GROWINGS

RICHARD ALGIRDAS ZOLYNAS

GROWINGS

by

Richard Algirdas Zolynas

A dissertation submitted to the faculty of the University of Utah in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy Department of English University of Utah

March 1973

This Dissertation for the

Doctor of Philosophy Degree

Ъy

Richard Algirdas Zolynas

has been approved March 1973

Chairman,	Supervisory	Committee	
		\sim	
_			
Supervisor	y Committee		
	(
Supervisor	y Committee		

Supervisory Committee

Supervisory Committee



Dean, Gradyate School

RSITY OF UTAH LIBRARIE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

	0-
ABSTRACT	v
GROWINGS	1
TODAY I AM NOT MYSELF	2
LIFEGUARD	3
FAMILY HISTORY	5
OPENING DAY. DEER HUNTING SEASON	6
TRAP	7
SEA DREAM	8
PARANOIA	10
DARKNESS SITS	12
IN THE GROVE	13
THE PACIFIC SLIDES UP THE BEACHES	14
LIVING IN THE COUNTRY	15
DIALOGUE	16
RENTING A FARMHOUSE	18
THE RISER	20
HOMAGE TO GARY SNYDER IN THE CLASSROOM	21
MOVING THROUGH THE COUNTRY	22
RURAL DEATHS	23
BEATING FATHER FINALLY	24
POEM TO MY WIFE	25
IN THE LAUNDROMAT	26
A HISTORICAL FACT AND A MEMORABLE FANCY	28

		Page
THE CIRCUS		29
EVERYTHING RINGS	• • • • • • • • • • • • •	31
MARCH 23		32
MINNESOTA STATE HIGHWAY 19 .		33
#43		. 35
FOUR A.M. ON A FARM		. 36
A DREAM OF TRAINS		. 37
TO MY WIFE WHO COULD NOT GET	OUT OF BED THIS MORNING .	. 38
THE MAN WHO LIVES A HALF-HOUR	AHEAD OF HIMSELF	. 39
ALONE IN AN INSTITUTION OF HI	GHER LEARNING	. 40
A NIGHTMARE CONCERNING PRIEST	s	. 41
IN THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE		. 42
THE MYOPIC		. 43
VARIATIONS ON A THEME BY WILL	IAM BLAKE	. 44
REFLECTIONS OF A FORMER NOCTU	RNAL EMMISSIONIST	. 46
THE SCAR		. 47
TRANSLATIONS		
HUNGER		. 50
THE NIGHT HORSE-TENDER .		. 52
THE CHIMNEY		54
A SUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM .		57
THE WIND		60
ABOUT AN ORPHAN GIRL, A W	ITCH, AND A FOOL	63
VITA		65

iv

ABSTRACT

These poems, written over a period of some three years and presented chronologically, hopefully reflect the author's "growth" in the art and, in a real sense, the game of poetry. While the poems cover a wide range of topics and subject matters, certain subjects seem to recur with some frequency. The most apparent of these are nature, dreams, and domestic life.

If there is an overall unity in these poems, it is in how they deal with what we call the "ordinary". Through the use of unusual images, paradoxes, the absurd, and hopefully imaginative "leaping" (a term invented by Robert Bly to suggest the capability that poems have of shifting <u>suddenly</u> from one level of reality to another), these poems seek to re-create experience and, in so doing, hopefully bring one closer to its significance.

v

GROWINGS

Remembering my father's hands and the way they played with moist earth I too tried to raise vegetables. From a garden patch the size of a city parking space and with the help of the municipality's water I created twelve pea pods--or fifty two peas.

I ate those peas one by one as sadly as an ancient chinaman adding up the score on his smooth abacus and decided I was not my father. Today I am not myself.

I am my shirts and pants hung on the line drying in the autumn sun.

I am my shoes open-mouthed swallowing dust in the black closet.

I am the winter glove of my childhood lost in the lost snow of a thousand years ago.

LIFEGUARD

Closest to the sun, I am most burnt. most blessed in my purpose: the official sign on my shorts says I am ready to fling myself in a saving arc at those who cling to the "or" between sink and swim. Already now one small girl will begin school at Summer's end because of my deep lungs and strong, brown arm.

They have hired me for this and I have been a good employee.

Behind my back on the white sand the drugged bodies lie swimming in waters too deep even for me.

FAMILY HISTORY

My grandfather's grandfather Saw, as a small child, Napoleon Burning his way to Moscow.

