

Carpatho-Rus

Karpatska Rus



SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT YONKERS, NEW YORK AND OTHER MAILING ADDRESSES

NO.4 CARPATHO RUS, YONKERS,N.Y., FEBRUARY 18 1994, VOL.LXVII

NOTICE

Our Cleveland Branch 6 -- 1 will hold its Annual Meeting on March 20, 1994 beginning at 2:00 PM. Place:

Tilly Dziamba
34-19 North Parma
Cleveland, Ohio 44134

All members are cordially invited to attend this important meeting.

Branch Committee

NOTICE

The First District of Lemko Association will hold its Annual Meeting on March 13, 1994 beginning at 2:00 PM. It is sponsored by the Elizabeth Branch 35 -- 7. This is a reschedule of the January meeting which was postponed due to snow. Place:

P.A.L. Youth Center
400 Maple Avenue
Linden, NJ

We request that all Branches select their delegates to attend this important meeting. Inform Mr. Ted Rudawsky as to the delegates who will attend, Phone: 908-486-0096.

District Committee

THE COOKING CORNER

Apricot Almond Coffee Cake

- | | | |
|-----|------|---------------------|
| 1 | cup | Butter or margarine |
| 2 | cups | Sugar |
| 2 | | Large eggs |
| 1 | tsp | Almond Extract |
| 2 | cups | All purpose flour |
| 1 | tsp | Baking soda |
| 1/4 | tsp | Salt |
| 8 | oz. | Sour Cream |
| 10 | oz. | Apricot preserves |

Beat the butter until creamy. Add sugar and beat, add eggs until the yellow disappears. Stir in the almond extract. Combine flour, baking powder and salt and add to the butter mixture. Alternating with sour cream, mix at low speed until blended.

Place about 1/3 of the batter into a greased and flour 12 cup bundt (?) pan. Sprinkle with half of the almonds and dot with half of the apricot preserves. Top the remaining batter, sprinkle the remaining almonds and dot with remaining preserves.

Bake at 350° F. for about 50 to 55 minutes, or until the cake tester comes clean. Cool in the pan on a wire rack for 10 to 15 minutes. Remove the cake and let it cool on the wire rack.

As an alternate: Substitute vanilla instead of the almonds. Use 1/2 cup chopped pecans and 3 tablespoons of brown sugar and 2 teaspoons of cinnamon instead of the preserves.

Julia Adamiak

NOTICE

A Fund Raising Banquet and Dance on behalf of needy Lemkos in Poland and Slovakia and their Orthodox Church will be held this Sunday, February 27, 1994 beginning at 3:00PM.

Place:
St. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church
3rd and Passaic Street
Passaic, New Jersey
Tickets: \$15.00 per person

Please contact Rev. Nehrebecky at 201-652-6633 for tickets in advance.

A short story of Lend-Lease operations during the last War from Russian Far East

The Unknown Lend-Lease Operation

Anna Zolotareva, who turned ninety not very long ago, was eager to meet the American sailors who came to town [Vladivostok] for the consulate opening. She had been a participant in the Soviet-American Lend-Lease program fifty years ago and had crossed the Pacific several times as an orderly on board the cargo boat *Soveskaya Gavan*, which carried food, machines, and ammunition from the West Coast of America to Vladivostok. I believe many of the American sailors learned something new about the history of their own country as they listened to her telling about her experiences.

Fifty one years ago, on June 11, 1942, the "Treaty Between the Governments of the USA and the USSR on Principles of Mutual Help In The War Against Aggression" was signed in Washington. This treaty initiated the Lend-Lease program which was to operate until the end of the war. Many people, both in the United States and Russia, have heard about the famous convoys of ships which travelled from the United States through the Arctic to Murmansk and Arkhangelsk, but for some reason the Pacific part of the Lend-Lease program has never received much public attention. How many people know that half of the total cargo brought to Russia came through Vladivostok? This fact is noted in a book *Roads of Russia* by Robert Johns, an American historian, published in 1969 by

the publishing house of Oklahoma University. According to Alla Paperno, a historian from Kamchatka, the Arctic route was famous because of the international cooperation which took place there, while in Pacific there were only Soviet crews operating alone.

Information only recently released by the Vladivostok Museum demonstrates the scale of American help. The Soviet Pacific fleet received ninety-five torpedo boats, fifty-six anti-mine sweepers, thirty-two anti-submarine boats, and more than fifty landing craft. Even the problem of shipping the cargo all the way from Vladivostok to Moscow was considered. Steam-engines and rail cars were hauled to Vladivostok from Portland, Oregon on reconstructed timber boats. More than sixty per cent of the railroad cars used on the Trans-Siberian Railroad were brought to Russia from America by sea.

