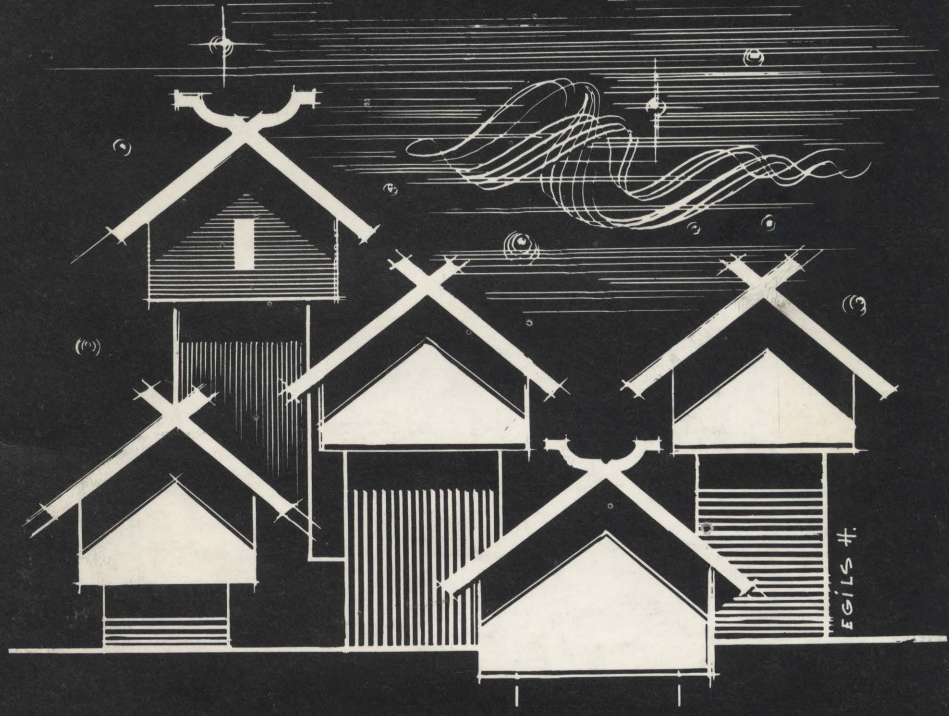


ALFREDS KALNIŅŠ

# BAŅVĒTA



EGILS 4.



# BAŅUTA

Opera 4 cēlienos  
Opera in 4 acts

Alfrēda Kalniņa mūzika  
Music by Alfreds Kalnins

Artura Krūmiņa librets  
Libretto by Arturs Kruminis

Libreta teksts 1. un 2. cēlienā pēc A. Kalniņa partitūras rokraksta, 3. un 4. cēlie-  
nā pēc M. Jansona 1950. g. pārrakstītas partitūras.

Libretto text in acts I and II from A. Kalnins' original score manuscript, acts III  
and IV from a manuscript copy by M. Jansons.

English translation and synopsis by Biruta Sūrmane

## BAŅUTA

In Latvian operatic literature *Baņuta* is considered a classic. It is the first and, so far, the most successful Latvian opera, having remained in the standard repertoire of the State Opera Theatre of Riga to this day.

Whereas Italy and France can boast of an operatic tradition of almost 400 years, Latvia's musical heritage is based primarily on an unwritten folk song tradition dating back some 2000 years, which did not join the mainstream of West European musical trends until the second half of the 19th Century. It is no wonder then, that in 1920, when the young nation's struggle for independence had barely been won, Latvia was not yet ready for an original opera and, having expected something along the lines of the popular "verissimo" style, received *Baņuta* with reservations.

The new opera surprised many. To begin with, Kalniņš was known as an organist and a composer of lyric songs, who had not shown any leanings toward the dramatic stage. Therefore, *Baņuta* is all the more remarkable for its dramatic content, flair and thorough understanding of the compositional techniques of opera.

Although Kalniņš uses folk material, particularly to underline the pagan Midsummer-night festivities in the 3rd and 4th acts, *Baņuta* is not a folk opera in the sense of *Der Freischütz* or *The Bartered Bride*. If anything, it is much closer to a romantic music drama. Kalniņš does not follow the leitmotif system to the extent that Wagner does, but relies, instead, on his musical ingenuity to connect segments of the drama through vivid symphonic episodes and several motifs, which, in various thematic transformations, appear throughout the opera. Recitatives do not follow the Italian "secco" formula, nor do they reflect Wagner's technique of giving the voices a subsidiary role to that of the orchestra. Instead, the vocal lines have a lyrical declamatory character. There are few self-contained arias, as the music seems to flow in a continuous, through-composed narrative.

One of the most unusual characteristics of *Baņuta* is the composer's extensive use of the chorus throughout the opera. As in the Greek dramas, its purpose is to comment on the action and to give advice to the protagonists.

*Baņuta* has survived several governments in Latvia and, as in Verdi's *Un Ballo in maschera*, censors have made changes in the text to accommodate the wishes of the respective regimes. For the 1937 production Kalniņš re-wrote some of the music and re-orchestrated the first two acts.

Much of this work was done while he lived in New York between 1927 and 1933. In 1940 he had to write a new finale to conform to Soviet ideology. This version, with a happy ending, in the Baroque tradition using the *deus ex machina* technique, was used in Latvia until 1979. For the first performance in the West on June 5, 1982 at Carnegie Hall in New York the original text with the tragic ending was restored and the libretto that follows reflects that New York concert form presentation.

The Carnegie Hall performance was organized by the New York Latvian Choir. The soloists were Maralin Niska, Alģis Grīgas, William Hall, Kārlis Grīnbergs, Visvaldis Gedulis, Pēteris Lielzuika, and Ilga Paups. The combined choirs and the Bronx Arts Ensemble Orchestra were conducted by Andrejs Jansons.

## BAŅUTA

**Darbības vieta:** 1. un 2. cēliens — Valguža pils  
**Place:** Acts I and II — Valgudis' castle

3. un 4. cēliens — pie Romoves  
**Acts III and IV — Romove, a holy grove**

**Darbības laiks:** Latviešu/leišu sirmā senatne  
**Time:** Latvian/Lithuanian antiquity

Valgudis, virsaitis <i>King Valgudis</i>	bass bass
Daumants, viņa dēls <i>Daumants, Valgudis' son</i>	baritons baritone
Maiga, viņa meita <i>Maiga, Valgudis' daughter</i>	mecosoprāns mezzosoprano
Vižuts <i>Vizuts</i>	tenors tenor
Baņuta <i>Banuta</i>	soprāns soprano
Zvantevaitis, Daumanta priekškarēvis <i>Zvantevaitis, leader of warriors</i>	baritons baritone
Burvis <i>Sorcerer</i>	tenors tenor
Zvalgonis <i>Zvalgonis, Master of Ceremonies</i>	tenors tenor
Krīvs <i>Priest</i>	bass bass
Krīvukrīvs <i>High Priest</i>	bass bass

Trīs vaidelotes, kāzinieki, karēivji, bērnieki, līgo bērni, dūkņas, rūķi u.c.  
*Three priestesses, wedding guests, warriors, mourners, Midsummer-night's Eve participants, faeries, gnomes, etc.*

## SATURA ATSTĀSTĪJUMS

### 1. cēliens

Virsaitis Valgudis un pils ļaudis līksmi sveic Valguža dēlu Daumantu, kas atgriežas no garāka sirojuma, atvezdams līdz līgavu Baņutu, kam jāgādā par pēcnācējiem Valguža ciltij. Baņuta pastāsta, kā, ienaidniekiem iebūkot viņas senču pili, Daumants izglābis tai dzīvību. Kāzu norisi iztraucē biedīgi kraukļa ķercieni, kas Daumantam atgādina nakti mežā, kad tas nolau-pīja daiļās Jargalas godu, atriebdamies par kādreizējā precību piedāvājuma atraidījumu. Dau-mants liek Baņutai vienai doties uz guļamkambari, aizvada arī viesus un nogrimst drūmās pārdomās, no kā viņu iztraucē Jargalas brālis Vižuts, kas slepeni iekļuvis pilī, lai atriebtu māsas godu. Sekojošā divkauja ar šķēpiem Vižuts nogalina Daumantu un aizbēg.

### 2. cēliens

Baņuta un Daumanta māsa Maiga sēro pie Daumanta šķirsta. Baņuta atstāsta baismu sapni. Ļaudis pulcējas pēdējām atvadām. Zvantevaitis apsūdz Burvi Daumanta nāvē un lemj tam nāvi sārta. Dzirdot, ka Valgudis dēla nāvē vaino Baņutu, arī Burvis, izlikdamies ieraugām Daumanta garu, uzvel vainu Baņutai un prasa to upurēt sārta. Bēru gājienam sakustoties, Daumanta vairogš nokrīt un aizprosto Baņutai ceļu, ko visi iztulko kā zīmi, ka Daumants Baņutu nevaino. Valgudis liek Baņutai zvērēt, ka viņa neiemīlēsies, iekams Daumanta slepkava nebūs atrasts un nogalināts atriebībā.

### 3. cēliens

Zāļu vakars. Ļaudis priecīgi gatavojas Jāņu svinībām, tikai Baņuta ir skumja un nespēj priecā-ties līdz Maigai, kas atklāj, ka ir iemīlējusies. Viesu pulkā Baņuta ierauga jaunekli, kas noliek sarkanu rozi uz Līgo altāra. Pēc ticējuma meitene, kas paņems rozi, piederēs zieda licējam. Baņuta paņem rozi un rūgti apraud zvērestu, kas tai liedz mīlēt. Dzirdot Baņutas žēlabas, Krīvs to atbrīvo no zvēresta līdz pusnaktij, kad atskanēs trīskārtējs tauņu signāls. Jāņu svinības turpinās. Krīvukrīvs aicina ļaudis upurēt Pērkonam. Vižuts ierauga savu rozi Baņutas matos un, atpalikdams no citiem, kas dodas uz upurvietu, dedzīgi uzrunā Baņutu.

### 4. cēliens

Mēnessgaismā Romoves birzē dejo un dzied rūki un laumiņas. Ierodas Baņuta un Vižuts, aiz-rautīgi apliecinādami viens otram patiesu mīlestību. Drīz tauņu skaņas vēsta pusnakti. Baņuta atklāj savu zvēresta saistību, un Vižuts, tikai tagad atskārdams, ka Baņuta bijusi Daumanta līgava, atzīstas, ka ir Daumanta slepkava. Abi nolemj, ka būt vienotiem nāvē ir vienīgā izeja un nodurās ar Baņutas dunci. Līgotāji, ierazdamies apsveikt Līgo dienas saullēktu, atrod nedzīvos mīlētājus un, apbērdami tos ziediem, lūdz par mīļajiem aizmigušiem.

## SYNOPSIS

### Act I

King Valgudis and his court welcome home his son Daumants, who returns from a long voyage, leading home a bride, Banuta. She is expected to produce heirs and ensure the continuation of Valgudis' clan. Banuta relates how Daumants saved her life when crusaders invaded her ancestral castle. The wedding ceremonies are disturbed by a raven croaking ominously. The raven reminds Daumants of the night in the forest when he ravished fair Yargala, who had refused his suit for marriage. Sending Banuta off to bed and dismissing the guests, Daumants remains alone, reminiscing and brooding. Yargala's brother, Vizuts, secretly enters the castle, seeking to revenge his sister's honor. They duel, Daumants is killed.