My mother's father signed The Declaration of Independence Of Lithuania.

My father built a house

I rent one in Salt Lake City. We do have some things In common.

OPENING DAY. DEER HUNTING SEASON

The lead bullets from the steel barrels attached to the wooden stocks of the rifles kicking against the shoulders of the hunters return

(slightly diverted by the buck's head)

to the mountain.

TRAP

I am a

ripe

watermelon

leaning up

against

the inside

of the

refrigerator

door.

I walk in the edge of dream water and sand. My feet are bare and in their own way are made of water and sand.

The great stomach of the sea throws up its creatures to the sand-crabs, clam, squid, jellyfish-all caught

> on the flowing edge of water and sand, rolling, scuddering, and tumbling between the two.

They wash across and around my anchored feet in the slipping sand.

Above,

dream gulls trade shifting columns of air, bridging and balancing the equation of water and sand, diving and twisting, skimming the broken creatures out of their limbo.

Behind my back

the moon pulls the sea by the beach and pulls at the blood in my salt veins and in the veins of the gulls.

PARANOIA

perches on my shoulder gnawing at my neck. I grab for it but it easily avoids my flapping arms. I try all the tricks I know: I jump up and down, roll on the floor, and even back myself into the wall. All Fails. My spine now shines in the light; blood flows down my chest and back and pools like a noon-day shadow at my feet. "Help me remove this thing from my back," I way to the mailman outside. He laughs, drops a brown letter in my mailbox and

sponges off down the sidewalk neatly sidestepping the jaws of my next-door neighbors dog. My flesh is gone. I clatter down the stairs the air whistling through my jaws. All around me fat people are lying in the sun eating grapes and laughing. Darkness sits inside match boxes desk drawers pockets folded in silence like a blanket waiting to be shaken

Darkness crouches inside cameras leaps out then back in

Darkness rolls heavily through my head thuds dully against eyeballs crushes light

Darkness rises from my throat bumps against my teeth drops a black bowling ball from my mouth when I speak

IN THE GROVE

When I entered the woods behind the house I tried to leave the words behind in the books hung on the wall. But they flew after me like a cloud of gnats and landed on <u>trees</u> and <u>leaves</u> and on the <u>dank earth</u>.

My words and I stayed a while touching fingers in the green silence.

Somewhere

a butterfly scratched its wing.

THE PACIFIC SLIDES UP THE BEACHES OF THE WEST COAST

You can hear it in these tree-tops sheltering a farmhouse in the middle of Minnesota.

You can hear the whale-song in the bellow of the cows beyond the corn and the crickets in the grass.

The swallow-rays dive and pivot on air currents and swim smoothly about the barn.

You know that if you dig straight down you'll find a bright twisted shell and you only have to pull out the earth-plug to hear the sea there too.

As you walk back into the house, you finger the side of your neck searching for gill-slits and you know some day there'll be a larger tide than usual and things will get back to normal.

LIVING IN THE COUNTRY

The part-time poet returning from his full-time job sees these things on or near the road: three snakes, two eagles, one gopher, one rabbit, and a dozen or so salamanders. All but five of the salamanders. the gopher and the eagles are partially or fully squashed. The poet reasons that this has little to do with the Balance of Nature. Therefore, he drives his car off the road, removes a front and a back wheel, throws them in the car, locks the doors. and pours dirt into the gas tank. Finally, he eats the keys. He apologizes to the grass. Much later (for he has had to walk home) he joins his cat in a meal of crickets.

DIALOGUE

Poet

I harvest the words on the page,

drying and storing the seeds for later planting.

Farmer

I read the moon and clouds; the ends of my corn rows sometimes rhyme.

Poet

My success is only

in my growing. My water,

too, falls from the air

and rises up again.

Farmer

My scribbled vines

begin to mean grapes

as the season's leaves turn.

Poet

Your cow was in my room

last night. I am still milking

her for all she is worth.

Farmer

Your words I sometimes find

in strange places, as in

the henhouse when only eggs are there.

Poet

I will help you with the plowing.

Farmer

We must talk again.

..

RENTING A FARMHOUSE

It is peopled; now it must be animaled.

Now I see chickens starting motorcycles in the grass (It is true, just hold the cycles).

Now my favorite goose wants to get into my pants. (It is not what you think.)

Now the nanny goat in the stanchion trusts my hands on her udder. Ah, the warm milk will flex into a bizarre butter.

