GEORGIA - ANA KALANDADZE

***On the border between two countries***

*I stand on the border of two countries, two countries, with a heart that is numb,*

*I have become a rainbow blacker than black,*

*On the day of the dead, who bends from node to node.*

*Cyclamen, cyclamen, purple-scented mourning,*

*that bends her cup to the shade,*

*The springs sing the trout to sleep,*

*The wandering wild-goose's way the evening bell mourns.*

*I hear the grass grow, I hear it beyond, and hence, my heart that is heavy with pain, why art thou angry? Petalled roses, dead seeds in our gardens, the wandering wild goose's way, the evening bell is wailing. I stand on the borders of two countries, two countries, with a heart that is numb,*

*I am a rainbow blacker than black,*

*On the day of the dead, who from node to node bend.*

*(based on the translation by Bálint Tóth)*

| **ანა კალანდაძე****მკვდართა მზე ვარ** ორი ქვეყნის, ორი ქვეყნის საზღვრად ვდგევარ, გულო, რისად მეხურები სხივმიმკრთალი, სხივმიმკვდარი მკვდართა მზე ვარ, ჩემს სხივებში თამაშობენ ბეღურები... კორჩიოტას, კორჩიოტას თესლი გალხვა, ორთქლად მიდის ნესტიანი სუნთქვა მიწის; ნაკადულის სიმღერებში სძინავს ღალღას... ლხენით ვისმენ ბეღურების წივ-წივ, წივ-წივს... ამოდიან, ბალახების სუნთქვა მესმის, მაგრამ... მაინც გული რისად მეხურება? ვარდის რტოზე შერჩენილი ხმელი თესლი აკენკეს და გაიტაცეს ბეღურებმა... ორი ქვეყნის, ორი ქვეყნის საზღვრად ვდგევარ, გულო, რისად მეხურები? სხივმიმკრთალი, სხივმიმკვდარი მკვდართა მზე ვარ, ჩემს სხივებში ჟივჟივებენ ბეღურები... | **ANA KALANDADZE** **Két ország határán** Translated by Tóth BálintMegállok két ország, két ország határán, nekizsibbadt szívvel, lettem feketénél feketébb szivárvány,halottak napján, ki rögtől-rögig ível. Ciklámen, ciklámen, lilaillatú gyász,nekibúsult kelyhét árnyékra, ki hajtja, álomba énekli pisztrángot a forrás, vándor vadlúd útját estharang siratja. Hallom fű növését, hallom túlnan, s innen, nekizsibbadt szívem, mért fájsz, mért haragszol? Szirmukfosztott rózsák, holt mag kertjeinken, vándor vadlúd útján síró estharang szól. Megállok két ország, két ország határán nekizsibbadt szívvel, lettem feketénél feketébb szivárvány, halottak napján, ki rögtől-rögig ível. |
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**Biography:**

Ana Kalandaze (1924-2008) is a very special figure in the history of Georgian poetry; she is a bright representative of the process of liberalization of the poetical discourse from the totalitarian influence; in her verse the delicate voice of woman is elegantly united with the traditional Georgian sense of national consciousness;

Born in the village Khidistavi in Georgia’s southwest province of Guria, Ana Kalandadze was one of the most influential female figures in modern Georgian literature. In 1946 she graduated from the Caucasian Languages Department of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi University. Since 1952 she worked in Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics. For many years Ana Kalandadze was the member of the Georgian Language Permanent Commission, was on the boards of the Georgian Writers’ Union and the Academic Council of the Institute of Linguistics.

Her first published poetry in 1946, met with great success. That same year an evening devoted to the works of the 22-year-old poet was organized that brought her universal acclaim in literary circles. Nonetheless, it was only in 1953 that her first collection of poems was published. Alongside her success came criticism, namely accusations of "formalism, hopelessness and apolitical-ness". The censors removed a number of poems from her first published collection on this basis. Many of Kalandadze’s poems have been made into popular songs. Her intricate, subtle rhythms, and personal lyricism garnered much popularity.

In the words of ***Professor Donald Rayfield: “From the 700 or so poems she has now published it is now possible to extract some sort of consistent philosophy, for all the reticence and stoicism. The rare outburst of defiance never amount to more than a couple of lines in a poem and have been subtle enough not to arouse the antagonism of Soviet authority.”***

***“Ana’s poetry is outstanding thanks to its extraordinary lyricism, diversity of rhythm and intonation, rich vocabulary and moderately archaic style. She wonderfully combines the seemingly incompatible stylistic elements – simplicity and exaltation.”  -*** Ioseb Chumburidze, literary critic

Her poems have been translated into Russian, English, French, Polish and other languages. She was also a prolific translator of Russian and European poetry.

Ana Kalandadze is buried in the Mtatsminda Pantheon of Celebrated Authors and Public Figures.

***(Source: Georgian National Book Center )***