### Act II

Banuta and Daumants' sister, Maiga, mourn at Daumants' casket. People gather for a last farewell. Zvantevaitis blames the Sorcerer for Daumants' death and condemns him to perish on the pyre. The Sorcerer, pretending to see Daumants' ghost and supported by Valgudis' accusations of Banuta, puts the blame on her and asks for her sacrifice on the funeral pyre. As the funeral procession moves forward, Daumants' shield crashes to the ground blocking Banuta's path — a sign that he doesn't blame her for his death. Valgudis extracts a solemn oath from Banuta that she will not fall in love until Daumants' death has been avenged.

### Act III

Midsummernight Eve. Everyone is merry but Banuta, who is further saddened by Maiga's confession that she is in love. Among the crowd Banuta notices a youth who places a red rose on the sacrificial altar. According to tradition, the girl who picks up the rose will be his. Banuta takes the rose, bitterly lamenting the fact that the oath forbids her to love. Upon hearing Banuta's lament, a priest releases her from the oath until midnight, when trumpets will sound thrice. The festivities continue. The High Priest summons everyone to perform a sacrifice to the Thundergod. Vizuts recognizes his rose in Banuta's hair and declares his passionate love for her.

### Act IV

Gnomes and faeries sing and dance in a moonlit clearing in the holy grove at Romove. Banuta and Vizuts arrive and continue with their mutual confession of deepest love. Soon trumpets sound the signal for midnight. Banuta reveals her secret to Vizuts, who realizes her identity and confesses he killed Daumants. They agree that to be united in death is preferable to separation in life and stab their breasts with Banuta's dagger. The others, arriving on the scene to welcome the new day, find the dead lovers and ask the gods to grant them eternal peace.

# BANUTA

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## 1. cēliens

### Act I

*(Hall in Valgudis' castle. A path can be seen through the window. Valgudis sits at a table, his daughter Maiga stands behind him. Members of the household are gathered in the back of the hall.)*

#### Laudis

Tie nāk, tie nāk!  
Ai sirmajo Valgudi, skaties,  
jau līgavu kunigas ved.  
Un laimīgas dienas tev aties,  
prom, Valgudi, rūpes met!  
No tālienes līgavu cēlu,  
lūk, kunigas šodien ņem.  
Lai dievi ar Valguda dēlu!  
Lai cilti tam varenu lemj!

*(Wedding procession approaches, led by Zvalgonis, Daumants and Banuta.)*

#### Kāzinieki

Kunigam Daumantam slava!  
Kuniga līgavai slava!

#### Daumants

Pār Lietavu ērglis lidoja,  
viņš biedreni līgzdai meklēja.  
Pie jūras tas viņu atrada,  
caur gaisiem uz spārniem atnesa.  
Tēvs Valgudi, kunigas lielais,  
ja tu viņu pieņemi,  
kar apkārt tai dzintara rotu,  
to Baņutu nosauci.

#### Valgudis

Būsi tu mīlīgais mājas gars,  
saule mums ēnainā dienā,  
lēna un laipna kā pavasars,  
sirmajo Valgudi cieni.  
Lai jel ko cerēju,  
piepildās bagātā mērā.  
Cilti dod spēcīgu,  
meitiņ, to lieci sev vērā!  
Un nu nāc, nebaidies,  
droša lai tava gaita.  
Baņuta, nāc nu, noliecies,  
dzintara rota gaida.

*(Valgudis adorns Banuta with an amber necklace.)*

#### Laudis

Baņuta, Baņuta, noliecies  
dzintara rota gaida.

#### Daumants

Ko kavēties vēl, Zvalgoni!

*(Zvalgonis removes Banuta's flower wreath from her head and hangs it on Daumants' raised sword.)*

#### Zvalgonis

Ar Daumantu es tevi vienoju.

*(Daumants severs the wreath with his sword.)*

#### Daumants

Tā, kunigas,  
tavš prāts nu piepildīts:  
nu pilī mums, lūk, kunigaite.

#### Chorus

Lo, they're drawing near!  
Gray Valgudis, behold  
the prince leading home a bride.  
Happy days are ahead,  
cast off your worries, Valgudis!  
A noble bride from afar  
the prince will wed today.  
The gods be with Valgudis' son!  
Grant him a prodigious clan!

#### Wedding guests

Glory to prince Daumants!  
Glory to his bride!

#### Daumants

An eagle flew far afield  
searching a mate for his nest.  
He found her by the sea,  
carried her home on his wings.  
Father Valgudis, great king,  
if you accept her,  
adorn her with an amber necklace  
and call her: Banuta.

#### Valgudis

You'll be our kind spirit,  
sunshine on a cloudy day,  
meek and mild like lovely spring,  
always honoring gray Valgudis.  
Whatever I had hoped for  
is fulfilled in rich measure.  
You shall bear strong heirs,  
be mindful of that, may girl!  
Come closer without fear,  
step boldly.  
Come, Banuta, bend your head,  
the amber necklace awaits you.

#### Chorus

Banuta, Banuta, bend your head,  
the amber necklace awaits you.

#### Daumants

Why do you hesitate, Zvalgonis!

#### Zvalgonis

I unite you with Daumants.

#### Daumants

There, oh king,  
your will is done:  
we have a queen in the castle.

*(Daumants bows to Banuta and mingles with the guests. He sits down at the festive table and begins to eat morosely, surrounded by his warriors. Banuta remains standing shyly, then moves to Valgudis as if for protection.)*

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#### Valgudis

Baņuta!  
Tev kāzu brīdī asaras?  
Pēc tāliem mīļiem tev gan žēlabas?  
Jā, stāsti jel, kur klusi augi,  
kur pirmās dainas dziedāji,  
kā kareivjam tu ietiki,  
kad ziedam līdzināma plauki?

#### Baņuta

Aiz mežiem, aiz dziļiem  
stāv vientuļa pils,  
tur jūrmalā vilnis  
plūst debesu zils,  
un puķes tur smaržo  
un klusumā zied,  
un klausās, kā jūra  
tām teikas dzied.  
Tur meži tik dīvaini šalko,  
auži vakari miglu tur valgo ...  
klusi kad iemirdzas zvaigznītes,  
pirmās dainas tur dziedāju es.

Te parādās vīri, iekalti bruņās,  
to varenie zirgi  
grimst dumbrāja dūpās;  
kā vētra tie klāt,  
ko sargāt, ko glābt?  
Skan taures un kareivjus sauc,  
bet naidnieka pulku tik daudz ...  
Drīz nāve un apsmieklis draud ...

*(The warriors join Banuta in telling the tale.)*

Te pērkonas sāk debešos graut,  
tur Daumants glābējs mums nāca.  
Rīb bungas, grauj taures,  
kviēc dūkas, šņāc bultas,  
zviedz zirgi, vaid vīri,  
šķind šķēpi, cērt cirvji,  
un briesmas jau naidnieku baida,  
jau nāve to gaida.  
To pulkiem klāts, asinīm izmazgāts,  
kūp kaujas lauks.

#### Laudis

Lai slava, kas naidnieku kāva,  
tā stiprumu zemē plāva!  
Bet kāzas sentēvu garā lai svinam  
un līksmojamies,  
mēs sargāti Pērkonā varā.

*(A raven flies in and croaks twice. Daumants smites the table with his sword.)*

#### Daumants

Jargala!

*(clutching his sword, he runs to the door)*

Šī ķērķšana!

#### Valgudis

Banuta!  
Tears at the wedding?  
Homesick for your family?  
Tell us, where did you grow up,  
where did you sing your first songs,  
how did the warrior notice  
your flowerlike blossoming?

#### Banuta

Beyond deep woods  
a lonely castle stands,  
sky-blue waters  
lap the seashore,  
fragrant flowers  
silently bloom,  
listening to tales  
which the sea sings to them.  
There the woods rustle strangely,  
evenings weave damp mist ...  
When stars begin twinkling quietly  
there I sang my first songs.

Suddenly men appear, armorclad,  
their mighty steeds  
stomping through quagmire;  
like a whirlwind they're here,  
where's shelter and rescue?  
Trumpets sound, summoning warriors,  
but the enemy is legion ...  
Death and dishonor threaten ...

Then thunder growled in the sky,  
Daumants arrived to the rescue.  
Rumbling drums, snarling trumpets,  
squealing bagpipes, hissing arrows,  
neighing horses, moaning men,  
clanging spears, striking hatchets —  
danger terrifies the enemy,  
death is lurking nearby.  
Covered with enemy corpses  
the bloodsoaked battlefield reeks.

#### Chorus

Glory to him that slay the enemy  
and mowed him down like grass!  
Let's be merry and continue  
the ancient wedding rites,  
we're protected by the Thundergod.

#### Daumants

Yargala!

This croaking!

**Ļaudis**  
Kraukļi! Kraukļi!  
**Daumants**  
Ak, nolādēts!  
**Ļaudis**  
Ko saki tu?  
**Daumants**  
Nekā! Nekā!  
Pār mežu melni kraukļi skrien  
bariem vien, bariem vien.  
Tie eglē nometas un ķērc.  
Kraukļi! Kraukļi!  
Kam apklusāt jūs, dziedātāji?  
Kas baida jūs? Dziediet!

*(Banuta approaches Daumants, trembling)*

Jūs sievas, vediet Baņutu,  
lai atdusas no ceļa tāla.  
Tā nogurusi. Skatiet vien,  
cik kunigaite bāla, bāla.

**Baņuta**  
Un tu?  
**Daumants**  
Es pakavēšos vēl gan dažu brīdi še.

*(Women lead Banuta to the door.)*

**Baņuta**  
Jel neaizmirsti Baņutu!  
**Daumants**  
Kad mēness mežus sidrabos,  
man's gaidi, kur tu dusi.  
**Valgudis**  
Mans dēls, kas bija tā par zimi?  
**Daumants**  
Tu domā kraukļi?  
Māņi vien, es nebīstos!  
**Burvis**  
Kad kraukļi ķērc,  
tad nāve gaidāma,  
bet Pērkonš sargā kunigu.  
**Daumants**  
Pie joda, sirmgalvi, ar tenkām!  
Ko mels!  
Ha, šķiet man, kāzas svin,  
bet dziesmu vietā kraukļi ķērc!  
Jods, zibepi! Vai Daumantam  
vairs vīru nav, kas šķēpu nes?  
Tā! Skaties tad un runā vēl  
par kraukļiem, vecais nelga!  
Kraukļi! Kraukļi!

*(Sorcerer withdraws hastily, threatened by the warriors)*

**Valgudis**  
Jau mana galva noliecas  
no medus miesta salda;  
es viens, jau manim jāšķiņas  
no dēla kāzu galda.  
Kaut diena jel labi beigtos  
un nakts ar mieru šurp steigtos.

*(Valgudis leaves, leaning on attendants)*

**Chorus**  
Ravens! Ravens!  
**Daumants**  
Accursed birds!  
**Chorus**  
What're you saying?  
**Daumants**  
It's nothing!  
Black ravens fly over the woods,  
in droves they fly.  
They perch on a pine and croak.  
Ravens! Ravens!  
Why're you silent, songsters?  
What scares you? Sing out!

Women, take away Banuta,  
Let her rest from the long journey.  
She's weary. Don't you see  
how pale and wan she looks.

**Banuta**  
And you?  
**Daumants**  
I'll tarry awhile.

**Banuta**  
Do not forsake Banuta!  
**Daumants**  
When moonlight wraps the woods in silver,  
await me in your sleeping chamber.  
**Valgudis**  
My son, what omen was that?  
**Daumants**  
The ravens? Stuff and nonsense,  
they don't frighten me!  
**Sorcerer**  
When ravens croak,  
the death is near,  
'tis well the Thundergod protects the king.  
**Daumants**  
The devil take you, grayhead,  
with your tattle! Curb your tongue!  
Methinks this is a wedding,  
but ravens croak instead of songs!  
By thunder! Where are Daumants'  
brave, spearbearing men?  
Dare you to mention ravens now,  
old fool?  
Ravens! Ravens!