"Liberty" type cargo ships, designed by American engineers, took cargo along the dangerous Pacific route. The "Liberties" she was on were good reliable ships, said Anna Zolotareva. These ships were constructed right in port from



front center, meets with sailors. (V. Trukhanenko)

Anna Zolotareva

ready made sections brought by railroad from different cities of the United States. The "Liberty" ships were quickly produced at the rate of one a day. Haste in construction had its down side, however. If any of the joints were improperly welded together the sections could come apart during a storm at sea. This happened several times. It is also impossible to tear out another gloomy page out of the history of the Lend-Lease Operation. Three Soviet boats, the *Kola*, *Ilmen*, and *Transbalt*, were accidentally torpedoed by American submarines. During the years of the war, thirty-two "Liberty" ships, eight tankers, three icebreakers and about a hundred reconstructed American cargo ships were sent to Vladivostok. These ships regularly hauled cargo from Seattle to Vladivostok between 1942 and 1945.

In downtown Vladivostok an eternal flame burns in memory of the ships that were sunk and the crewmen who perished. Retired sailors in Vladivostok could not hide their tears when American sailors came to the eternal flame to honor their Russian counterparts who died in the war.

Russian veterans dream about a reunion of those who took part in the Pacific Route of Lend-Lease. Two or three years ago such ideas were not welcomed in closed-to-the-world Vladivostok. Maybe now enthusiasts will be able to organize an expedition along the routes of the "Unknown Lend-Lease Operation."

Russian Far East

NOTICE

Due to lack of hard currency, our subscription mailing list to Poland, Slovakia, Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine is limited. Some Americans and Canadians pay for their relatives and friends in East Europe. As an inducement, to increase our readership in East Europe, we offer to send issues there at a special rate of \$8.00 per year, which only represents the cost of postage. If readers in the United States and Canada want to avail themselves of this opportunity, kindly send us the name and address of your relative or friend, with a check for \$8.00, and the newspaper will be sent.

PASSAIC LODGES 5-16 OF LEMKO

ASSOC. EVENT CALENDAR FOR 1994

Sunday, May 15-SPRING BANQUET-1:00 PM
Donation \$15.00
Sunday, July 17-ANNUAL PICNIC-1:00 PM
Donation \$15.00
Sunday, October 16-FALL BANQUET-1:00 PM
Donation \$15.00

Birthday Meetings

Sunday, March 20-Refreshments-1:00 PM
Sunday, June 5- " 1:00 PM
Sunday, September 11- " 1:00 PM
Sunday, December 4- " 1:00 PM

All functions to be held at the Lodge, corner of Ann Street and Lanza Avenue, Garfield, New Jersey.

REQUEST OF OUR READERS

Through our archives we have searched for old Lemko Calendars from the 1930s and 1940s. Many of those old Calendars are missing. We would like to request, from our readers, any old Calendars that they may have and do not need. This would be of help to us in researching the history of our people. Thank you.

Ed.

LEMKO WEDDING VIDEO

A two hour video cassette of the film LEMKO WEDDING is still available for sale to our readers. This is the original film that was made almost 30 years ago, and it should be of intense interest to those readers who have not had the pleasure of viewing it.

Cost, including postage and handling, is \$45.00. To order kindly send your check or money order to KARPATSKA RUS, 556 Yonkers Avenue, Yonkers, New York, 10704

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please start/renew my subscription to KARPATSKA RUS. Enclosed please find my check or money order for \$20./year.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State,
Zip Code _____Press Fund
Donation _____

Send to:

KARPATSKA RUS
556 Yonkers Avenue
Yonkers, New York, 10704

KARPATSKA RUS

Carpatho-Russian Newspaper, published bi-weekly by the Lemko Assoc. of the United States and Canada.

Subscription Rate: One Year...\$20.

Edited By: Editor, pro-tem., A. Herenchak
USPS No. 291 460

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

KARPATSKA RUS
556 Yonkers Avenue
Yonkers, New York, 10704

IN APPRECIATION

We extend our thanks for help in producing this week's issue of Karpatska Rus to Svetlana Ledenieva and Julia Adamiak.

Ed.

