

JOJK — Descriptions and Texts of Lappish Folk-Songs

Side 1.—JOJKS of Jokkmokk-Lappish Type

MATTIAS KUOLJOK (1897–1965)

Sirkas, Jokkmokk:

1. ULTEVIS in Spring.—The Ultevis mountains are the spring and autumn district of the Sirkas-Lapps. This *jojkk* describes the joy of arriving there in spring after the long winter in the forests:

"I jojkk the jojkk of Ultevis,
The old jojkk of the high hills of Ultevis.
I jojkk to the lowing of the cows and calves
The jojkk of the Ultevis hills..."

2. ULTEVIS in Autumn.—The same *jojkk* as above but with different words and a more nostalgic note in delivery. Mattias Kuoljok likes to mention his forefathers in his *jojks* and here he regards his reindeer as the progeny of the reindeer of his forefathers:

"In the autumn I jojkked the jojkk of Ultevis:
May the progeny of my forefathers reindeer
With their skin-stripped horns
Rub the sally of the Ultevis highlands..."

3. RAMSO'S BANK.—An old Jokkmokk-Lapp was called *Ramso* and considered very rich. He was said to have buried all his riches beside the mountain of *Tjengalvaratj*. After his death this mountain was popularly known as "Ramso's bank".

4. JÄHTELIS-MANNO, The Swift Journey.—This *jojkk* deals with a mountain-Lapp, who worked as a labourer in a community of forest-Lapps. He longed for the mountains, however, and when he had served his term he hurried back to his beloved moun-

tains. He describes the swift journey, which only took three days. Note the interplay of future and past, which gives life to the description and shows how intensively he recalls the swift journey:

"Today I was in Palkihaure.
Tomorrow I was in Vuosmatjåkko.
On the third day I was on the mountain tops,
where the snow storms blow..."

5. KITA-JÄTOS, Spring Removal.—The removal of the reindeer herd towards the mountains is under way. The reindeer are tired and move slowly. The *jojkk* urges the reindeer to move more quickly:

"Click now, ye hooves,
Click now, ye hooves,
Hurry to the mosses of the bare mountains."

When reindeer run, you can hear typical clicks from their hooves.

SIGGA KUOLJOK, née Lanta (b. 1895)

Sirkas, Jokkmokk:

6. RÄINO-PUOLTAN, The Reindeer Herding Slope.—A very old *jojkk* known in the *Lanta* family for generations. The reindeer calmed down, stopped and listened when they heard this *jojkk*:

"I jojkked an old jojkk on the herding slope.
I watched and watched
At the edge of the herd,
Where it was going.
Now and then I turned it
And I jojkked the old people,
Jojkked the jojkk of my kinsfolk."

PAVVA KALLOK (b. 1905)

Sauka, Porjus:

7. SAREK.—An old *jojk* addressed to the *Sarek* mountains. It is sometimes called *vittra-jojk*. *Vittra* is a North Swedish form of forest fairy.

"From the shelves of Sarek
I looked towards Kukkesvage,
Saw nothing else except the rising sun.
And I saw the beasts of the wilderness running."

Kukkesvage is a mountain valley of the Sarek National Park.

The *jojk* actually mentions the *bears* of the wilderness, but this can be understood to mean the beasts, the fairies and other supernatural beings flying away from the sun.

8. The *jojk* of NILS LARSSON TUORDA.—This man was a son of Pavva Lars Tuorda, who accompanied A. E. Nordenskiöld on his Greenland expedition in 1883. There he and his companion Anders Rassa made a famous ski-trip across the ice in the interior. They were considered to have travelled 276 miles (460 km) in 57 hours, a feat which many people felt dubious about. Later on, however, it was fully verified.

Nils Larsson Tuorda was known not only as a good

jojker but also as a good singer of Swedish songs. This explains the walse time of the *jojk*. It might be due to influence from folk songs, but might also have been intentionally put on in order to characterise the good singer. Nils Larsson Tuorda was at times in the service of Petter Anu Spik:

"I took my father's herding staaf
Looked towards the mountains
And herded Spik's great reindeer herd.
I come to Aime
And saw nothing else
But stones sticking up through the snow."

By the last sentence the *jojker* means that so much snow remained that only here and there stones could be seen above the snow. *Aime* is a mountain in *Ultevis*.

9. The *jojk* of PETTER ANU SPIK.—This man was a very rich owner of reindeer and the *jojk* deals with his reindeer on *Ultevis*. He was proud of his many reindeer calves and it was said that when he came to *Nautijaur* in the autumn his herds filled great boglands. *Nautijaur* is a village south of the *Ultevis* mountains.