**Valgudis**  
My head is heavy  
from sweetest ale;  
I'm alone, it's time to leave  
my son's wedding feast.  
Let the day end well  
and the night bring peace.

**Ļaudis**  
Jau vakars vēls. Drīz mēnesstēls  
pār skuju mežiem blāvi celsies,  
un migla drīz jau izplūdīs,  
sev audus purvos smelsies.  
Lai ejam pie miera salda.  
Bet kunigas ilgi lai valda!  
Sveiks, kunigas, sveiks!  
**Daumants**  
Līdz rītam!

Tie prom.  
Visapkārt kluss.  
Vai Baņuta jau dus?  
Vai gaida tā varoni savu,  
lai dvestu:  
"Ņem mani, es tava!"  
Sie kraukļi!  
Tā bij tumša nakts,  
kā kaislas dvēsmas piezīdīta,  
kad skaistulītei Jargalei  
tās kāzu balva nolaupīta.  
Pēc Jargalas reiz Daumants prec.  
Ak Jargala, ak Jargala!  
Bet skaistulei šķiet precnieks vecs,  
tā atraida.  
Krīt meičas priekšā Daumants ceļos,  
bet Jargala: Ha, ha, es smejos:  
šis vecais nelga kunigas  
lai pieceļas!  
Un Daumants it kā odzes dzelts,  
un jaunās meičas ļauni pelts,  
lec augšā, strauji saslējies,  
aiz niknuma kā apreibis,  
gan ģīmi vienaldzībā tērpj,  
bet dusmas dziļi sirdī slēpj  
un gaida tas, līdz izdodas,  
ar Jargalu viņš kāzas mežā svin ...  
Jargaliņ!  
Tā neļaujas, kā asins tvīkst,  
bet eglē kraukļi tumsā ķērc ...  
Līdz rokās izkūst, līgo, līkst  
šis lunkanmaigais bērns!  
Es viens. Visapkārt kluss.  
Vai Baņuta jau dus?  
Es steigšos to paijāt un ieaijāt.  
Drīz mēnesis uzlēks,  
un pusnakts klāt.

*(Daumants moves to the door where he is confronted by a dark figure)*

**Vizūts**  
Te vēls un nelūgts viesis vēl.  
**Daumants**  
Man šodien mīļš ikviens.  
**Vizūts**  
Jods zin!  
**Daumants**  
Bet kam tev ģīmis drēbēs slēpts?

**Chorus**  
It's late. Soon moonlight  
will flood the pinewoods dimly,  
and fog will spread fine tissue  
drawn from the bogs and marshes.  
We'll retire now.  
But long shall our king reign!  
Hail to thee, king!  
**Daumants**  
Till morning!

*(Guests leave, Daumants alone)*

They're gone.  
Silence all around.  
Is Banuta asleep?  
Does she await her hero  
to whisper:  
"Beloved, I'm yours!"  
Those ravens!  
It was a dark night  
filled with smoldering passion  
when fair Yargala  
was robbed of her wedding-prize.  
Once upon a time  
Daumants fair Yargala wooed.  
Yargala deemed him too old  
and she refused his suit.  
Daumants kneeled before her,  
but Yargala laughed: Ha, ha!  
Let the foolish old king  
arise!  
As if stung by a viper,  
mocked by the cruel maid,  
Daumants jumped up promptly,  
intoxicated with rage,  
with indifferent mien,  
hiding anger deep in his heart,  
he waited for the moment  
when he'd surprise fair Yargala  
in the forest.  
She resists, desire quickens,  
but ravens croak in the dark ...  
Until she sways, melts and yields,  
the lovely, lissom maid.  
I'm alone. Silence all around.  
Is Banuta asleep?  
I'll caress and lull her to sleep.  
Soon the moon will rise  
and midnight strike.

**Vizūts**  
Here's a late and unbid guest.  
**Daumants**  
Today everyone is welcome.  
**Vizūts**  
Who knows!  
**Daumants**  
But why're you hiding your face?

**Vižuts**

Daumant! Vai tev gan nepazīstams es?

**Daumants**

Jau tumšs. Var būt, ka pirmo reiz ...

**Vižuts**

Varbūt! Es biju aizkavēts  
aiz dumbbrājiem un akliem mežiem  
pie tevis agrāk tikt.

**Daumants**

Nu beidz un saki man, ko gribi?

**Vižuts**

Daumant, atceries, tas biji tu,  
kas Jargalu,  
kas māsu manu piesmēji?

*(Vižuts removes his disguise, Daumants grasps his sword)*

**Daumants**

Pie Anafjela ļauniem gariem!

Tu esi Vižuts?

**Vižuts**

Jā.

**Daumants**

Ha, ha! Jā, klausies, Vižut zēn,  
te Daumants,  
Valguda un Redas dēls,  
te vecais nelga kunigas  
še pats,  
kuņš rozīt' noplūca,  
ha, ha, ha, ha!

**Vižuts**

Ai Pikol, jel dzirdi,  
ko Vižuts izlūdzas:  
Lai valstības vārti  
drīz naidniekam atdarās,  
lai mūžam kā ēna  
bez saules tas kļīst,  
no Dangusa izstumts  
tumsā lai nīkst!

**Daumants**

Ai Pikol, kad vāle  
man rokā paceļas,  
tad naidnieka galva  
lai drupatās sašķeļas.  
Dod rokai tu spēku,  
ne vālei būs plīst!  
Lai naidnieks nolādēts  
tumsā lai nīkst!

*(They confront each other and in turn tap the opponent's shield with their swords)*

**Abi**

Lai tad!

*(They fight. The torchlight goes out. The struggle continues in darkness.)*

**Daumants**

Vai man!

**Vižuts**

Tas pārvarēts!

**Daumants**

Lai nolādēts!

*(There is the sound of a heavy tumble)*

**Vižuts**

Daumants! Don't you know me?

**Daumants**

It's dark. Perchance I've seen you before?

**Vižuts**

Perchance! I was hindered  
by swamps and dense woods  
to arrive before now.

**Daumants**

Go on, tell me what you want!

**Vižuts**

Daumants, remember, it was you  
who dishonored Yargala,  
my sister!

**Daumants**

Hell's evil spirits!

You're Vizuts?

**Vizuts**

Indeed.

**Daumants**

Ha, ha! Listen, my boy,  
here's Daumants,  
Valgudis' and Reda's son,  
old fool of a king,  
I'm the one  
who plucked the dewy rose,  
Ha, ha, ha, ha!

**Vizuts**

Oh Thundergod, hark  
what Vizuts begs of you:  
Let the gates of the kingdom  
soon open to my enemy,  
let him forever, shadowlike,  
roam without sunlight,  
banished from the world  
perish in darkness!

**Daumants**

Oh Thundergod, when the cudgel  
is in my hand,  
let my enemy's head  
be smashed to pieces.  
Strengthen the arm,  
don't let the cudgel split!  
Let my accursed enemy  
perish in darkness!

**Both**

Let's begin!

**Daumants**

Alas!

**Vizuts**

He's vanquished!

**Daumants**

Damnation!

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**Vižuts**

Tu, Jargala, nu atriebta!

**Ļaudis**

Kāds troksnis te?

Te kunigas guļ asinīs.

Viņš beigts!

Kādas šausmas!

*(Banuta enters and falls prostrate upon the corpse)*

**Banuta un ļaudis**

Mans/Mūsu kunigs beigts!

\* \* \*

**2. cēliens**

*(Hall in Valgudis' castle. Daumants' casket on a dais. His heavy shield hangs over the entrance. Banuta alone.)*

**Banuta**

“Kad mēness mežus sidrabos,  
man's gaidi, kur tu dusi.”  
Daumant, tu auksts un nobālis!  
Kam nāvē klusi?  
Bij nākt man līdz caur muklājiem  
uz svešu, tālu pusi,  
Daumant, lai, mani atstājis,  
nu gulētu klusi?

**Maiga**

Ak posts un nelaime!  
Lūk, jauna šķēpa veikts,  
dus kunigas  
tur nāves gultā bāls,  
un sirmais tēvs,  
sāpju liekts un laužts,  
jau trešo dienu  
negrib redzēt sauli lecam.  
Un viņas gaužās asaras  
kā uguns lāses sirdī deg.  
Jel neraudi, Banuta!

*(entering)*

**Banuta**

Tu, Maiga?

**Maiga**

Kā nobālis tavs mīļais vaigs!

**Banuta**

Jau trešo reizi saule lēca,  
kopš jauna roka viņu šķīra  
un veda turp, kur tikai ēnas mīt;  
trīs naktis jau,  
un beidzamajā sapnis ...

**Maiga**

Jel stāsti to un sirdi atvieglo!

**Banuta**

Bij rīta stundā rasa valga,  
jau gaisma svīda, blāzmota,  
jau mežā modās viegla šalka,  
jau plūda migla bālgana.  
Pēc tumšas nakts pusnomodā  
es mocījos ar sapņiem baigiem,  
te jutu, man pār karstiem vaigiem  
kā lēna liesma pārskrēja;

**Vizuts**

Yargala, you're avenged now!

**Chorus**

What was that noise?  
Our king lies in a pool of blood.  
He's dead!  
What horror!

**Banuta and chorus**

My/Our king is dead!

**Act II****Banuta**

“When moonlight wraps the woods in silver  
await me in your sleeping chamber.”  
Daumants, you're so cold and pale!  
Why are you silent in death?  
Did I follow you across muddy swamps  
to a strange distant land,  
Daumants, so you'd forsake me  
and lie so silently?  
**Maiga**  
Oh misery and misfortune!  
Vanquished by an evil spear  
the pale king  
rests on his death bed,  
while his gray father  
crushed by sorrow  
for the third day  
ignores the sunrise.  
The sun's bitter tears  
sear his heart like liquid flame.  
Do not weep, Banuta!

**Banuta**

Is it you, Maiga?

**Maiga**

How pale is your dear face!

**Banuta**

Thrice the sun has risen  
since an evil arm severed him from us  
and led him to where shadows dwell;  
three nights have passed,  
and a nightmare ...

**Maiga**

Speak and unburden your heart!

**Banuta**

The morning air was damp with dew,  
a glowing dawn was breaking,  
a gentle breeze woke in the woods,  
and mist was palely flowing.  
Half waking after the dark night,  
tormented by dread dreams,  
I felt a slow and gentle flame  
my burning cheeks caress;

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tā lejup man uz krūtīm slīka,  
tā degdama kā purpurs tvīka ...  
Man elpa strauji aizrāvās,  
jau liesma gaiši iedegās,  
tās smailā mēle krūtīs griezās,  
sirds drebēdama pretīm sniedzās ...  
Jau augšup līdinājos es,  
zem kājām tālu zeme zuda,  
sirds bezgalīgu laimi juta.  
Jau tuvu māja zvaigznītes.  
Te balss man ausīs sitās žēla, žēla,  
un dūmi visu aizsedza,  
vēl liesmas stars kā blāzma vēla,  
ar viņš tad dūmos noslāpa.  
Es atgīdos un redzēju ar šausmām,  
ka lejā kunigam starp ozoliem  
tā kaŗa ļaudis cirta sārtu.