SLAV
MYTHOLOGY

Translated from Russian by

Stephen P. Kopestonsky

PART 9 AND THE CONCLUSION

Continued from Issue #3, February 4, 1994

The Four Faces of the World

According to the poem SVAROG, in the religio-poetical representation of the Slavs there existed four sides or faces of the world -- two above the earth and two beneath (See illustration).

1. The White (Light)¹ World was our world with the earth's firmament, sun (*Dazhbog*), Perun (*Cherna Tucha-Khmara* [Black Cloud]), moon, (*Mokosh*), and stars. On the earth, covered with plant life, lived the *dyidki*, people and other earthly creatures. Over this world ruled its creator -- the god of gods, *Dyid Svarog*, aided by his godlings called *Svarozhichi*. Our remote ancestors represented to themselves their White World in the image of a gigantic domical vault (cupola), the top of which formed the heavenly firmament, while the bottom side framed our earth with the lower part of its horizon.

2. Above the White World rose the spiritual and invisible Sky-blue or Azure World, which rested above the White World. The top and sides (slopes) of the White World formed the firmament (paradise) of the Sky-blue World. In the ancient Slavonic tongue the heavenly firmament is called *tverd*. The Sky-blue or Azure World possessed its own quiet, caressing azure suns (lights) among which Svarog-Svetozar shone the brightest of all, having azure stars and a heaven -- the altar of God -- at the very top of the vault. In this world lived the king of the heavens Svarog and other dwellers of the heavens, the blessed souls of people. The firmament and the heavens together were called the Celestial Firmament.

3. Beneath the White World and the earth, beyond the "impassable thick forests," beyond the Celestial Sea and the Great Stream, hung the Gray, sombre World with its pits, hanging upside down. This Gray world was darkened (blinded) by *Morok* or *Mrak*, just as the White World was brightened with white light by *Dazhbog* and as Svetozar radiated the Azure World with azure light. The god Morilo or Morok-Mrak, the king of the world beyond the grave, ruled the Gray World with his wife, the queen *Mogila* or *Mgla*. They had children, a son and two daughters: the son *Mor* was a spirit of illness and disease. One daughter, *Morena* or *Mara'* (accent on the last syllable), was a spirit of fatal, deathly sleep; the second daughter, *Mor'ra* (accent on first syllable) was a spirit of vital or lively sleep. After the fall of the *dyidki* and people, when people became mortal, Morilo dispatched his son *Mor* to the earth to torment and destroy people with his various afflictions. He also sent his daughter *Morena-Mara'* who a) lulled people to deathly, eternal sleep, b) who, with a rusty scythe, cut the "ribbon of life" which connected the soul with the body and which had been sewn into the heart of a person by the sisters of Perun: *Myesilka*, *Svyetilka* and *Gasilka* at a person's birth, c) took the soul out of the body and pricked it with deadly rot, and d) delivered this soul to the *Vodtsa*, the spirit beyond the grave who accompanied the soul to the Great Stream and delivered it to another spirit of the world beyond, the *Plovtsa-Perevodtsa*. The latter took the soul on

a ferry and transported it across the Great Stream to the Gray World. On the bank of the Great

Stream the soul was accepted by the *Priyomtsa* who, after submitting it to an inquisition -- who are you, soul; how did you live; what did you do in the White World? -- sent the soul for judgement to Morilo. *Morena-Mara'* in the representation of the people was duadic: from the front she appeared as a rosy and beautiful (but was "the fever of death"); from the back she was a stinking, decomposing corpse.

In the Gray World there lived temporarily in the pits of the graves of people, departed souls, the *navii*. After the judgement by Morilo, having abandoned their covers in the Gray World (that is, their apparitions, shadows or astral bodies), the good souls went to paradise in the Azure World and the evil souls to hell in the Black World.

For her goodness *Mo'ra*, as the goddess of life-giving sleep, was taken by Svarog into his heaven from where, after the fall, Perun would send her to the earth where she, with her vivifying sleep would cure the illnesses brought about by her brother *Mor*. Together with *Zhiva*, the goddess of life and health, they waged an unmerciful struggle with her corrupt sister *Morena-Mara'* at the bedside of the sick and suffering.

4. Beneath the domical vault of the Gray World, separated from it by a mountain of tar pitch or bitumen, hung the overturned cupola, also invisible, of the Black World (*Pek* or *Peklo* -- hell, with the *Chernaya Pot'ma* (Black Cloud) overhead instead of a sun, eternally keeping the Black World in a state of impenetrable obscurity and darkness. *Pek* or *Peklo* is at the very bottom [top] of the vault. There the fires of hell, fueled by the forest cliffs² of the Tar Hills that fell into it, burned in perpetuity.