I tell you my animal farm is growing.

Now I dare a cow; her mauve petal eyes bloom quietly

while in the barn my favorite bull elephnat smiles through mouthfuls of straw

and leans gently on my dream.

and the second second

alada Saabii utter berke ee

to being brink china.

THE RISER

Believe this: In the morning he rises. By noon he is still rising. By supper his back is to the ceiling.

Do not be misled when you see him sitting in a chair solidly. He makes this concession for company's sake. (One hand always holds the chair).

Sometimes, among close friends in moments of excitement he lets go and floats gently upwards while all wink knowingly and hand him bricks to help him down.

HOMAGE TO GARY SNYDER IN THE CLASSROOM

If I had a beard of damp pine needles I wouldn't be here in front of these people sitting in their desks with a look in their eyes of drivers who have just lost the road.

MOVING THROUGH THE COUNTRY

abandoned farmhouses

white skulls

windows broken

open only for the wind

to climb through

abandoned cars

doors hanging open

broken wings

abandoned nests skewered in trees dark patches on chest X-rays

offerings to the air

RURAL DEATHS

No city, this. The echoes ring on even after the newspaper's been folded and stacked in the corner.

The freshly dead rise up shaking off the dirt even as you struggle to bury them in their proper place.

Always you know someone who knows someone who knew the deceased. People talk.

Slowly a life takes shape before your eyes and moves into your mind to lodge a while-this, the dead man's final child.

BEATING FATHER FINALLY

On guard, check, checkmate. The game concludes like the last inevitable notes of a Beethoven symphony. Bishop, knight, and rook have left father's king nowhere to go. He sits in the corner trapped, humbled.

The board dissolves leaving a kitchen table by a window, noises of chairs squeaking, and the snow outside suddenly falling faster.

POEM TO MY WIFE

Neat-sloppy friction called major divorce factor

Neatness-clutter problems are the No. 2 cause of marriage breakups, Dr. Viscott says, outranked only by disagreements over money. Sexual disharmony ranks third.

How many times have I come home to find you filling in the holes in the walls

by taticity datas.

I punched in the night before

in a fit of sloppiness

or furiously nailing

the floorboards back down

after I had forgotten to do it myself or picking up my discarded dreams from the corners of the bathroom?

In five years

I have learned to screw the cap back on the toothpaste. There will be no divorce here.

This is for you--my way of cleaning up after myself.

IN THE LAUNDROMAT

Women show me their panties. I show them my jockstrap. My jockstrap and their panties tumble together in adjacent machines. I put money in slots; they seek change by turning knobs. My jockstrap has an erection; their panties are moist and warm. We stare out the window fully clothed or thumb through coverless magazines where there are ads for bras and jockey shorts and pretend this is just a place to wash clothes, that the turgid air has nothing to do with us, and that we have nothing to do with the furious

orgy of underware

all around us.

Milanald look up from bis severalist milling power is the context of terms. He gamed to long the trans gravits and observed the states: Mergeforesed the stay furners of Kerturg

iona da che scorrect antalas og statistic No biona l'ocar calonia tress como reclassi parti regnar, bace a colo bioto a cito.

aldays often a content of all and a model

er noring to denote doctore of the sectore of the

and the second sec

A HISTORICAL FACT AND A MEMORABLE FANCY

When Kant was composing

his Critique of Pure Reason

he would look up from his manuscript at the tower in the center of town. He gazed so long the trees grew up and obscured his vision. He informed the city fathers of Konigsberg and they gladly chopped down the trees. Thus he was able to finish his work.

Here in the country outside my window the trees tower and wave their arms mockingly. I work anyway, here a word, there a line.

Always when I awake in the morning I run to the window to see if this is the day my three hundred farmers have arrived, morning chores all done, murmuring quietly, axes on their shoulders.

THE CIRCUS

Like a fat woman at a picnic, it heaves a sigh, spreads its skirt and sits down on the grass. The neighborhood children circle the tent and lift the hem to peer in at the strange proceedings.

All around, still in human form, clowns, animal trainers, and trapeze artists with exotic names perform the mundane tasks of preparation, tying ropes, pounding spikes, hosing down the huge kind elephants.

Night arrives like an expected guest. The circus tent glows. We all come to see What we miss in our own homes.

After the death-defying acts and the beasts that remind us of ourselves and the clowns falling down, we return to our solid houses, treading lightly down the sidewalk like Zvorak the tight-rope walker, our feet confident and clever as hands.

