

Moj Hatixhe – Pantomime Song Dance

Moj Hatixhe moj n'shami t'kuqe

Ti ngjyn nona moj flokt a kuqe (2X)

Flokt e kuqe ti shitoft zana

A po t'dhimen o baba e nona? (2X)

Baba, nona, dy vllaznija

Shkoj te burri o m'rrok pleqnija (2X)

Shkoj te burri m'rrok pleqnija

Për kanaci m'rrokin o fmija (2X)

Për kanaci o m'rrokin o fmija

Lypin o buken o argashtija (2X)

Lypin o buken o argashtija

Mall i kom o teshat e mira (2X)

Oh Hatixhe with the red scarf

Your mother will color your hair with henna (2X)

Red hair enchanted by the fairies

Isn't it painful leaving your father and mother?

Your father, mother, and two brothers

I'll go to my husband and old age will get me (2X)

I'll go to my husband and old age will get me

The children grab my apron (2X)

The children grab my apron

The workers ask for food (2X)

The workers ask for food

Oh, how I miss wearing the elegant clothes (2X)

Kanagjegj ~ The Night of Henna

Moj Hatixhe is an example of a song sung at the Albanian *Kanagjegj* (night of the henna - from the Turkish *kina gecesi*). This happens the night before the wedding – the bride's ritual separation from her family. With her female friends and relatives gathered around, the girl cries until late at night, fueled by sad songs of parting. After two days of embraces and tears, the bride has purged herself of emotion. In the old days, her friends would dye her hair and fingers with henna; now they use red fingernail polish on her nails. The catharsis has left her drained and numb, which works well for her need for stoicism and strength for the ordeal she is about to encounter as a bride, standing silent and strong, and enduring the initiation as a "foreigner" entering into the family of her husband. The custom has softened somewhat, but is still very much part of the culture, especially in remote rural areas.

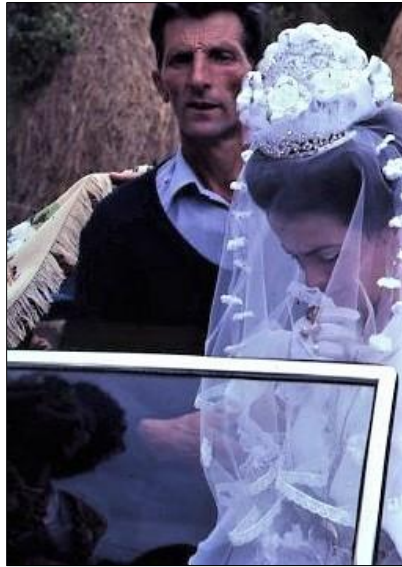


Kanagiej:

The girl with the WHITE scarf is the bride, sobbing as her friends sing her songs about becoming a bride and parting from her family and friends



Hiding a tear-stained face as she prepares to be transformed into a bride



Getting into the car that will take her away from her family and into a new life



Standing *divan* in her new identity as "Nuse" (Bride)