Heaven and hell, according to the beliefs of the Slavs, were to be found, as may be seen on the accompanying illustration, on two opposite ends of the universe, the center of which was formed by our earth. Earthly sinners after their souls first went through the passage of torments, suffered the tortures of the fires of hell in the Cavern of Revenge. But the worst sufferings were reserved for the rackings of the conscience in the Valley of Tears where sinners had the chance to look in the Mirror of Life where they saw themselves in all their earthly deeds, from birth to the last minutes of their lives.

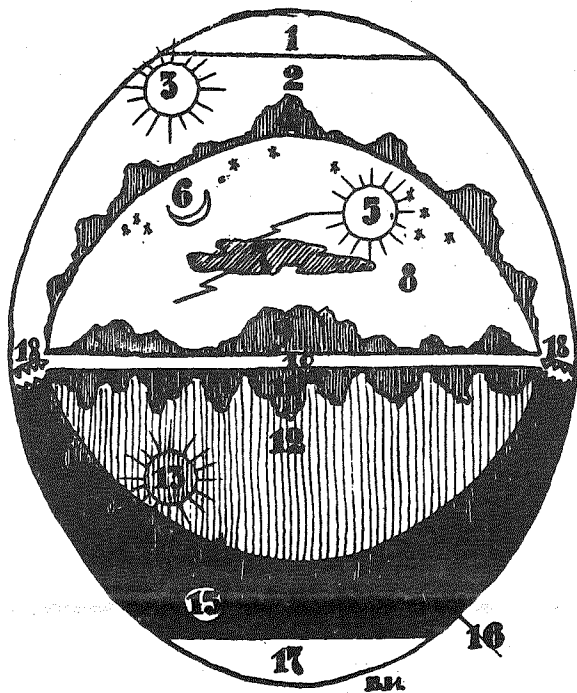
AT THE time of the creation of the White World by Svarog, the king of evil and grief -- *Grekh Luitich Goresei* -- ruled the Black World. The king of evil continually dispatched his little devils into the White World with designs to eventually conquer it. The devils sowed grief and all kinds of evil, paving the path for a future invasion by spreading *Goresei's* sinful net like a web to entrap the souls of the *Dyedy* and the inhabitants of the White World.

When Svarog and Perun appeared in the White World from their heaven in the Azure World, together with *Chernaya Tuchka*, *Mochka* and *Stribog*, they destroyed the fields which had been sown with grief and misery by the evil king. With their storms and whirlwinds they broke down the sinful network. Then the maddened *Grekh Goresei* slithered out of the *Cherny Svyet* (Black World). Feeling himself more powerful, he challenged Svarog to a duel -- a struggle unto death. But after

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

the first blow of Svarog's staff (lightning), Grekh, together with all his devilish escorts, retreated precipitously back into the nether world from where he continued to blaspheme and threaten Svarog. Perun greatly vexed by this behavior of Grekh Goresel, dispatched a thunderbolt into the Black World directly into the jaws of Grekh, tearing him to pieces. A raging wind scattered Grekh's fragments remains over the universe. One of Grekh's teeth was pursued by the wind god Stribog. The tooth somehow passed into the neighboring Gray World and from there into the White World, finally falling down on Byelohora, a high peak in the Carpathian mountain range, where Byelobog, the leader of the immaterial Svarogian hosts -- the Dyedy -- resided. After the tooth landed on the peak, a black serpent crept out of it. It was the fornicatress Udynia. She took on the appearance of a woman of incomparable beauty. She seduced Byelobog and persuaded him to revolt against the heavenly Dyedy, cast them out of the skies and set himself up as the ruler with his own dyidki. Byelobog succumbed to her wiles, was won over and rebelled.



1. Небо, престолъ Божій. 2. Небеса: Небесно-Голубой или Лазурный Свѣтъ. 3. Свѣтлозаръ — свѣтло Лазурнаго Свѣта. 4. Небесная твердь съ радъ — твердь Лазурнаго Свѣта. 5. Дажь-Богъ — свѣтло Бѣлаго Свѣта. 6. Мокось. 7. Перунъ (Черная Туча). 8. Бѣлый Свѣтъ. 9. Земля — твердь Бѣлаго Свѣта. 10. Великій Порокъ. 11. Могалицы или Ямы — твердь Сѣраго Свѣта. 12. Сѣрый Свѣтъ. 13. Морокъ (Мракъ) или Морило — свѣтло Сѣраго Свѣта. 14. Срубъ — твердь Чернаго Свѣта. 15. Черный Свѣтъ. 16. Черная Пѣтыла — свѣтло Чернаго Свѣта. 17. Пекло или Пекло. 18. Зубы Черной Пѣтылы — ворота въ Черный Свѣтъ.

