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HUD – GreenSTEM

Macedonian language - Macedonian Patriotic Poetry

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EYES – ACO SHOPOV

*For three days we carried you tight,
Your sharp eyes filled with pain and plight,
Each drop from your wound, like bloody embers, Dripped in our hearts, stoking raging fires.
Our friends were mournful and hungry, their parched throats and intertwined chests wrung,
Their cold eyes, lamenting the last spark that left,
But I knew that they would rise again, like flames from ashes, never to wane,
The soldiers underneath them would flourish and glow, In the cold morning, warm as the sun's
golden glow.
On the last night in the mountain village, they went at the soldiers, in tattered wreckage, their
blisters burning hot, feet heavy and wrinkled,
Cold guns, empty and silent, their whispers trickled. "Tomorrow, my friend, a dangerous battle
awaits, Outnumbered and low on souls, we face our fates."
And when it pierced your ear like a needle, you unleashed fierce power, and sadness, like
thunder's peal. Your wild, sharp eyes cut the lightning in the night sky,
Flashing with power, as you let out a fierce battle cry, "Like then, like then, oh friend, remember
in the frozen night,
In our youth and first joy, we mowed the frost with all our might."
Your forehead wrinkled like a tigress' jump, and you flew into the bloody, black night, like a fierce
rump, your eyes shining flames, that instantly melted steel grains, and with holy curses, you left
among your company's remains.
The forgiven whisper froze on your lips, as your burning eyes glinted beneath dense eyebrows'
eclipse, When the morning shone bright on our foreheads,
You were gone, but the soldiers ran, filled with vengeful swords. Oh, I saw when the battle
started, everyone flourished with your strength, fast as deer's and light as birds, they ran the
battlefield's length.
And your eyes sparked angrily in their sweaty, fired-up falls, for three days we carried you, with
sadness and pain in our hearts like bloody ember balls.*

The song "Ochi" is a sad song dedicated to a fellow female compatriot that died, her name was Vera Jocich. It has a balladic elegiac tone and represents a sad reminder on the long three dreadful days when the partisans carried on their arms all the way through the Macedonian

mountains. They are the witnesses of her slow death, but also witnesses to her fearlessness and courage.

“Ochi” is a song in which the narrative Tom of the writer prevails.

Through the musical Twelvers and the three trisyllabic amphibrach(U_U) the poet brings out the details of the heroic death of the young female partisan (Vere Jochic), “Like tigers jumped and flew in the bloody and black night”, in the decisive rush in which the besieged by the enemy they had to fight. It’s example of a brave warrior becomes a impetus in the war. After its death, the warriors went in the clash with unfolded power, int order to seek for revenge. The fire of her blew in their eyes

The song” Ochi” is one of the most beautiful songs in our poetry on the theme “HOБ” (the WW2 in Yugoslavia Macedonia). Without a doubt she represents a drama through one in respectful death. In the village Singelik, Skopsko was born Vere Jochic, national Macedonian hero. She was wounded in “HOБ” and died in the village Sasa, Kriva Palanka on 22.05.1944.

Discussion Questions and Answers

- 1. Question:** What do the “sharp eyes filled with pain and plight” symbolize in the context of the song?
 - Answer:** The eyes symbolize both the personal suffering and the broader struggle of the Macedonian people during World War II. They reflect the intensity of Vera Jochic’s experience and the collective experience of her comrades.
- 2. Question:** How does the poet use nature imagery to convey the mood and themes of the song?
 - Answer:** The poet uses nature imagery, like the “bloody embers” and “frost,” to symbolize the harshness of war and the resilience of the partisans. These natural elements are juxtaposed with human emotion, emphasizing the struggle against both external and internal battles.
- 3. Question:** What is the significance of the “three days” mentioned in the song?
 - Answer:** The "three days" likely refer to the period during which Vera Jochic was carried through the mountains, symbolizing a prolonged struggle and the enduring spirit of the partisans. It also emphasizes the drawn-out nature of her suffering and the impact it had on her comrades.
- 4. Question:** How does the song reflect the theme of heroism?
 - Answer:** The song portrays Vera Jochic as a fearless and determined fighter, whose actions inspire her comrades. Her heroism is highlighted in her final battle and her influence on others, even after her death.
- 5. Question:** What role does the motif of fire play in the song?

