

HÄXAN I KONUNG KARLS TID
THE WITCH, IN THE REIGN OF KING KARL (CHARLES)

by Carl Jonas Love Almqvist

Här uppå berget ligga gummans svarta knotor:
Here, upon the mountain, the blackened bones of the hag lie:

hon, som i våras här brann uppå bål.
she, who was burned at the stake this spring.

Nu skall du få höra sagan om röda elden:
Now you'll be told the tale about the red fire:

höra huru gumman i bålet satts, att brinna.
(hear,) how the old woman was put at the stake, to burn.

Gumman, hon tog vita stickor av furu.
She had white splinters (made out) of pine-wood.

Men sina stickor satte hon i en mur.
But those splinters, she stuck in(to) a (brick-)wall.

Sakta hon steg till muren
She slowly approached the wall,

och ur stickorna darrhant mjölkade hon åt barnena små.
and out of the splinters, she milked, with shaky hands, for her (tiny) children.

Men ut ur rika prästens ko var den söta mjölken.
But it was out of the rich parson's cow that the sweet milk was coming.

Barnena fingo stå vid modrens bål.
The children had to stand (and watch) by their mother's pyre.

Translation by Eva Toller, 2010