

# I DREAMED

Translated by Freda Hodge (2015)

This evening I dreamed:

I wandered in the forest, sick,

the trees unseeing

shook violently with anger

so that not even one leaf remained

and in the darkness, on the paths,

winds told each other:

Once, once, more than fifty years ago,

once, once, over 350 years ago,

a settlement stood here;

the earth was black

and the sky blue and white,

summer golden, and winter snow.

The day a sun-crowned kingdom of the world.

Stars sing quietly at night,

but a gloomy, troubling dream

presses down on people's brows,

and sick, sick they run

and they seek and seek...

and in them the white world withers,

a bird consoles them - they do not hear it,

flowers tempt but no one hears them

and they run and run,

and sick, sick they seek

but what befalls them is blurred by tears.

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Once, on a red-tinted evening,  
when the earth and the sky in their final throes  
spilled bloodily across the fields,  
they screamed out to the heavens:

God, how much longer? How much longer?  
We have borne a thousand years of curses  
God, we are already dead tired.  
While You have made your bed in the seven heavens  
and take pleasure in your rest,  
and you are deaf to our laments  
and laugh at those who are wanderers ...

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The sun burns and then puts itself out,  
the years come and they go  
and remain in the same place  
motionless, day and night  
a punishment has befallen them:  
the old ones became trees,  
the young are like branches  
grown thin and black,  
and together they make up the forest ...

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And when midnight comes,  
the sky darkens with remorse,

memories haunt the horizon  
and stars lament in the clouds  
or fall from sorrow  
into a weary river somewhere ...  
Then the forest starts to tremble,  
as winter's heart quivers  
in the dark and snow  
when a soul soundlessly flutters  
from one frozen in a ditch ...  
their dark thoughts  
get tangled amongst the branches,  
life tosses itself harshly amid the trees  
and thousand-year old evil spirits  
rustle, rustle at night.

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(1920)