**Maiga**

Banuta, ak nē, nē jel, nē!  
Viss tikai murgi!  
Tava sirds pēc mīlestības laimes tvīka,  
bet laime, lūk, kā ēna nīka.

*(Maiga leads Banuta away while funeral guests enter.)*

**Maiga**

Nāc, nāc man līdz,  
jau jaužu bari lasās,  
un dobji atskan bērņu dziesma.

**Ļaudis**

Tev dziesmu pēdējo mēs dziedam,  
tev kausu pēdējo mēs dzeŗam,  
lai ceļā tev tālajā saule spīd,  
līdz ieeji valstī, kur ēnas mīt.  
Tev dziesmu pēdējo mēs dziedam.

*(Exeunt Maiga and Banuta. Two warriors stand honor guard at the entrance while Zvantevaitis enters and approaches the casket.)*

**Zvantevaitis**

Kur ir tas spēks, kas tavu roku  
nesen vēl kaujā valdīja?  
Tur guli tu, un vīra krūti  
tev ļauna vara skaldīja.  
Bet simtreiz gaišāk sārtam nu  
starp ozolbirzēm liesmot būs.  
To solu tev, ka ļaunais darbs  
ar liesmu nāvi maksāts kļūs.

*(turning to his warriors who have assembled by the door)*

Vai gatavs sārts?

**Kaŗavīri**

Viņš krauts līdz debesīm.

**Zvantevaitis**

Būs atriebt kunigu!

**Ļaudis**

Vai! Nāvi, nāvi, vainīgam!

**Zvantevaitis**

Lai ievēd Burvi!

*(two warriors lead in the distraught Sorcerer)*

Ir velta visa liegšanās,  
darbs padarīts,

it sank down on my bosom and  
there glowed like royal purple ...  
I caught my breath in terror,  
the flame was leaping high,  
its tapered tongue my bosom pierced,  
my heart was all atremble ...  
Now I was floating upward,  
the earth beneath me waned,  
my heart felt everlasting bliss.  
The stars were twinkling close.  
I heard a sad lamenting voice,  
then smoke enveloped all,  
a flickering flame, like evening glow,  
was smothered by the fumes.  
I started up and saw with horror:  
below in the oak grove the warriors  
were piling up the funeral pyre.

**Maiga**

Banuta, oh no, oh no!  
'twas but a nightmare!  
Your heart yearned for love's happiness,  
which faded like a shadow, alas!

**Maiga**

Come with me,  
already mourners are gathering,  
singing the funeral dirge.

**Chorus**

We sing to you our last lament,  
we drink to you the final toast,  
let the sun shine on your long journey  
to the kingdom where shadows dwell.  
We sing to you our last lament.

**Zvantevaitis**

Where's the vigor guiding your arm  
in the battle not long ago?  
Now you're at rest, and your manly breast  
was sundered by evil force.  
A hundredfold brighter  
the pyre shall burn in the oak grove.  
I vow to you that the evil deed  
shall be revenged by death in the flames.

Is the pyre ready?

**Warriors**

It's piled up sky-high.

**Zvantevaitis**

The king shall be revenged!

**Chorus**

Death, death to the culprit!

**Zvantevaitis**

Bring in the Sorcerer!

Any denial is futile,  
the deed is done,

un ne bez tavas ziņas.  
Kuŗš bija gan, kas kāzu dienā  
tik jauki mācēja par kraukļiem stāstīt:  
"Tad nāve gaidāma ..."  
Bet nu ar tumšo varu drīz beigts,  
tev jādeg, jādeg sārtā līdz!

**Burvis**

Jel pataupat mani!

**Zvantevaitis**

Ja pastāsti, kuŗš bija tas,  
kas kunigu turp vadīja,  
kur bālās ēnas klusi mīt?  
Nu teic, varbūt, ka tevi žēlojam.  
Vēl laiks, vēl laiks!  
Jel zīlē, Burvi, nu,  
kam būs to ceļā pavadīt.  
Jau gaida sārts, un viņa ēna  
sev prasa smagu upuri.

*(Enter Valgudis, leaning on his attendant. A women's choir follows.)*

**Valgudis**

Mans dēls, mans vienīgais!

**Sievieŗu koris**

Vaimanā, vaimanā, Lietava!  
Nava vairs varoŗa kuniga.  
Ceļā viņš dosies drīz tālajā,  
bālajo ēnu valstībā.

**Valgudis**

Tā beidzas cilts mana ...  
Ak kauns, ak kauns!  
Te senču pilī, kāzu brīdī ...  
Kauns! Kauns!

**Zvantevaitis**

Mans kunigas!

Pret burvībām nav mūsu asmens trīŗis;  
to nakti nomodā bij mūsu acs,  
bet nemanījām it nekā,  
līdz ļaudis še sāka troksni celt.  
Tik Burvis var vainīgs būt,  
un ka tas tiešām tā,  
to pati dusmu pilnā debess rāda,  
jau dienas pusē ozoldebeŗi  
ceļ smagi zibens pilnās galvas  
un prasa Burvi sodīt.  
Kunigas!

To lēmām uguns sārtā ziedot!

**Valgudis**

Es sirms un vecs un salicis,  
jau dienas gurdas skaitu.  
Drīz, Valgudi, drīz aizmigsies,  
tad pietrūks tavu vaidu.  
Bet tava cilts, reiz slavēna,  
ar tevi tā nu beigsies,  
kad tava ēna vientuļa  
būs bālās nāves veikta.

**Ļaudis**

Cik baigi! Spiedīgs gaiss —  
Viss kluss, viss kluss!  
Pie apvārŗņa mākoņi bieŗēt sāk,

and not without your counsel.  
Who was it on the wedding day  
talked so glibly about ravens:  
"Then death is near ..."  
But now the evil spell will end,  
you'll also burn on the pyre.

**Sorcerer**

Do spare me!

**Zvantevaitis**

If you reveal who it was  
who dispatched our king  
to the silent dwelling of pale shades!  
Speak, we'll spare you, perchance,  
there's still time!  
Speak, Sorcerer, whose fate should be  
to accompany him on the long journey?  
The pyre is waiting, and the evil deed  
demands a great sacrifice.

**Valgudis**

My one and only son!

**Women's choir**

Weep, Lithuania!  
Your heroic king is no more!  
He's embarking on a long journey  
to the kingdom of pale shades.

**Valgudis**

Thus ends my clan ...  
For shame, for shame!  
Here at the ancestral castle, at a wedding ...  
Shame! Shame!

**Zvantevaitis**

My king!

Our swords aren't inured to sorcery;  
our eyes were alert that night,  
but we didn't notice anything  
until the servants raised a clamor.  
The Sorcerer alone must be guilty,  
and that it's so  
is attested by the scornful skies,  
dark clouds in the east  
are streaked with lightning,  
demanding punishment for the Sorcerer.  
Our king!

We resolved to sacrifice him on the pyre!

**Valgudis**

I'm gray and old and stooping,  
my days pass wearily.  
Soon, Valgudis, you'll sleep forever  
and lament no more.  
And your once famous clan  
will end with you,  
when your lonely self  
will be conquered by pale death.

**Chorus**

How dreadful! The air so sultry —  
All is calm, all is calm!  
Clouds are amassing,



tie ceļas, met zibeņus,  
 surpu tie nāk;  
 mums Pērkons lai žēlīgs!  
**Banuta**  
 Uz augšu negaiss vāridamies kāpj,  
 man sirdī nospiedoši, baigi!  
 Mans mīļots tēvs!  
**Valgudis**  
 Ko grib šī sievietē?  
**Banuta**  
 Man's neatstum, es tava Banuta!  
**Valgudis**  
 Tu Banuta! Prom, prom!  
**Banuta**  
 Ko dzirdu es?  
 Vai tā vēl tava balss?  
 Tā agrāk skanēja tik mīļi! ...  
**Valgudis**  
 Prom! Prom!  
**Banuta**  
 Mans tēvs!  
**Valgudis**  
 Kaut mūžam tevis neredzētu  
 vairs mana acs!  
**Banuta**  
 Ko noziegusies es?  
**Valgudis**  
 Ā, svešniece, turp skaties,  
 tur viņš!  
 Mans lāsts lai nāk pār tevi.  
**Banuta**  
 Tēvs!  
**Valgudis**  
 Es nolādu to pirmo brīdi,  
 kad kāju namā cēli tu!  
 Es nolādu šo laika sprīdi,  
 ar tevi kopā dzīvotu!  
 Es lādu tavus senčus kapā,  
 es lādu tevi mūžīgi!  
 Ar tevi cilts man ņemta tapa,  
 tu nāvi līdzī atnesi!  
**Burvis**  
 Jel skatat, jel redzat!  
**Ļaudis**  
 Ko runā, tu Burvi?  
**Burvis**  
 Pie sienas tur ēnā  
 tur bija ...  
**Ļaudis**  
 Tur Daumanta gars!  
 Tur Daumants!  
**Burvis**  
 Daumanta gars!

*(Everyone is shocked, Zvantevaitis draws his sword.)*

**Valgudis**  
 Tam prasi! To jautā! Jel skaties!  
**Burvis**  
 Viņš rāda, met roku,  
 viņš pazūd.

they grow, flash lightning  
 and approach;  
 Thundergod, have mercy on us!  
**Banuta**  
 A seething storm is brewing,  
 my heart is filled with dread!  
 My dearest father!  
**Valgudis**  
 What's this woman want of me?  
**Banuta**  
 Do not reject me, I'm your Banuta!  
**Valgudis**  
 You're Banuta? Be off!  
**Banuta**  
 What do I hear?  
 Is it still your voice?  
 It once was filled with love! ...  
**Valgudis**  
 Be off! Be off!  
**Banuta**  
 Father!  
**Valgudis**  
 I wish I'd never  
 see you again!  
**Banuta**  
 What have I done?  
**Valgudis**  
 Oh, you intruder, look yonder,  
 there he is!  
 Be accursed!  
**Banuta**  
 Father!  
**Valgudis**  
 Cursed be the moment  
 when you stepped over my threshold!  
 Cursed the time  
 spent together with you!  
 Cursed be your ancestors in their graves,  
 be accursed yourself in all eternity!  
 Because of you my clan perished,  
 you've brought death with you!  
**Sorcerer**  
 Behold, behold!  
**Chorus**  
 What have you to say, Sorcerer?  
**Sorcerer**  
 By the wall, in the shadow,  
 there was ...  
**Chorus**  
 It's Daumants' spirit!  
 It's Daumants!  
**Sorcerer**  
 Daumants' spirit!  
**Valgudis**  
 Ask him! Question him! Look at him!  
**Sorcerer**  
 He's pointing, he's beckoning,  
 he's gone.