4

EVERYTHING RINGS

everything rings the table the floor the nail in the wall my liver my blood skin cells the farm a mile down the road rings the cows in the farm the milk in the cows ring eggs forming inside chickens ring in Chicago yes even there if you listen the earth beneath concrete rings secretaries in tall buildings scraping the sky can hear it through the floor through their shoes up their pantyhose I tell you everything rings in Spain it rings especially for bullfighters on horns not of a dilemma it rings loudly on the moon sun stars Saturn's rings it rings in Spring Summer Autumn Winter it rings the apple on the tree in your stomach in your foot of your eye rings do you believe me now?

MARCH 23

1

The last snow slips down through black clods.

2

A lone wolf trots north, fangs dripping blood, eyes like ice.

3

A string of geese stitch a seam across the sky.

MINNESOTA STATE HIGHWAY 19

The moon tonight like the light at the end of a long tunnel.

He decides to rearrange his schedule. He can no longer eat his dinner and watch the evening news.

<u>Small animals</u> alongside the road (the live ones) eyes like twin shining flowers on invisible stalks.

A lie. He can eat his dinner. He tries to be appalled, but fails.

The security lights above farmhouses-sprinkled like fallen stars. He fantasizes: A severed hand in Ireland, a foot in Vietnam. He runs outside and vomits.

A cloud

swallows the moon.

I watch you comb your hair, the part down the middle.

I grow small. I climb onto your head and lie down in the part.

•

Your hair bacomes water, the Pacific Ocean. I lie on the invisible seam, the waves rising under me, parting and flowing off to America and Asia. They fall on the ears of those places like hair.

FOUR A.M. ON A FARM

No cars have gone by for hours. Everywhere green fields slowly turn

to milk. Men from Tokyo dream of the strange farms below.

In two hours they will land in New York with the sun. For myself,

I wish them well. I will be in bed soon. A box elder bug

walks into the house through an entrance that has nothing to do with me.

A DREAM OF TRAINS

Trains slip through the black fingers of the night like trout through the paws of bears fishing.

They cross the palms of bridges with silver wheels. Beneath, the river opens and closes, opens and closes its hands.

Above, in the corner of the dream, the full moon drops a hand on the shoulder of the dreamer and squeezes just so. TO MY WIFE WHO COULD NOT GET OUT OF BED THIS MORNING

The sharp edge of morning peels back the night. The day begins to bleed. You are ripe in a universe of knives. Outside

on the fence of your sleep, young roosters practice crowing: horror horror horror: the sounds of rusted cans being torn open, destruction without meaning. Stay

in bed. Fall into the one safe place of yourself. Let the butcher morning cut away. Wait for the blade to dull itself. Wait for the bluntness of noon. Wait, just wait. THE MAN WHO LIVES A HALF-HOUR AHEAD OF HIMSELF

The secretary cleans off her desk. He sees her turning on the ignition of her car. While she drives home, he waits in her closet. As she hangs up her coat, he is in her bed, still waiting. She finally slips beneath the covers. Already he is driving home counting the long line of telephone poles. ALONE IN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING BETWEEN SEMESTERS

The only sound is the efficient blowing of the central air-conditioning, steady and cold like no real wind. Summer is shut out like a bad dog. Here, when you find a window, for a split second, it's like looking at a landscape by Van Gogh. They whirl down the aisles; the congregation applauds. Frankly, I am frightened. From the pulpit the bishop shows us his armpits. They are hairless like a female trapeze artist's. When he speaks, his teeth click like dice and white hosts tumble from his mouth. The people don't mind; they count it a blessing. From up on the cross, high above the altar, Christ calls to the multitude for someone to please, please scratch his nose. Twelve nuns in the front row gaze at him sweetly. One polishes a wedding band against her robe.

IN THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Somewhere in the back a nurse says a little too loudly, "I'm sick of sick people." Someone else laughs. Two old men sit calmly. Their ears forget to listen, their heads nod, their hands shake hands with the air, as if closing some final, secret deal. THE MYOPIC

He is usually most comfortable with books. He likes to climb around the insides of words, up and down letters, like a child in a jungle-gym. He is familiar with small things, and can tell you if a spider has thumbs, and how many.

He wears glasses in his public life to share in public visions, but his real life is at home, at night, after his wife and kids have gone to bed. He discards his glasses and draws the world in around him like a shawl.

