

Poem and song: Svante's Happy Day

Read the Danish song lyrics here:

<http://www.avz.dk/fileadmin/tabs/Dissing/Dissing - Svantes lykkelige dag.htm>

Listen to the song (in Danish) here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhrPgbIHVAQ>

The poem and song is written by Benny Andersen in 1972. The reason why we chose this poem is that this poem so delicately describes what it is like to be Danish. It focuses on the famous Danish word “hygge”, a word that is almost impossible to translate. “Hygge” is a state of mind, and it cannot be translated into “being cozy”, even though that is the closest English word.

Every person in Denmark knows this song. It has become national treasure.

But the official English translation is terrible! All the beauty and delicacy in the descriptions of Svante's love to this particular day is lost. Of course this is because of the demand of being able to sing the original melody with the English text, but it makes the song an embarrassment in the English version. It suddenly sounds like a children's song, full of stereotypes and generalizations.

Read it here: **Look, real daylight soon**

Look, real daylight soon
Red sun and waning moon.
She takes a shower for me
Me whom it's good to be.
Life's not so bad for it's all we have got
And the coffee's almost hot.

Buds now come budding up
There is a buttercup
Birds fly in squadrons for fun
If they are more than one.
Happiness – well, it is all we have got
and the coffee's almost hot.

All grass is wet and green
Bees are as bees have been
Since they first tasted the air

Ah, and with me they share.
Pleasure's not bad for it's all we have got
And the coffee's almost hot.

Singing her shower song
She's happy all day long
So pretty blue is the sky
It's just as bright as I.
Happiness – well, it is all we have got
And the coffee's almost hot.

Nina comes smiling in
Naked in blushing skin
Gives me a kiss then and there
Then goes to comb her hair.
Life's not so bad for it's all we have got
And the coffee's almost hot

Therefore we would like our European partners to REALLY understand what this song is about, so we have translated the song without worrying about the melody:

1. Look, what a morning!
The sun is red and round
Nina is taking a shower
I am eating bread with cheese
Life is not the worst you've got
And soon the coffee's hot

2. The flowers are blooming
There a spider is out for a walk
The birds are flying in a flock
When they are enough
Happiness is not the worst you've got
And soon the coffee's hot

3. The grass is green and wet
The bees are feeling good
The lungs are gorging in air

Oh, the smell of bindweed
Joy is not the worst you've got
And soon the coffee's hot

4. The singing under shower.
Apparently she's happy!
The sky is quite blue
And I can understand why
Happiness is not the worst you've got
And soon the coffee's hot

5. Now Nina comes out
Naked with moist skin
Kisses me lovingly and goes
In to comb her hair
Life is not the worst you've got
And soon the coffee's hot

As you can see a lot of beautiful pictures and a lot of subtle details are lost in the official translated version. Nina is also described as being a gullible all-day-happy woman, while in the Danish version she is happy and loving THIS particular day, which kind of surprises Svante.

We hope you enjoyed our contribution!

Warm greetings from Denmark