The Mythical World

1) Heaven, the throne of God. 2) The heavens: the Blue Sky. 3) Light of the Blue Sky. 4) The firmament of heaven, containing Paradise. 5) Dazhbog—the light of the White World. 6) Mokosh—the moon of the White World. 7) Perun—Dark Cloud. 8) White World. 9) Earth—the firmament of the White World. 10) The Great Stream. 11) Graves or holes—the firmament of the Nether World. 12) The Nether World. 13) Morok (Mrak) or Morilo—the light of the Nether World. 14) Firmament of the Nether World. 15) The Black World. 16) Black Cloud—the light of the Black World. 17) Hades or Hell. 18) Teeth of the Black Cloud—the gates into the Black World.

At this critical moment the legions of the winged giants, the Dyedy, arranged themselves on the heavenly firmament in battle order. With mountains and cliffs in their hands, they advanced against the evil forces. Perun let loose his violent thunder, smiting the mutineers with his bolts and burning them with his lightning. Scorched black,

the mutineers, with Byelobog in the lead, descended headlong directly into the teeth of the Chernaya Pot'ma and back into the infernal regions. Udynia, the fornicatress, shaking with fear and dread, hissing like a serpent, disappeared with them.

After the destruction of Grekh Goresel (Gorynych), his mistress, Chernaya Pot'ma, began to rule the firmament of the Black World. The illegitimate offspring, the little devils, conceived by Grekh and Chernaya Pot'ma, now torture people's souls in hell and run about the earth luring people into sin. Such was the fantastic representation of our remote ancestors about heaven and hell -- a mixture of childish naivete and inimitable poetical imagination.

In the Black World everything was directly opposite to that which was in the White World. There the devils walk upside down, looking upward to see down into their firmament in hell. What was white in the White World was black to them, and conversely, what is black in the White World to them is white. So it was with night and day. Even today we say that the evil spirits come out at night, since by daylight they cannot see. To them evil is good and good is evil; sin is virtue and beauty is vile, etc. The devils pray to the Chernaya Pot'ma, serve her dutifully and sing obscene songs to her.

The devils in the Black World are divided into various tribes. Just as many as there are groups of people on the earth, so there are as many devil groups in the infernal regions. They "creep" into the White World and do their vile acts only among their former kin. Such devils speak in the same tongues as their earthly counterparts. The souls of earthly sinners, before going into the Cavern of Retribution, the Valley of Tears and into hell, serve the devils as slaves, fulfilling all the dark and evil deeds asked of them.

The Chernaya Pot'ma sincerely believes that when she punishes the souls, she is rewarding them, because in hell punishment is a reward. It seems to her that earthly sinners enjoy the tortures of hell just as the devils do.

There are innumerable national tales concerning the lives of the devils and earthly sinners in hell and their sufferings. Some of these tales are "tearful" tragic, while others are "tearfully" comical.

Byelobog -- after the mutiny, Chernobog -- was enchained by the Chernaya Pot'ma to a cliff in hell and suffered unbearably, together with the souls of people who had fallen into sin and hell. With them, Chernobog awaited salvation from the Ray of Good.

And so, every good deed of mankind on earth sparked a white ray of light. All the rays of light (good deeds) of earthly people are enjoined into one great Ray of Good, which is directed specifically into the Black World. If this ray is large and powerful enough, and aimed directly at Chernaya Pot'ma, it can pierce the darkness of the Black World, literally burning a hole in it. Chernaya Pot'ma is tortured greatly by this penetration of the Ray of Good, suffering unbearably, casting herself about to evade the light. In panic she tries to lap up the Ray of Good with her hundred-mile-long tongue. During this struggle between her and the Ray of Good, torment in hell is eased. The deafening noises, the hooting, rumbling and crashing abates, the tar stops boiling, the fires cease to roar, the smoke dissipates, the darkness thins and the Black World whitens slightly. The sinners feel relieved, the serpent Chernobog is transformed back into a golden-winged handsome Adonis-Dyedko -- becomes Byelobog again and now glorifies Svarog instead of blaspheming him. He wages an embittered struggle with Chernobog, that is, a struggle with himself (the good against the evil within himself), repenting unashamedly, thereby giving the wings of hope of salvation to all sinners he had been torturing with hellish fire.

