

## ***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 *sĩngəŋ* 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)