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*(The mourners have split into two groups, forming an aisle with Banuta and the Sorcerer at opposite ends.)*

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Viņš meta, viņš rādīja ... tā!  
*(Sorcerer points at Banuta)*  
 He gave a sign, he pointed ... thus!  
**Banuta**  
 Ko dzirdu es?  
 Kāds šausmu brīd's!  
 Man nāvē būtu jāiet līdz?  
 Vai Daumant, tā sargāji apsmieklū,  
 lai sārtā un liesmām es sadegtu?  
*(she runs to Valgudis)*  
 Jel nelādi, bet glāb!  
**Valgudis**  
 Lai dievi dod  
 tev vieglu nāvi uguns sārtā!  
**Ļaudis**  
 Tā ir, tā ir, tam notikt būs!  
**Zvantevaitis**  
 Tu šaubies?  
**Banuta**  
 Kā es nāvi ienīstu!  
**Ļaudis**  
 Bet atminies, kā solījies  
 tu viņam vienam piederēt?  
**Banuta**  
 Viņš beigts,  
 un nāve visas saites rauj!  
**Ļaudis**  
 Kā Pērkons dusmu balsi grauj,  
 tam notikt būs, tā Daumants grib.  
**Banuta**  
 Vai man! Teic, Daumant, teic,  
 ka negribi,  
 lai dūmi mani liesmām rij!  
**Ļaudis**  
 Kā Pērkons, dusmu pildīts, krāc,  
 stāv nelokāms tā mūžīgs prāts!  
*(Valgudis impatiently signs to Zvantevaitis)*  
**Zvantevaitis**  
 Nāc, Banuta, uz nāvi sataisies!  
**Banuta**  
 Jau mirt? Un mīlestība? Lai...e?  
**Ļaudis**  
 Uz sārta to, uz sārta!  
**Banuta**  
 Daumant, šai šausmu brīdī  
 mani dzirdi!  
**Ļaudis**  
 Prom, prom, ko gaidāt?  
**Banuta**  
 Mani dzirdi!  
**Ļaudis**  
 Uz sārta to! Prom!  
**Banuta**  
 Jel dzirdi! Ak Daumant, Daumant!  
**Valgudis**  
 Drīzi vediet to!  
**Banuta**  
 What do I hear?  
 How dreadful!  
 I should follow him in death?  
 Did you protect my honor, Daumants,  
 to let me perish on the pyre?  
 Don't curse me, save me!  
**Valgudis**  
 May the gods grant you  
 an easy death on the pyre!  
**Chorus**  
 So be it, such is your destiny!  
**Zvantevaitis**  
 You're wavering?  
**Banuta**  
 How I despise death!  
**Chorus**  
 Remember, you pledged  
 to belong to him only!  
**Banuta**  
 He's dead,  
 and death rends all ties!  
**Chorus**  
 Thunder growls with angry voice,  
 so be it, it's Daumants' will.  
**Banuta**  
 Woe is me! Speak Daumants,  
 say you won't allow  
 smoky flames to devour me!  
**Chorus**  
 The Thundergod roars angrily,  
 his eternal will is steadfast!  
**Zvantevaitis**  
 Come, Banuta, prepare for death!  
**Banuta**  
 To die so soon? And love? And happiness?  
**Chorus**  
 Take her to the pyre!  
**Banuta**  
 Daumants, hear me  
 at this dreadful moment!  
**Chorus**  
 Let's away with you!  
**Banuta**  
 Listen to me!  
**Chorus**  
 To the pyre, be off!  
**Banuta**  
 Listen to me, oh Daumants!  
**Valgudis**  
 Lead her away quickly!

**Laudis**  
Uz sārtu, uz sārtu!  
**Banuta**  
Dzirdi! Dzirdi!  
*(A flash of lightning. Daumants' shield crashes to the ground, blocking the exit. Banuta runs to the casket.)*

**Banuta**  
Daumant, Daumant!  
**Laudis**  
Kā vētra šņac un pērkonš grauj!  
Kā saudzē Daumants Banutu!  
**Banuta**  
Mans kunigas, nesen tu mani glābi kaunā,  
kad ienaidnieki uzmācās.  
Ar' tagad šinī brīdī jaunā,  
kur nāve man jau rēgojas,  
teic, Daumant, teic,  
ko lai es dodu,  
kā man lai tevi algot būs?  
Cik vien es spēju, ēnai rodu,  
viss simtkārtīgi maksāts kļūs.  
**Valgudis**  
Es vecs, un kunigas vēl neatriebts!  
**Banuta**  
Aiz pateicības sirds man kūst!  
Teic, kā lai Daumants algots kļūst!  
**Valgudis**  
Nav zināms viņa slepkava,  
tas Lietuvā vēl dzīvs!  
**Banuta**  
Pus pasaules es milēt gribu,  
ja prasāt manu mīlestību.  
**Valgudis**  
Tavs vārds ir teikts!  
Tu gribi maksāt?  
**Banuta**  
Gribu!  
**Valgudis**  
Tad zvēri atriebt kunigu!  
**Banuta**  
Pie viņa ēnas: visu, visu!  
**Valgudis**  
Tas nav tas vārds: "Es zvēru!"  
**Banuta**  
Jā, visu, jā!  
**Valgudis**  
"Zvēru!"  
**Banuta**  
Jā, es zvēru!  
**Laudis**  
Tavu zvērestu dzird Lietava  
un tās augstie un varenie garī!  
**Valgudis**  
Un zvēri vēl, ka nemīlēsi  
tu cita vīra Lietuvā,  
līdz kuniga tu neatriebi,  
līdz nebūs kritis slepkava!

*(Valgudis hands a dagger to Banuta)*

**Chorus** 16  
To the pyre!  
**Banuta**  
Listen to me!

**Banuta**  
Daumants, Daumants!  
**Chorus**  
How the storm howls and thunder growls!  
How Daumants has mercy on Banuta!  
**Banuta**  
My king, recently you protected my honor  
when enemy troops intruded.  
Thus also at this dreadful moment,  
when I was facing death,  
say, therefore, Daumants,  
what shall I offer,  
how shall I repay you?  
Whatever I can do for your memory,  
I'll pay a hundredfold.  
**Valgudis**  
I'm old, and the king not revenged!  
**Banuta**  
My heart overflows with gratitude!  
Speak, what shall I do for Daumants!  
**Valgudis**  
His murderer isn't known,  
he's still alive in Lithuania!  
**Banuta**  
I'd love half the world  
if love is required of me!  
**Valgudis**  
You have spoken!  
Are you ready to pay?  
**Banuta**  
I'm ready!  
**Valgudis**  
Then swear to avenge the king!  
**Banuta**  
By his memory: I'll do anything!  
**Valgudis**  
You're not saying: "I swear!"  
**Banuta**  
Yes, anything!  
**Valgudis**  
"I swear!"  
**Banuta**  
Yes, I swear!  
**Chorus**  
Your oath is heard by Lithuania  
and her high and mighty spirits!  
**Valgudis**  
And swear again that you won't love  
another man in Lithuania  
until you avenge the king,  
until the assassin is slain!

**Laudis**  
Pie Pērkona, kas gaisus skalda,  
pie ienaidīgā Pīkola,  
pie Dangusa, kur tēvu ēnas,  
pie ozolbirzēm Romovē!  
**Banuta**  
Es zvēru!  
**Laudis**  
Banuta, celies! Meklē slepkavu!  
Lūko kunigu atriebtu!  
Dzenā slepkavu Lietuvā,  
nokauj, ja satiec, pat svētnīcā!  
Romoves birze ziedus kad veļ,  
asmenis tavs lai asinis dzer!  
**Valgudis un vecākie**  
Zini, ja zvēra nepildīsi,  
dievu dusmību iemantosi:  
mūžam kā ēnai tev tumsībā nīkt,  
mūžam pēc Dangusa saules tvīkt!  
**Visi**  
Meklē, jel meklē slepkavu!  
Lūko kunigu atriebtu!  
Romoves birze ziedus kad veļ,  
asmenis tavs lai asinis dzer!  
Pēdējais gods kunigam dots!

*(The casket is being borne away to the pyre.)*

\* \* \*

### 3. cēliens

*(Afternoon before Midsummernight Eve. Preparation for the festivities are underway. In the background an ancient oak-tree with a sacrificial altar beneath its branches.)*

**Meitenes (aiz skatuves)**  
Visu gadu dziesmas krāju, līgo,  
Jāņa dienu gaidīdama, līgo!  
**Puiši**  
Dzi, meičas jaunu dziesmu sāk!  
Mums rādas, viņas šurpu nāk!  
Tad paslēpsimies nu, vai tā,  
un pārsteigsim tās ātrumā!  
Nu tikai viegli, ātri prom,  
lai vēlāk katris savu ron!

**Meitenes (tuvāk)**  
Nu atnāca Jāņa diena, līgo,  
Nu dziesmiņas jādzieda, līgo!  
*(enter girls with flower wreaths and several older men who've already had a drop too much)*

Pieci gadi ganos gāju, līgo!  
Pelnīj' pieci kažociņi, līgo!  
Kā puišiem darbi negrib veikties!  
Tie domā: kālab pārāk steigties!

**Chorus** 17  
By Thunder who splits the air,  
by malicious Pihcol,  
by Dangus and your ancestors' shades,  
by the oak groves at Romove!  
**Banuta**  
I swear!  
**Chorus**  
Banuta, rise up! Pursue the assassin!  
Seek to avenge the king!  
Hunt the assassin throughout Lithuania,  
slay him, though you meet in a sanctuary!  
When flowers burst into bloom in Romove  
let your dagger's blade drink blood!  
**Valgudis and Elders**  
Know this: if you break your vow,  
you'll reap the wrath of the gods:  
you'll pine away in eternal darkness,  
forever yearning for Dangus' sunlight!  
**Chorus**  
Pursue the assassin!  
Seek revenge for the king!  
When flowers burst into bloom in Romove  
let your dagger's blade drink blood!  
We render our last homage to the king!

### Act III

**Girls (off-stage)**

All year round I gathered songs, leego,  
waiting for Midsummernight, leego! (\*)

**Fellows**

Hark, the girls have started another song!  
It seems they're coming this way.  
Let's hide quickly  
and give them a surprise!  
Let's away quickly,  
later each one can pick his own.

*(fellows hide)*

**Girls (approaching)**

Midsummernight is here at last, leego,  
it's time to sing all the songs, leego!

For five years I herded cows, leego,  
earning five fine coats, leego!  
The fellows haven't accomplished much!  
They're thinking: what's the rush!

(\*) Ligo (lee-go): characteristic refrain of traditional Midsummernight folksongs. In the context of this opera, Ligo is also the name of a deity, the God of Love.



Mīlību lai kopjam ar visiem, līgo,  
svētīs mūs tad Līgo Dievis, līgo!

Let's love one another,  
the gods will give blessing!

20

*(gradually leaving the scene)*

“Paldies” saku māmulīnai, līgo,  
ka Jānīti vārdu lika, līgo!  
Kad atnāca Jāņa diena, līgo,  
visi mani daudzinaja, līgo!

I thank my mother  
for naming me John,  
when John's Day (\*) arrives  
everyone proclaims my name.

*(enter Banuta)*

**Banuta**  
Tur jautras tautas laimē dzied.  
Teic, Banuta, kur tava laime?  
Kam neesi, kur līgo saime;  
drīz, dziesmām skanot, iesāks diet ...  
Tēvs Valgudi, kam ļaunais vārds,  
ko, ejot manim pakāļ, sauci:  
“Es tevi nelādu, tavs zvērests  
nu dien' un nakti būs tavs lāsts!”

**Banuta**  
The merry folk sing happily.  
Say, Banuta, where is your happiness?  
Why aren't you with the jolly crowd?  
The dancing will begin soon ...  
Father Valgudis, why such harsh words,  
flung after me upon leaving:  
“I don't condemn you, but your oath  
will now condemn you day and night!”

*(sitting down on a bench)*

Vairs spēku nav, tie aprūkstas  
kā upīte vasaras svelmē.  
Ak, Banuta nelaimīgā!  
Būt labāk tev dziļjūras dzelmē!

I've no strength left, it subsides  
like a river in the heat of summer.  
Oh, unfortunate Banuta!  
Better to be buried under the deep sea!