THE MORE good there was in the White World, the more Rays of Good and thus the easier it was for the sinners in the Nether (Black) World. But there were few good deeds on the earth, and therefore the Rays of Good were always weak. The Chernaya Pot'ma quickly lapped up the good rays with her long tongue and the black, evil rays, which were energized by the people's evil deeds, helped the Pot'ma to destroy the Rays of Good and to deepen the hellish darkness and sufferings of the sinners who found themselves in the Black World.

Golden-winged Byelobog was again transformed into the evil serpent Chernobog, and he renewed his struggle with Byelobog, again cursing, blaspheming and wickedly torturing the sinners with hellish fire. The flames and soul-horrifying noises, the roaring, crashing, rumbling increased. Again the tar boiled over, fires raged, their long tongues of flame reaching out for more fuel, burning everything within their reach. The darkness deepened and the Black World again became a

dark pit of fire and molten tar. And this cycle repeated itself, albeit rarely, over the course of centuries and millennia....

Earthly sinners will sojourn in the Black World and be tormented so long as people in the White World on earth are evil and do evil deeds. The salvation of souls that are in hell depends fully on the good deeds of people on earth. So Svarog declared to the people before the Fall.

Although living luxuriously, the *dyidki* and people began to grumble and complain in their paradise, continually seeking new delights and thrills. Eventually, they cast their eyes toward evil and the *Black Pot'ma*. Heeding to the whisperings of the evil powers, they desired to experience grief. Not knowing just what it was and thinking that it would give them new enjoyment, they asked Svarog to send it to them. But Svarog refused to give them grief. When the *dyidki* and people finally called upon the *Black Pot'ma* for help, turning against the heavenly Powers, the Fall occurred. Then Svarog said to them:

"My only mistake in creating the world was the creation of the *dyidki* and man. In my endless goodness I poured out all too much generosity into you, ungrateful and evil children!...From this munificence of good, your reasoning became stilted and you lost the ability to distinguish between what is good and what is evil. You sinned heavily against good, and the evil you evoked possessed you fully in its dreadful embrace and now punishes you unmercifully. Not once, but a hundred times I tried to spare you in paradise from your sinful desires and whims with which you were infused by the instigation of your enemies -- the dark powers from the Black World. I will now leave you and go away. And many myriads of years will pass before you find or see me again. In great suffering and in dark grief, given to you by the *Chernaya Pot'ma* by your own request, you will seek me and pray that I save you...But save you I will not. It will not help: you will again begin to grumble and complain!...Save yourselves! Associate only with *Dobrynia*, chase evil away. I have placed within you my Svarogian spark, a particle of my nature, by the help of which you should be able to distinguish good from evil, right from wrong. This spark is your conscience. It will serve you as a guiding star in all your actions and endeavors. Only your good deeds can now save you and your kin who have fallen into the teeth of the *Chernaya Pot'ma* and the Black World. Only from misfortunes and sufferings from evil deeds will you learn to value goodness and to guard it like the pupils of your eyes. Only by goodness and good deeds will you find me again and then I will again be with you. But for now you will be without God and your requests and prayers to Him will be of no avail. Save yourselves: do good!"

Having said this, Svarog departed from the White World and disappeared into infinity to create new worlds.

The religion of the Slavs was not a religion of hopelessness, of despair, because they believed that a time would come when all the people on earth would finally become good. Then the bright Rays of Good from their good deeds would become so great and powerful that they would destroy the *Chernaya Pot'ma* and her unchaste and evil offspring -- the *dyidki-devils* -- and penetrate the hellish darkness, bringing light to the Black World. And with the dissipation of the darkness all evil would also disappear everywhere and the holy, sinless Kingdom of God would arise on the universe anew.

[END]

1. "Light" in the understanding of "bright lucidity," by which Svarog manifested himself in the hellish chaos before the creation of the world. In time, the word *svet-siyaniye* (light-radiance) took on the connotation of the word *mir* (world). In the Galician dialect *svyet* (pronounced *svit*) means "world" only; in place of the word *svyet* in the sense of "brightness," the word *svyetlo* was used (derived from the Polish *sviatlo*).

2. By the "forest cliffs" here is meant the woods or wilderness with their rotting stumps and poisonous plant life, serpents and other various impurities.