

Primož Trubar (1508–86)

The author of the first books in Slovene, Primož Trubar left the Roman Catholic priesthood to become the Lutheran pastor of Ljubljana, but was eventually forced by the Austrian authorities into lengthy exiles in Germany, where he died. He is best known for his translations of the New Testament and Lutheran tracts, but he did on occasion also compose original hymns, as the following *Ena duhovska peisen zuper Turke* (1567, “A Hymn Against the Turks”), which represents the Slovene elaboration of a popular theme in South Slavic and Balkan literatures. The Slovene text is from a facsimile edition of the original but with modern diacritics. The translation is based on the text in Jože Pogačnik, ed., *Starejše slovensko slovstvo* (Maribor: Obzorja, 1980) 102–03.

Ena duhovska peisen zuper Turke

Bug oča, bodi per nas,
 Kadar nom bode vmreti;
 Našo revo žalost znaš,
 Turk, vrag nas hto požreti.
 Obtú skaži tujo Muč,
 Ne pusti nas zatrejti,
 Vragu lažom verjeti,
 Hudo smert konec vzeti,
 Bodi naša zvejst pomuč,
 Tuj nam vselej na strani,
 V pravi veri ohrani,
 Pred tursko silo brani,
 Bodi naš ščit dan tar nuč,
 Vsliši nas, lubi oča Bug.

Jezus Kristus naš Bug kral,
 Naša božja pravica,
 Naše grehe si z nas spral,
 Rešil nas od hudiča.
 Ne daj de bi tuja čast,
 Od Turkov se zatrla,
 Od Papeža zavergla,
 Tuja Cerkov rezderla,
 Skaži zdaj tujo oblast,
 Daj se vsem ludem znati,
 Povsod prov pridigati,
 V te terdnu verovati,
 Ne daj nom od tebe past,
 Vsliši nas, Jezus lubi Bug.

Sveti Duh naš Vučenik,
 Skaži nom tujo milost,
 Naš vseh Troštar, Pomočnik,
 Gledaj na našo dinost.
 Vrag, smert, Turk nas strašijo,
 Kir smo Boga spoznali,
 Po tujim vuku dijali,
 Jezusu se podali,
 Zatu nas souvražijo,
 Daj nom v veri obstati,
 Tuj vuk vselej deržati,
 Turkom Trojico znati,
 De nas več ne dražijo,
 Vsliši nas, lubi Sveti Duh.

A Hymn Against the Turks

God the Father, bide with us,
When it comes our time to die;
Thou know'st our grief and misery,
The devil Turk has sought to devour us.
Show then thou thy mighty power,
Lest the foe trample us down,
Lest we believe their lies,
Lest they deal us cruel death and ruin;
Be our faithful help,
Stand always at our side,
Preserve us in the true faith,
Defend us from the Turkish might,
Be our shield both day and night,
Hear us, dear God our Father.

Jesus Christ, our King and God,
Our divine righteousness,
Thou hast cleansed us from our sins,
Saved us from the evil one.
Let not thy honor then
Be trampled by the Turk,
Nor distorted by the Pope,
Nor thy church rent asunder.
Show now thy mighty power,
Give to all thy people wisdom
To proclaim thee alway verily
To believe in thee mightily,
Let us not fall from thee,
Hear us, Jesus our dear God.

Holy Spirit, our guide,
Show us then thy grace,
Comforter of us all and aid,
Look down upon our doings.
Devil, death, Turk terrify us,
Because we have acknowledged God,
Acted according to thy law,
Committed ourselves to Jesus.
For that they hate us all the more,
Give us power to sustain our faith,
To hold ever faithful to thy law,
To teach the Turks the Trinity
So that they no longer torment us,
Hear us, dear Holy Spirit.

Henry R. Cooper, Jr