*(Three priestesses slowly cross the stage)*

**Vaidelotes**  
Praurimas kalpones, vaidelotes ...

**Priestesses**  
Praurima's handmaidens, priestesses ...

**3. vaidelote**  
Kā Līgo altārs puķēm vīts!

**Third priestess**  
Behold the flowers on the altar!

**2. vaidelote**  
Nāc, nāc, nāc, nāc!

**Second priestess**  
Come along!

**1. vaidelote**  
Vai neredz mūs?

**First priestess**  
Won't they see us?

**3. vaidelote**  
Jel nē! Neviena nav!

**Third priestess**  
No, there's no one!

**Visas**  
Cik skaists, cik skaists!  
Ak!

**All**  
How lovely, how lovely!  
Oh!

*(they notice Banuta and continue on their way)*

Praurimas kalpones, vaidelotes!

Praurima's handmaidens, priestesses!

**Banuta**  
Tās bija vaidelotes!  
Ar' viņām aizliegts mīlēt!  
Te Līgo altārs jauks un daijš,  
te mūžam smaidošs Dieva vaigs.  
Kaut ziediņu vienu es plūkšu,  
tik mazuliet Līgo es lūgšu ...

**Banuta**  
Those were priestesses!  
They're also forbidden to love!  
Leego's altar so lovely and fair,  
here he forever smiles.  
I'll pick just one flower  
and offer a short prayer ...

*(Maiga enters, hides her face in the flowers adorning the altar, then rises all aglow.)*

**Maiga**  
Mans mīļais Dievs, mans labais Dievs,  
mans Līgo mīlestības Dievs!  
Ai Banuta, es mīlu!

**Maiga**  
Oh, dear, kind God,  
oh, festive God of Love!  
Banuta, I'm in love!

**Banuta**  
Maiga! Maiga!

**Banuta**  
Maiga, Maiga!

**Maiga**

Viņš apkampa mani un skūpstīja mani  
un spieda mani pie sirds!  
Viņš glaudīja mani  
un paijāja mani  
kā vakara vējiņš silts ...  
Tā acs tik zila kā debesu telts,  
tā pieri apēno cirtu zelts.  
Balss maiga kā vēja šalka,  
skūpsts — vēsmiņa silta uz vaiga.  
Teic, Banuta, mīlēt, mīlēt!  
Nē, nē!  
Es tālu, zūd palejā pasaule!

**Maiga**

He embraced me and kissed me  
and held me to his heart!  
He caressed me  
and petted me  
like the mild evening breeze ...  
His eye so blue like the sky up high,  
his forehead shadowed by golden curls.  
His voice so mild like the rustling breeze,  
his kiss so tender on my cheek.  
Ah, Banuta, to love, to love!  
No, no!  
I'm so remote from the rest of the world!

*(becoming aware of Banuta's mood)*

Bet, mīļā, kālab tu tik bāla?  
Vai zēl tev manas laimes, Banuta?

But, dearest, why're you so pale?  
Do you begrudge my happiness, Banuta?

**Banuta**  
Ej, atstāj mani vienu!

**Banuta**  
Go away, leave me alone!

**Maiga**

**Maiga**

Es eju!

I'm going!

**Banuta**

**Banuta**

Maiga!

Maiga!

**Banuta**

**Banuta**

Vai kokles stīga, pušu rauta,  
vēl iespēj dziesmu jūrā smelt?  
Vai lapa, rudens vēju traukta,  
vēl kādreiz var no jauna zelt?  
Tā sirds, ja mīlestība liegta,  
kā ēnā zieds bez saules nīkst,  
un ilgošanās neaizsniegta  
kā akmens dvē's les dzelmē slīgst.

Can the harp string, after it's snapped,  
still sing a song as before?  
Can a leaf, borne away by autumn winds,  
flourish again in the spring?  
The heart, when it's denied love,  
pines away like a flower without sun,  
and hopeless yearning  
weighs like a stone on the soul.

**Maiga**

**Maiga**

Kad kokles dziesma brīnumjauka  
sāk dziļā skaņu jūrā smelt,  
un ilgošanās lēni rauga  
uz dzidro laimi spārnus celt.  
Tad sirds, ja mīlestība sniegta,  
kā sārta roze saulē tvīkst,  
un laimes pārpilnības liekta,  
gavilēs tā kā viņos slīgst.

When the harp's string wondrously  
sings richest melody,  
my longing tries softly  
lifting its wings to happiness.  
The heart, when it's offered love,  
glows like a red rose in the sun,  
weak with happiness  
it drowns in bliss.

*(Fanfares)*

**Maiga**

**Maiga**

Tur jaunās līgo tautas nāk,  
man jāsteidzas, nu paliec sveika!

More guests are arriving,  
I must go, farewell!

*(Banuta moves to the side while the guests enter.)*

**Koris (no tāļienes)**

**Chorus (from afar)**

Līgo, līgo!  
Visi mani daudzinaja, līgo!

Leego, leego!  
Everyone proclaims my name, leego!

**Rikotājs**

**Leader**

Šurp, kunigas, te Līgo altāris.

This way, my lord, is the festive altar.

**Vizuts (pavadoņiem)**

**Vizuts (to his attendants)**

Es tencinu, jūs ejiet vien  
un mani gaidat drīzi nākam!

Thank you! You can go now  
and I'll follow soon!

*(Vizuts alone)*

Pie altāra tava, Līgo,  
es grimstu lūgšanās,  
es tevi, dievišķīgo  
piesaucu zemībā.

At your altar, Leego,  
I'm lost in prayer,  
heavenly one,  
I humbly beseech you.

(\*) John's Day — June 24, Midsummernight

Pret vakaru mīlīgas daiļavas nāks,  
ar ziedokļa ziediem tās rotāties sāks.

At eventide lovely maidens will come  
to adorn themselves with the sacrificial flowers.

22

*(holds up a rose)*

Kaut viņu, kas rozi šo ņemtu,  
tu mūžīgi mūžam man lemtu!  
Nu tevi, dievišķīgo, piesaucu palīgā!

Let her, who picks up this rose,  
be mine in eternity.  
Aid me, I beseech you, heavenly one!

*(replaces the rose on the altar)*

Še Romoves birzē, Līgo,  
tev Dievam ziedoju!

Here at Romove  
I pledge my sacrifice to you!

*(Vizuts away. Banuta approaches the altar, picks up the red rose and presses it to her lips.)*

**Banuta**  
Šī bija tā visdaiļākā!  
Es viņa!

**Banuta**  
This was the fairest one!  
Now I'm his!

*(enter Priest)*

**Krīvs**  
Man liekās, dzirdēju žēlu balsi?

**Priest**  
It seems I heard a pitiful voice?

**Banuta**  
Vai redzi, kā dūmi kūp,  
kā sārtā pagales drūp,  
starp dūmiem liesma kā šaujas,  
kā liesmas pie auguma kļaujas ...  
Es zvēru! Kurp mani jūs vedat?  
Kam pagales virsū man metat?  
Ak, dzēsiet, tās deg, glāb, glāb!

**Banuta**  
Don't you see the smoke,  
the smouldering logs on the pyre,  
flames flashing through the smoke,  
flames clasp my body ...  
I swear! Where are you leading me?  
Stop piling the logs upon me!  
quench the fire, it burns, save me!

**Krīvs**  
Mans bērns! Kas notiekas ar tevi,  
tu it kā nāves bailēs trīci.

**Priest**  
My child! What's happening to you,  
you tremble as in mortal fear!

**Banuta**  
Tik nelādi, bet glāb!

**Banuta**  
Don't condemn me, save me!

**Krīvs**  
Lūk, Dieva altāris, pie tā  
lai grimstam karstā lūgšanā,  
viņš sirdi tev žēlīgi dziedēs,  
ne māņi to ļauni vairs biedēs.

**Priest**  
There's a holy altar,  
let us kneel in fervent prayer,  
God will heal your heart  
and ban the evil visions.

**Banuta**  
Tas Līgo altāris.  
Ved mani tu pie Pikola,  
vai kur sēd aukstā Praurima.  
Tik ne pie Līgo altāra,  
lai neapskaistās dievība!

**Banuta**  
This is Leego's altar.  
Lead me to Pihcol's  
or to cold Praurima.  
But not to Leego's altar,  
I can't offend him!

**Krīvs**  
Viņš nedusmo:  
viņš mīlestības Dievs.

**Priest**  
He's not offended:  
he's the God of Love.

**Banuta**  
Lai ar, bet nedrīkstu es mīlēt!

**Banuta**  
I know, but I'm forbidden to love!

**Krīvs**  
Bez vaidelotēm šķīstām  
nav Lietavā vairs cilvēka,  
kam šodien aizliegts mīlēt.

**Priest**  
Besides the pure priestesses,  
there's no one in Lithuania tonight  
who's forbidden to love.

**Banuta**  
Lūk, pamalē saulīte zeltota grimst,  
drīz eglainē vēsmaņa līgota rīms,  
drīz zvaigznīte stariem skaujas  
un skūpstīties ļaujas,  
bet Banuta nedrīkst mīlēt!

**Banuta**  
The golden sun dips below the horizon,  
soon the forest breeze will calm down,  
soon even the stars  
will embrace and kiss,  
only Banuta may not love!

Rīts, purpura sārtotais, atmodīsies,  
rīts laimi un gaviles pasaulē lies,  
bet sēras kā ūdeņi sirdi klās,  
līdz beidzot bez laimes  
sirds pukstēt stās,  
jo Banuta nedrīkst mīlēt!

Rosy dawn will awake, soon,  
lavishing joy upon the world,  
only my heart drowns in sorrow,  
until in despair  
the heartbeat will stop,  
for Banuta may not love!

23

**Krīvs**  
Gan nomanu, kāds ledains lāsts,  
ka tāls tev mīlas maigais glāsts.  
Ka tevi saista solījums  
un sirdi pilda izmisums,  
bet uzklausies vēlreiz.  
Līdz taures trīsreiz noskanēs  
un jauksies tautu gaviļēs,  
ir lauzta cita vara,  
kam nebūtu Līgo gara!  
**Banuta/Krīvs**  
Tur Līgo altārs jauks un maigs,  
un mūžam smaidošs viņa vaigs.  
Līdz pusnaktij varu/i būt brīva,  
ja paklausu/i sirmā Krīva!

**Priest**  
I perceive, how rigid the oath  
that denies you love's tender caress,  
that you're bound by promise,  
your heart filled with despair,  
but listen to me once more.  
Until trumpets sound three times,  
interrupting the joyful singing,  
all rules are suspended  
except those of Leego!  
**Banuta/Priest**  
Here's the lovely festive altar,  
ever smiled upon by Leego.  
I'm/you're free till midnight  
if I/you listen to the sage priest.

*(Exeunt Banuta and Priest)*

**Meitenes**  
Lai vijam rozēs vainagā  
un dziedam dziesmu ticoši,  
dziesmu trīcošu par laimi sen cerēto,  
par savu izredzēto.

**Girls**  
Let's wind roses into a wreath  
and sing a confident song,  
a wistful song of happiness  
and of the beloved one.