He will sit for hours, legs outstretched, his feet stuck in the fog around him and examine very closely the latest detailed maps of the moon. Outside, for all he knows, a caravan of dinosaurs might be rolling on by. 43

VARIATIONS ON A THEME BY WILLIAM BLAKE: POEM FOR A THANKSGIVING DINNER

"The Tygers of Wrath are Wiser than the Horses of Instruction"

Until now we have been Horses, sensible animals worthy of respect, the sound of our hooves down the halls solid like brass-knockers on huge oak doors. But, Horses nonetheless. We have been taking people for a ride, and we hardly ever gallop anymore. And they hardly ever gallop anymore. Sitting in their saddles. We know where they want to go, but mostly we know when they want us to stop.

However, in each of our Horse-bodies lurks a Tyger like a jack-in-the-box. We have gathered together to trip each other's springs. We have left our saddles at home-noone rides us today. Already our hooves are beginning to feel like switch-blades. And our eyes, they no longer look at both sides of everything, as if life were somehow an issue.

REFLECTIONS OF A FORMER NOCTURNAL EMMISSIONIST

They come less frequently now like relatives from distant places who arrive early in the morning bringing unexpected gifts and laughing, beautiful daughters.

THE SCAR

I touch your belly half asleep.

It is still there.

I dream: A railroad track

on a green field, workmen dismantling it, tie by tie, loading the long rusted iron onto trucks. It is hot, the men sweat. Suddenly, grass pushes up through the gravel, fast, like a speeded-up movie. The workmen grow smaller, their clothes slip off their bodies and fall like shadows at their feet. The sun turns green. The naked children join hands and run in a circle, grass up to their hips. They break the circle and begin to leap-frog, one over the other, one over the other. Where they have been, the grass waves and closes.

TRANSLATIONS OF SIX

LITHUANIAN POEMS

€

BADAS

Žemē sacharino skritulēliais nuklota Ir jų pusnimis kiliai susupti. Speigas tik vailštinīja, Trupindamas geležinkelio gēgius. Bēgis krūpteli ir suspiegia.

Tarp bēgių vilkas sēdi--Ir staugia, kaip vilkas. Vilkas neēdęs. Prašo ēsti, net telegrafe vielos staugia...

Gal dabar tolimoj stoty Nemigęs telegrafistas Priima vilko telegramą, Kad jo galvoj visi varpai ūžia, Kad jo širdy bado smuikas griežia.

Antanas Rimydis

HUNGER

Sacharrine flakes blanket the ground. Drifts of snow wrap up the path. Only the frost walks about, sprinkling the railroad lines. The rails tremble and squeak.

A wolf sits between the rails and howls like only a wolf can. The wolf hasn't eaten. He cries for food--even the telegraph wires howl.

Perhaps now, in the distant station, the dozing telegraph operator receives the wolf's telegram-that in his head bells roar, that in his heart hunger's violin saws.

> Antanas Rimydis translated by Al Zolynas

NAKTIGONE

Paskutinis vežimas paplente nudardino. Naktis, kaip karininkas, žvaigždēta. Mēnuo--šaša, Lyg ordenas ant iškilmingos krūtinēs Dēmesio prašos. Jūs, mano bēriai, sarčiai, Jei jūs kalbēti mekētut, I jus aš pratarčiau Apie traktorių, Apie arimą, Apie naštą karčią...

Na, eikit užkąskit Kas žolę, kas dobilą randa, O aš, brangieji, paganysiu Jūsų žvaigždes, ménesį Ir visą šią dangišką bandą.

Antanas Rimydis

THE NIGHT HORSE-TENDER

The last wagon rattles down the road. The night is as star-studded as a general. The moon demands attention like a medal on a heroic chest. You, my bays, my dapples, if you could talk I'd speak to you about tractors, about plowing, about your heavy burdens...

Ah well, go nibble some clover. And I, my children, will tend your stars, your moon, and all this heavenly herd.

> Antanas Rimydis translated by Al Zolynas

KAMINAS

Kasryt, kai pakeli akis, Tik vieną bokštą vis regi; Ar saulėta ar dargana niūri--Tik jį, tik jį regi.

Pratįsta dūmų vēliava Juodu šešeliu pro tave, ir krinta iš po jos maži, Juodi žiedai veidan.

Pažįstami, savi žiedai--Ir Kazį, Zigmą papatai, Išeinančius kažkur tole--Į laisvę, į namus dausų šaly--

Kasryt, kai pakeli akis, Išaugantį į dangų jį regi; Ar saulēta ar dargana niūri--Savos eilēs vis lauki ten, pro jį.

