kingdom.

Setting ablaze *thi'ywe'* from *Bemá*,
releasing a less than *thayathàw* taste.
Accepting a well-interpreted *pakyét*,
obtained at a *moskovskiy* stall in haste.

Weaving a *gréasáin* with silver threads,
which from a *cidade sagrada* were springing,
in waning hours of the very *gishér*,
we'd missed our *megobrebi* 's singing.

Feeling effects of *shlofloz* nights,
from staying up *shpeyt* after multiple coffees.
Grabbing a bite of *pastırma* on rye,
then *shlepping* it back to the *tsaytung* office,

Typing a *písmo* in *kirillítsa*,
pecking the *Tasten* with trembling hands,
Including a mark from the *duka* of Yawa,
stocked with *iincwadi* from *yeAfrika* lands.

Accosting *sarang* on Manhattan *kado*,
to grow his *gibon* grasp of Korean,
while *xödling* at the veritable borders,
that verge upon that *đá-ngôn-ngũ* scene.

Speaking of *bhāṣalu* newly endeavored,
we'd *mintza* by way of the *telepon* line,
discussing the literal art of *aksara*,
wandering the *dvīpa*'s in his mind.

Holding court in an *ásude* armchair,
in Point *enSalada*'s musical maze.
Rings of *dukhán* there slowly fading,
into a *sötét* jazz-hued haze.

These *muistoja* of mine will always be humming,
amid the *sayong* of the *velik* unknown,
e'en if the *šanco* is ne'er forthcoming,
to read the *runor* carved on his stone.

*in loving memory of Michael Petriano,
whose name can be translated as "who is like the Spirit, of stone".*

martin l parker - written 2003-2020

Glossary

mémoires = memories (French)

variat = various (Romanian)

rúnsteinsmiður = runestonesmith (Icelandic)

shpirt = spirit (Albanian)

rond 25 op de klok = 'round 25 o'clock (Dutch)

mæta = meet (AngloSaxon)

kòmanse = begin (Kweyòl)

i længden = at length (Danish)

κύκλος = circle (Greek)

sǐngǎn = silver (Thai)

taiyo = sun (Japanese)

sempre = always (Italian)

goomzigahm? = what's your name? (Sicilian)

linguam = language (Latin)

khambroeng = effortless (Khmer)

γῦ = language (Chinese)

thi'ywe' = leaves, *Bemá* = Burma, *thayathàw* = pleasant (Burmese)

pakyét = pack, *moskovskiy* = Moscow (Russian)

gréasáin = web (Irish)

cidade sagrada = sacred city (Portuguese) (reference to Sacramento)

gisher = night (Armenian)

megobrebi = brothers (Georgian)

shlofloz = sleepless, *shpeyt* = late (Yiddish)

pastırma = pastrami (Turkish)

shlep = drag, *tsaytung* = newspaper (Yiddish)

písmo = letter, *kirillitsa* = Cyrillic script (Russian)

Tasten = keys (German)

duka = market (kiSwahili)

iincwadi = books (isiXhosa)

yeAfrika = African (Amharic)

sarang = people, *kado* = streets, *gibon* = basic (Korean)

xödl = work (Mongolian)

đa-ngôn-ngữ = multilingual (Viet)

bhāṣalu = languages (Telugu)
mintza = speak (Basque)
telepon = telephone (Tagalog)
aksara = letters (Javanese, Indonesian)
dvipa = continent, island (Hindi)

ásude = *comfortable* (Persian)
ensalada = (&)Salad (Spanish, mutual friend's nickname, as is Point)
dukhán = smoke (Arabic)
sötét = murky (Hungarian)

muistoja = memories (Finnish)
sayong = mist (Balinese)
velik = great (Croatian/Slovenian)
ŝanco = chance (Esperanto)
runor = runes (Swedish)