*(they surround the altar and pick up flowers)*

**1. meitene**  
Skat, māsiņ, ai, cik skaista tā!

**First maiden**  
Just look, dear sister, at this fair one!

**2. meitene**  
Un kā šī ieder vainagā!

**Second maiden**  
How well this fits into my wreath!

**3. meitene**  
Es zinu, šī no viņa!

**Third maiden**  
I'm sure this one's from him!

**Visas**  
No viņa, no viņa!

**All**  
From him, from him!

**1. meitene**  
Vai kronīt's taisni uzlikts man?

**First maiden**  
Did I put my wreath on straight?

**Visas**  
Jā gan! Jā gan!

**All**  
Oh yes, you did!

**1. meitene**  
Ak mīļotās, cik liksma es!

**First maiden**  
Dear girls, how filled with joy I am!

**Visas**  
Un es! Un es!  
Līgo Dievam kroņus vijam  
sārtu rožu dārziņā  
i dienīņu, i naksniņu,  
i vēļaju vakariņ'!

**All**  
Me too, me too!  
We're winding wreaths for Leego  
in a red rose garden,  
toiling day and night  
and late into the evening.  
For each flower twined into the wreath  
I beseech dear Leego:  
this time next year  
let me be a happy bride!  
Leego's day is here,  
everyone under the sun is singing.  
Now the wreath is on my head,  
my fate is in God's hands!

Cik kronītī puķu vijū,  
lūdzu mīļo Līgo Dievu! Līgo!  
Citu gadu, šo gadiņu  
lai jau būtu līgaviņ'!  
Nu atnāca Līgo svētki,  
saules malās tautas dzied, līgo!  
Nu kronītī galvā lieku,  
gaidot Dieva lēmumiņ'!

*(enter villagers and guests)*

**Ļaudis**

Nu gadskārta apkārt, kad pēdējo reiz  
še liksmojās laimē tautas.  
Lai naidu vecu katris beidz,  
pie dziesmām un dejas jautras.  
Lai vecie bez rūgtuma rokas sniedz,  
lai jaunie rotaļās liksmo!  
Lai draudzībā sirdi pie sirds tie liec  
pa Līgo nakts brītiņu īso.  
Pa gadskārta Jānīts nāca, līgo,  
savus bērņus apraudzīti, līgo!  
Visiem vārti appušķoti, līgo,  
nāburgami nepušķoti, līgo!  
Nāburgami laiski puīši, līgo,  
savu vārtu nepušķoja, līgo!

*(the crowd splits up into couples)*

Jau ģīgas skan!  
Jau stabules svelpj!  
Jau dūkas kviec!  
Deja drīz sāksies!

**Viri**

Nu pirmā večiņa uz deju vedināta!  
Lai kājas mums ar' ielokās  
un viegli riņķī apgriezās!

**Visi**

Birze dziesmām trīc!

*(The so-called engagement dance follows. Vizuts is seen moving among the dancers as if searching for someone. Banuta does the same, as if trying to avoid someone. When the dance has ended, the High Priest enters, accompanied by the Priest. Homage is paid to the High Priest by all.)*

**Krīvukrīvs**

Sen Pērkona aplokā baublīši bauro,  
un ragiem met zemi pa aploku šauro.  
Nāc, tauta, upurēt Pērkonom tos!  
Nāc, svētību savu tev Pērkons dos!  
**Ļaudis**  
Mēs paklausām dievības varenam vārdam,  
mēs pakursim uguni upuļa sārtam!  
Un svētību bagātu Pērkons mums dos,  
ja pildīsim prātus tā mūžīgos!

*(Exeunt all except Vizuts, who has caught Banuta by the hand.)*

**Vizuts**

Teve mana roze matos sieta!  
**Banuta** (*cenšas izrauties*)  
Ciet klusu!  
Steidzies Dievam upurēt!

**Vizuts**

Es upurēšu, ja tu mana!

**Banuta**

Kas jādzird?

**Vizuts**

Savu vārdu teic!

**Chorus**

It's been a whole year  
since we frolicked here last.  
Let's forget old grudges  
over songs and merry dancing.  
Let's shake hands without bitterness  
and watch the youngsters make merry!  
Let friendship bind hearts together  
on this short Midsummernight.  
Once a year John (\*) arrives, leego,  
to call upon his children, leego!  
All farmyard gates are adorned, leego,  
except our neighbour's, leego!  
His farm hands are too lazy, leego,  
they can't be bothered, leego!

The fiddles play!

The pipes, they whistle!

The bagpipes squeal!

The dance is on!

**Men**

There's a granny, all ready to start!  
Let's shake a leg  
and spin around nimbly!

**Chorus**

Our songs fill the grove!

**High Priest**

The oxen bellow in Thundergod's paddock,  
and plow up the ground with their horns.  
Time to sacrifice them to the God!  
We'll earn his blessing by the sacrifice!  
**Chorus**  
We obey the deity's mighty word,  
we'll light the sacrificial pyre!  
Bountiful blessings God will grant  
if we fulfill his eternal will!

**Vizuts**

My rose adorns your hair!

**Banuta** (*trying to free her hand*)

Be quiet!

Run along to attend the sacrifice!

**Vizuts**

I'll attend, if you'll be mine!

**Banuta**

What's this I hear?

**Vizuts**

Tell me your name!

**Banuta**

Laid mani!

**Vizuts**

Tikai vārdu!

**Banuta**

Laid!

**Vizuts**

Nē, un mūžam nē!

**Banuta**

Es Banuta!

**Vizuts**

Tu Banuta?

**Abi**

Nāc, manu liego ilgu tēls,  
nāc, nāc, nāc!

**Vizuts**

Nāc, sapni mans tik brīnumcēls,  
nāc, nāc, nāc!

**Banuta**

Ļauj man iet. Ļauj man iet,  
tevi, svešniek, lūgtin lūdzu!

**Vizuts**

Nāc, mīlas saullēkts gaišs un kvēls!

**Banuta**

Daudz, par daudz šie vārdi teic!  
Ļauj man iet!

**Vizuts**

Paliec, kad lūdzos!  
Tu mana zvaigzne mirdzošā!  
Tu mana laime vienīgā!

Tālē pirms projām es ietu,

tālē uz dzimtajā vietu,

tev pieder mana sirds,

visa mana sirds,

visa mana mīla!

**Banuta**

Sapnim ļaujjos, klāt tev skaujos  
laimē saldā;  
nebrīdini, nemodini  
pusnakts maldā!

**Vizuts**

Nāc un dusi maigi klusi  
man pie krūtīm,  
Līgo saimē, Līgo laimē,  
jo līgo nakts!

**Banuta**

Teic, roze mūžam vai saista,  
roze starp ziediem visskaistā?

**Vizuts**

Svēts Dieva altārs,  
svēts viņa ziedols,  
svēts viņa lēmums,  
svēts, mūžam svēts!

**Banuta**

Tu manu liego ilgu tēls,  
laime mana!

Tu sapnis mans tik brīnumcēls,  
Līgo sapnis, ak, Līgo sapnis ...

**Banuta**

Let me go!

**Vizuts**

Just your name!

**Banuta**

Let go!

**Vizuts**

Not on your life!

**Banuta**

I'm Banuta!

**Vizuts**

You're Banuta?

**Duet**

Image of my gentle yearning,  
come to me!

**Vizuts**

My wondrous fair dream,  
come to me!

**Banuta**

Release me, let me go,  
stranger, I beg of you!

**Vizuts**

Come, bright and ardent dawn of love!

**Banuta**

These words say too much!  
Let me go!

**Vizuts**

Stay, I beg of you!  
You're my shining star!  
My only happiness!

Before I embark

on my homeward journey,  
know this: my heart is yours,

all my heart  
and all my love!

**Banuta**

Yielding to a dream I cling to you  
blissfully:  
don't caution me nor awaken me  
from this midnight folly!

**Vizuts**

Come and rest gently  
on my breast,  
in Midsummernight's  
happiness!

**Banuta**

Tell me, can the rose bind forever,  
that fairest among flowers?

**Vizuts**

Holy is God's altar,  
holy the sacrifice,  
holy his will  
in eternity!

**Banuta**

You're the image of my tender yearning,  
my happiness!  
My wondrous fair dream  
on Midsummernight ...

(\*) Jānis (John): mythical personage, chief functionary in all Midsummer songs and traditional rituals.

**Vižuts**

Mana laime, mana mīla, mīla!  
Lauj man grimt šai acu dzīlē,  
ļauji cirtas glaust,  
ļauj viegli, maigi glaudīt!

**Vižuts**

Man tava balss kā kokle trīc,  
nāc, nāc, nāc!  
Kurp sauc, tur man iet,  
mūžam tev līdz!

**Banuta**

It kā dziļa upes dzelme,  
kā burvju atvars mani velk  
un nemaņā liek sirdij grimt.  
Kurp mani sauc, turp es eju!

**Vižuts**

Teic, pirmo reiz  
vai tevi gan es skatu?  
Sen, tu sapnī neredzētā,  
pašu dievu novēlētā,  
tevi mīlu, tevi, dārgā, mīlu!

**Banuta**

Pirmo reiz vai tevīm ļaujos,  
pirmo reizi klāt tev skaujos?  
Teic, ak teici, teic, ak teici!  
Sen, tu sapnī neredzētais,  
pašu dievu novēlētais,  
tevi mīlu, tevi, dārgais, mīlu!

**Abi**

Laime, tu gaišā, laime mana gaišā!

**Vižuts**

Mana tu mūžam!

**Banuta**

Tava es mūžam!

**Vižuts**

Tu manu liego ilgu tēls  
jau sen, jau sen!  
Sapnis mans tik daiļš un cēls  
jau sen, jau sen!  
Mana laime, mana mīla!

**Banuta**

Tev es ļaujos, klāt tev skaujos,  
dārgais!  
It kā burvju dzelme, it kā atvars  
mani velk un savā dailē gremdē.

**Vižuts**

Mīlu, ak laime mana ...

**Banuta**

Laime mana, laime ...

*(They embrace. Banuta runs off, Vizuts follows.)*

**Vizuts**

My happiness, my love!  
Let me gaze into your eyes deeply,  
let me caress your curls,  
caress them tenderly!

**Vizuts**

Your voice trembles like a harp string,  
come to me!  
It bids me to follow,  
follow you forever!

**Banuta**

As if deep waters  
or magic whirlpools  
hold my heart in a spell.  
I'll follow you forever!

**Vizuts**

Tell me, is this the first time  
that I see you?  
Unbeknownst even in dreams,  
you, whom gods have destined for me,  
I've loved a long time, my darling!

**Banuta**

Is this the first time I yield to you,  
the first time I cling to you?  
Oh, tell me!  
Unbeknownst even in dreams,  
you, whom gods have destined for me,  
I've loved a long time, my darling!

**Duet**

You're my bright happiness!

**Vizuts**

You're forever mine!

**Banuta**

I'm forever yours!

**Vižuts**

You've always been  
the image of my tender yearning!  
My wondrous fair dream  
you've been all along!  
My happiness, my love!

**Banuta**

I yield to you, I cling to you,  
my darling!  
As if enchanted deep waters  
bind me in a spell, I'm swept away.

**Vižuts**

I love you, my happiness ...

**Banuta**

My happiness, happiness ...

\* \* \*

**Act IV****4. cēliens**

*(Midsummernight. A moonlit clearing in the holy grove at Romove. Gnomes and faeries.)*

**Laumas**

Liegi vēji zarus šūpo,  
vēsma šalko mīlīgi.

**Faeries**

Soft breezes sway the branches,  
murmuring tenderly.

Skūpstīt zvaigzni mēness lūko,  
dūkņas dzied pret pusnakti.

*(The faeries dance. They flee when Banuta enters.)*

**Banuta**

Kā ilgas ap dvēseli skaujas,  
kā vaigi aiz laimes vēl kaist,  
un liekas, pie krūtīm vēl kļaujas  
augums tā vīrišķais!

*(Gnomes and faeries approach curiously, the faeries fluttering around Banuta, who is not aware of them.)*

**Laumas**

Liegi vēji ... (kā iepriekš)

**Vižuts (no tālienes)**

Kaut viņu, kas rozi šo ņemtu,  
tu mūžīgi mūžam man lemtu!