Juozas Yluvis

THE CHIMNEY

Every morning you raise your eyes to the same tower-and that's all you see.

The long flag of smoke flaps black shadows over you. Black blossoms fall on your face.

You recognize these blossoms-you see Casey and Zigmunt leaving for some distant freedom.

Every morning you raise your eyes to it pointing at the sky and you wait, wait only for your own turn.

> Juozas Yluvis translated by Al Zolynas

VASAROS NAKTIES SAPNAS

Vakare, man beveik užmigus, Kai dar šviečia lempa šalia, Bet ant stalo jau miega knygos Ir medinē varlē žalia,

O kažkur apačioj, pas kaimyną, Senas laikrodis din-din-din,--Man pakvimpa pražydę kmynai, Ir jų kvapas artyn ir saldyn.

Aš matau, kaip ilsis piovējas: Aždros akys žalioj žolēj, Ir girdžiu, kaip vasaros vējas Švilpiniuoja jo skrybēlēj.

Aš matau, tartum pro rūką: Man mosuoja ranka trapi Pernai mirusio piemenuko, Meškeriojančio paupy.

Jis mane nusimaudyt kviečia, Plonas balsas šaukia mane, Ir numirēlių saulē šviečia I jo veida mano sapne.

Henrikas Radauskas

A SUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Dozing off,

the lamp still burning, my books already asleep on the bedside table....

Somewhere in the apartment beneath me the ticking of a clock rises. I smell the sweet, close smell of blossoming carraway.

I see a young boy resting after mowing hay, his eyes sky-blue against the grass. I hear the summer wind whistling through his straw hat.

I see, as if through a haze, the thin hand of the young sheepherder who drowned last year waving to me as he fishes on the river bank.

He calls after me in a thin voice to go swimming. I see the sun lighting up his dead face in my dream.

Henrikas Radauskas

translated by Al Zolynas

Aš senas vējas, ant vandenų ilgai miegojęs, Einu pro pamirštus, senus namus. Ir praveriu gelsvas užvertas langines, Ir ties suskilusiais stiklais sustojęs, Aš žvilgteriu vidun--ūmus, Ir išsigasta kambariai manęs.

Pabunda iš sapnų mergaitė, Lyg saulės spindulys atbėga prie langų. Aš senas, piltas ir nuo vandenu atėjęs, O ji--jauna, alsuoja lyg laukai įkaitę, Ir aš dribu prieš ją, aš senas vėjas....

Paulius Jurkus

I am the old wind. I have slept on water a long time. I walk through forgotten houses. I open old shutters, and pausing by broken glass, look in and frighten the empty rooms.

A girl wakes from her dream as the sun's rays glance off the window. I am old and angry and I come from the water. She is young and breathes like a warm field, and I tremble before her, me, the old wind.

APIE NASLAITE, RAGANA IR KVAULUTI

Ko berželiai liūdi? Ko nusviro šakos? Ragana beširdē Našlaitēlę plaka.

Čiulba, tai graudena Vyšnioje paukščiukai. Ragana rankelę Našlaitēlei suka...

Saulē močia verkia, Raganai pasiutus. Ar atjos ant vildo Per audras Kvailutis?

Amgelēliai tiesia Plačią, laumēs juostą, O nuo veido kraują Našlaitēlē šluosto.

Ragana ant ražo Dūmtraukyje trankos, O Našlaitē šypsos Ant Kvailučio rankų. Duokit kelią, girios, Ir išdžiūkit, liūnai. Į stiklinę pilį Grižta karaliūnai!

Stasys Laucius

ABOUT AN ORPHAN GIRL, A WITCH, AND A FOOL

Why are the birches saddened? Why do their branches droop? A heartless Witch is beating an Orphan Girl.

In the cherry trees birds cry for her. The wicked Witch twists the Orphans Girl's wrist.

The Mother Sun cries at the maddened Witch. Will the Fool, riding through storms on his wolf, arrive in time?

Angels stretch a broad rainbow across the sky, and wipe the blood from the Orphan Girl's face.

Inside the chimney, the Witch rattles around on a dry branch. The Orphan Girl smiles at the hands of the Fool. Show us the path, forests.

Dry up, swamps.

All the crown princes

have returned to the glass castle.

Stacys Laucius translated by Al Zolynas