"I was the mightiest man on the sunny side of
Ultevis..."

Side 2.—JOJKS of North-Lappish Type with Texts Connected with Jokkmokk

JOHAN MÄRAK (b. 1928), Jokkmokk:

1. JIEKNGAFFO.—A mountain in southernmost Padjelanta, near the Norwegian border, east of Sulitelma. According to the *jojk* there was a glacier there, large enough to cool the reindeer herds of two parishes:

"Now on Jiekngaffo
The herds of two parishes cool themselves.

In the daytime you can see the ice blackening with reindeer.

When the herds of two parishes cool themselves on Jiekngaffo..."

2. VALLESNIJPA.—A mountain immediately west of Kvikkjokk, a village in the Jokkmokk mountains. The farmers of Kvikkjokk used to have their horses grazing there and these often rummaged in the ruck-sacks of the reindeer herdsmen:

"On Vallesnijpa many youths joked...
But the animals of the Kvikkjokk people were there
And many Lapps had to run away
When the horses started to rummage in their
rucksacks...

— — —
Many youths joked
And let their eyes scan south and west..."

3. PIEGGA, The Mountain Wind.—The air of the
jojkk illustrates the souging of the mountain wind:

"Now the winds blow,
Now the snow storm blows.
Many are skiing in the storm
And the reindeer trot against the wind..."

4. PIEGGA-NJUNNJE, The Windnose.—The name
of *windnose* signifies the instinct of the reindeer always
to travel against the wind, an instinct which is very
important for reindeer breeding. Observing the di-
rection of the wind, the herdsman easily know where
to look for their reindeer.

"The windnoses trot.
The bells tinkle when they turn their noses to the
wind.
The windnoses, the good of the winds, trot.
As long as the windnose can be heard
There is no danger..."

5. SKAITE-JANNA.—The *jojkk* of Janne Larsson,
the *jojker's* maternal grandfather. He lived in *Skaite*
near *Peuraure*, a lake in the Jokkmokk mountains.
The Lapps often called to his house and always felt
welcome:

"Skaite-Janna
Is the master of the mountain.
All is well as long as smoke rises
From the mountain house
Near Skaite..."

6. HIERKE, The Reindeer Ox.—The *jojkk* illustrates
how the reindeer ox trots, a little heavily and clumsily
but steadily:

"Now the reindeer oxen slouch along.
The bells tinkle.
All is well when the ox slouches along
And the bells tinkle
While the oxen trot along in the *rajd*..."

Rajd means the file of reindeer used by the nomads
for carrying people and things.

7. MIESSE, The Reindeer Calf.—The herd of rein-
deer is the capital asset of the Lapps and the calves
are the interest on it:

"Now the little calves are lowing.
Now the interest carriers are running.
All is well as long as the reindeer calves are lowing.
Many of us rejoice
When the reindeer calf lows in springtime..."

8. SLOABME-NJUNNJE, The Elk.—This last *jojkk*
is of the Jokkmokk Lappish type. *Sloabme-njunnje*
means "bent nose". In the air of the *jojkk*, you can
almost hear how the longlegged elk trots through the
boglands:

"Bent Nose trotted on the great bog.
Long bog,
Long legs,
Bent Nose
Trotted,
Slouched along..."

Jokkmokk — *the Country by the Arctic Circle*

The vast parish of Jokkmokk lies in northern Sweden, just to the north of the arctic circle. 20,000 km² (5 million acres, that is 2/3 of Belgium), filled with wilderness, forests, lakes and mountains. Jokkmokk contains the largest national parks of Sweden, such as Padjelanta, Stora Sjöfallet and Sarek. Sarek with its alpine scenery, steep mountains and vast glaciers, has been called "the last wilderness of Europe".

Flowing through the mountains and the forests, the two arms of the Lule River with their power stations supply a great part of the hydroelectric power of Sweden.

Jokkmokk is also the country of the Lapps. Throughout thousands of years the nomads have wandered with their reindeer along the glens of the Lule Rivers, from the winter pastures in the forests up to the summer lands on the high plateaus of Padjelanta on the Norwegian border.

But Jokkmokk is not only wilderness. There are also modern communities with good services. In the district centre, you will also find the Jokkmokk Museum, unique in its kind. This modern museum houses an old culture. Objects, pictures and tape recordings will help to make the visitor familiar with the culture of the Lapps and the settlers. He will learn how life was and is lived in the wilderness and how people adapted themselves to a wild and untamed country.

But the Museum of Jokkmokk doesn't concern itself only with the past. The visitor may also get information about what is happening nowadays and what is worth seeing in these northern districts.

Welcome to the land of the arctic circle.

Welcome to the Jokkmokk Museum.