*(Gnomes and faeries vanish.)*

**Banuta**

Tā viņa balss!

Ak, gavilē, gavilē, sirds!

Viņš nāk!

**Vižuts (tuvu)**

Kaut viņu, kas rozi šo ņemtu,  
tu mūžīgi mūžam man lemtu!

**Vižuts (uznāk)**

Es tevi meklēju, tu projām bēdzi ...  
Kas mēnesstaram aizliegs stīgot,  
kur ūdens roze atvarā?

Kas vilnim aizliegs malā līgot,  
kad vēsma stājas vakarā?

**Banuta**

Kaut mūžam klausīties man tavā balsi!

**Vižuts**

Ak, Banuta!

**Banuta**

Sauc mani tā vēlreiz!

Tik vienu reizi vēl!

**Vižuts**

Banuta! Banuta!

*(they sit down on a bench)*

**Abi**

Cik dievišķi skaista nakts!  
Pie debesīm zvaigznes liesmo,  
tās raugās uz mums kā actiņas  
un laimē kā asarām vizmo.  
Un klusa un svēta šī nakts!  
Tik vēsma dreb virsotnē salda,  
un dvēseles vienojās.  
Miers, lai mīlība valda!

**Banuta**

Vai tā nav pusnakts šalka,  
kas lapās viegli trīc?

**Vižuts**

Vēl pusnakts tālu!

**Banuta**

Tālu ...

The moon ventures to kiss a star,  
towards midnight the fairies sing.

**Banuta**

Longing captures my soul,  
my cheeks still glowing from bliss,  
I seem to be clasping still  
his manly form to my breast!

**Faeries**

Soft breezes ... (as before)

**Vižuts (in the distance)**

Let her, who picks up this rose  
be mine in eternity!

**Banuta**

It's his voice!

Rejoice, my heart!

He's coming!

**Vižuts (nearby)**

Let her, who picks up this rose  
be mine in eternity!

**Vižuts (enters)**

Why're you running away from me ...  
Who can forbid the moonbeam  
to shine on the waterlily,  
or the wave to lap the shore  
when the evening is calm?

**Banuta**

I'd listen to your voice forever!

**Vižuts**

Oh, Banuta!

**Banuta**

Say my name again!

Just one more time!

**Vižuts**

Banuta! Banuta!

**Duet**

What a heavenly night!  
Stars, glowing in the sky,  
look down upon us  
and twinkle brightly.  
This night is calm and holy!  
A breeze trembles in the treetops,  
and our souls are united.  
Peace, heartfelt love prevails!

**Banuta**

Is it the midnight breeze  
softly rustling the leaves?

**Vižuts**

Midnight's still far off!

**Banuta**

Far off ...





**Baņuta**

Ja atriebts, kā dieviem es solījusi,  
ja zvērestu grūto es pildījusi.

**Vizuts**

Ja atriebsi, dieviem ko solījusi,

un zvērestu grūto tu pildījusi.

**Vizuts**

Tas darbs ir drūms un tumšs,  
tad ejam viņā koku ēnā.  
Tur stāsti man, kas darāms drīzi.

*(They sit down on a bench under a tree.)*

**Baņuta**

Bij kaņi un briesmas,  
pār dzimteni trauca  
kā negaisa viesuļi  
naidnieku bari.  
Tie šķēpiem cirta  
mūs bāliņu varu,  
un velti pēc palīga  
taurētājs sauca ...  
Par velti, par velti!  
Jau naidnieks lenc pili!  
Par velti, par velti!  
Jau naidnieks lenc pili.  
Jau uzliesmo jumi  
un grīļojas vārti,  
plūst pēdējo aizsargu  
asinis sārti,  
skan vaimanu atbalsīm  
klaji un sili!  
Par velti, par velti!  
Un necerot, negaidot  
palīgi rodas:  
iz meža brūk Daumants  
kā saniknots sumbris.  
Daumants!

**Vizuts**

Tu teici viņa vārdu: Daumants?

**Baņuta**

Jā! Daumants,  
Valguda un Rēdas dēls!

**Vizuts**

Viņš tumšā naktī ciņā krita?

**Baņuta**

Tam krūts bij cauri pārdurta!

**Vizuts**

Mans nemaldīgais šķēps!  
Jā, Baņuta: būs atriebt!  
Uzklausi!  
Kas māsas godam šķēpus trina,  
uz kauju nikni bruņojās,  
kā ēna pilī ievilkāš  
un nāvē pretinieku dzina,  
kas atriebās, tas biju es!

**Banuta**

When revenge is done, as I promised the gods,  
when I've fulfilled the fateful pledge.

**Vizuts**

When revenge is done, as you promised the gods,

when you've fulfilled the fateful pledge.

**Vizuts**

It's a dark and dreary task.  
Let's seek shelter under yon tree,  
reveal to me what's to be done.

**Banuta**

There was war and great peril,  
enemy hordes  
stormed my country,  
their swords vanquished  
our defense,  
in vain the trumpets  
were calling for help ...

In vain, in vain!

Enemies surround the castle!  
Oh, all was in vain!  
Enemies surround the castle.  
The roofs are aflame,  
the gates barely holding,  
the staunch defenders'  
blood flows crimson,  
field and forest  
echo their lament!  
In vain, in vain!  
When all hope is lost,  
help arrives:  
Daumants charges from the forest  
like an angered beast.  
Daumants!

**Vizuts**

His name was Daumants?

**Banuta**

Yes! Daumants,  
son of Valgudis and Reda!

**Vizuts**

He perished in a struggle in a dark night?

**Banuta**

His breast was pierced right through!

*(Vizuts kisses his spear)*

**Vizuts**

My unerring spear!  
Yes, Banuta: there must be revenge!  
Listen to me!  
Who sharpened his sword  
to defend his sister's honor,  
prepared to fight fiercely,  
slipped stealthily into the castle  
bringing death to his opponent — it was I!

*(Banuta staggers and falls, her hitherto hidden dagger clatters to the ground. Vizuts picks up and examines the dagger.)*

Tik īss bij līgo naktī sapnis!  
Šo asmeni man lēma Baņuta!

Viņš ass!

Lai tad! Lai tad!

*(he lifts up Banuta)*

Vai, Baņuta, tu nāksi  
man tālā ceļā līdz?

**Baņuta**

Kā man ... Es tikai tevi dzirdu!

**Vizuts**

Jel skaties, kā zvaigznes  
sāk austrumos dzist  
un rasa no kokiem  
kā asaras birst.  
Drīz atausīs ugunīs  
blāzmotais rīts,  
būs purpurā nogrimis  
auseklīt's.  
Mēs peldēsīm viegli,  
kur Danguss klus  
un sagaida mājās  
aizmigušos

**Baņuta**

Kā vārdi man tavi  
kā kokle dzied  
un glauda man sirdi,  
kā dūniņām šķiet.

**Baņuta**

Un tomēr kā asara sirdī man trīc:  
kaut ātrāk jel steigtos  
šurp gaidītais rīts!

**Vizuts**

Tu nāksi man tālu, Baņuta, līdz,  
uz laimi, uz laimi  
ir nomirt tik brīd's.

**Baņuta**

Ko saki tu, tu teici: mirt?

**Vizuts**

Nav vairs ko kavēties!  
Drīz līgotāji nāks,  
lai kalnā sveiktu jaunu gaismu.

**Baņuta**

Vižut, brīdi dzīvot vēl!

**Vizuts**

Nāc, Baņuta, jel nāc!

**Baņuta**

Tik reiz vēl skatīt saules lēktu!

**Vizuts**

Jau lejā atskan dziesmas!

**Baņuta**

Tik brīdi tavas cirtas glāstīt!

**Vizuts**

Jau laiks!

Tavs zvērests piepildīts!

Nu nāc, nu nāc!

So short was the enchanted dream!  
This blade was meant for me!  
It's sharp!  
So be it! So be it!

Will you come with me, Banuta,  
on a long journey?  
**Banuta**  
What happened ... I only hear your voice!

**Vizuts**  
Look, the stars in the east  
are fading,  
and dew drips from the trees  
like tears.  
Soon morning will dawn  
in a blaze of light,  
the morning star  
having drowned in purple.  
We'll lightly float  
to silent Hades  
where slumberers  
are welcomed home.

**Banuta**

Your words  
are like a harp-song,  
they caress my heart  
as softly as down.

**Banuta**

And yet, tears tremble in my heart,  
I wish  
it was morning soon!

**Vizuts**

You'll follow me far and away,  
to die for happiness  
takes but a moment.

**Banuta**

What, did you mention death?

**Vizuts**

There's no time left.  
Soon everyone will arrive  
to welcome the new dawn.

**Banuta**

Vizuts, to live but a moment longer!

**Vizuts**

Come, Banuta, come!

**Banuta**

To look at one more sunrise!

**Vizuts**

I hear them singing in the dale!

**Banuta**

To caress your curls once more!

**Vizuts**

It's time!

*(he stabs himself)*

Your oath is fulfilled!

Come, come!

**Baņuta**

Es nāku. Sirdi šķel,  
kas karsti pukst!

**Vižuts**

Jau roka slāba, piedod, Baņuta!  
Nāc, nāc!

**Baņuta**

Ja dzīve spēj mūs brīdi šķirt,  
mūs nāve savieno!

*(Baņuta stabs herself and sinks down next to Vižuts.)*

**Ļaudis (tuvodamies)**

Jau tumsa zūd, nakts īsā ātri beidzas,  
prom baigā ēna rīta blāzmā klist.  
Šurp saule dienas klēpī gaišā steidzas,  
tās stari gaismas pilni zemē list.  
To sveicināt uzlecot staigājam mēs,  
to sveicināt gaviļu gavilēs!

*(Enter festive procession bearing flowers and greenery, headed by priests.)*

Pavadāmi Jāņu dienu  
līdz viņami kalniņam, līgo!  
Lai pavada tautu meitas  
līdz pašai jūriņai, līgo!

*(The bodies of Baņuta and Vižuts are discovered.)*

Vai mums! Vai mums!

Te nāve dzīvo starpā staigājusi!  
Pret pusnakti vēl viņi līksmi bija.  
Tos Pērkons projām aicinājis!

**Krīvs**

Lai nedibinām dievu prātus!  
Kam bija būt, te noticis:  
te sirdi dziļi sāpinātu  
pie sevis Pērkons aizsaucis.

**Ļaudis**

Bet puķes, lai puķes mēs kaisām uz tiem  
un lūdzam par mīļiem aizmigušiem,  
aizmigušiem ...!

**Baņuta**

I'm ready.  
Pierce my ardent heart!

**Vizuts**

My arm is weakening, forgive me,  
Baņuta! Come ...

**Baņuta**

If life would separate us even for a  
moment, death unites!

**Chorus (in the distance, approaching)**

Darkness fades, the short night is ending  
eerie shadows flee from the dawn.  
The sun rushes towards bright day,  
pouring light upon the earth.  
We've come to welcome the bright sun,  
to welcome it with jubilation!

We'll escort Midsummernight  
up to yonder hill, leego!  
Let the maidens escort it  
as far as the seashore, leego!

Woe, woe!

Death has walked among the living!  
Before midnight they were merry.  
Now Thundergod has summoned them!

**Priest**

Let's not question the will of the gods!  
This was destined to happen:  
a sorely tried heart  
has been summoned by Thundergod.

**Chorus**

We'll cover them with our flowers  
and pray they rest in peace,  
rest in peace ...!