- **Answer:** Fire in the song represents both destruction and inspiration. It symbolizes the burning spirit of Vera and her comrades, their passion for their cause, and the transformative power of their struggle.
6. **Question:** Discuss the significance of the line, “Like then, like then, oh friend, remember in the frozen night.”
- **Answer:** This line evokes a sense of nostalgia and a call to remember past victories and struggles. It serves as a rallying cry, reminding the partisans of their shared history and the need to persevere.
7. **Question:** How does the song portray the impact of Vera Jochich’s death on her comrades?
- **Answer:** Her death acts as a catalyst, igniting a fierce determination in her comrades. It's portrayed as a pivotal moment that transforms grief and loss into a source of strength and resolve.
8. **Question:** What does the song suggest about the nature of war and resistance?
- **Answer:** The song suggests that war is brutal and costly, but resistance is fueled by a deep sense of purpose and solidarity. It portrays war as a backdrop for individual heroism and collective struggle.
9. **Question:** In what way does the poet use contrasts in the song to enhance the emotional impact?
- **Answer:** The poet uses contrasts like pain and strength, death and inspiration, and coldness and fire to heighten the emotional impact. These contrasts illustrate the complexities of war and the human spirit, emphasizing the duality of suffering and courage, and the transformation of grief into a force for motivation and resistance.
10. **Question:** How does the structure and rhythm of the song contribute to its overall theme and message?
- **Answer:** The structure and rhythm, with their repetitive and emphatic nature, mirror the persistence and resilience of the partisans. It also helps in creating a sense of urgency and intensity, reflecting the chaotic and pressing nature of war. The musicality of the song, with its rising and falling tones, could also symbolize the fluctuating fortunes of war and the emotional journey of the partisans.

FLOWERS – SLAVKO JANEVSKI

*Somewhere in Tikvesh, in some village,
Within the cold hay, the flowers wither away,
- a child was killed in vain.*

*One final tear fell from the eye that wept...
When autumn on the hill had finally stepped,
And the white morning had been washed in bloodshed.
When the steel had flashed in the suns gazing rays
A single thought had flown away:
“My mother was left in the village alone to stay”.*

*Oh, those innocent child’s eyes!
You’ve hidden away your heavenly tier...
Crimson drops of blood in the veins steer
Like happiness without an ending being nearby...*

*Where the child’s tears met the ground
A flower announced, that spring had come around,
Where the boiling blood made the hay thaw
A red rose embellished the meadow.*

*The May rose and the blue flower
In fragrance plead:
“Adorn, friend, a fiery ruffle
With youthful blossom,*

*With your chest stride ahead
And protect other children from their death”.*

*Somewhere in Tikvesh, in some village,
Within the cold hay, the flowers wither away,
- a child was killed in vain.*

On the 16th of June 1943, near the village Vatasha, in the locality “Moklishte”, 12 young people were shot by the Bulgarian military, under the excuse that they helped the partisans. 12 young people lost their lives and they are just another page in the sad Macedonian history.

In their honor, Slavko Janevski had written the song “Flowers” dedicating it to these withered flowers that will forever bleed in our hearts.

"Flowers" by Slavko Janevski is a poignant and evocative song that memorializes the tragic loss of young lives during a dark period in Macedonian history. Its rich symbolism and emotional depth make it a powerful piece for discussion and analysis.

Discussion Questions and Answers

1. **Question:** What is the significance of the recurring motif of flowers in the song, and how does it relate to the theme of lost youth?
 - o **Answer:** The flowers in the song symbolize both the fragility and the fleeting beauty of life, particularly of the young lives lost. They represent the natural beauty and potential of youth, tragically cut short by violence. The withering of the flowers within the cold hay is a poignant metaphor for the untimely and senseless death of the children. This imagery powerfully contrasts the innocence of youth with the brutality of war, emphasizing the tragedy of lives lost before they could fully bloom.
2. **Question:** How does the song use nature and seasonal imagery to convey its message about war and loss?
 - o **Answer:** The song utilizes nature and seasonal imagery, such as autumn, bloodshed in the morning, and the thawing of hay by boiling blood, to

underscore the impact of war on the natural order and the cycle of life. These images create a stark backdrop for the tragedy, highlighting how the violence and bloodshed of war disrupt the natural peace and beauty of the world. The mention of seasons also signifies the passage of time and the permanence of loss, as nature continues its cycle, indifferent to human suffering. The juxtaposition of the harsh realities of war with the serene and often idyllic imagery of nature serves to amplify the senselessness and tragedy of the young lives lost.

3. **Question:** What does the image of the "cold hay" in which the flowers wither symbolize in the context of the song?
 - **Answer:** The "cold hay" symbolizes a harsh, unyielding environment, reflective of the cruel circumstances of war. It's a setting where innocence and beauty (represented by flowers) cannot survive, emphasizing the brutal reality that the children faced.
4. **Question:** How does the song juxtapose the innocence of a child with the brutality of war?
 - **Answer:** The song contrasts the innocence of a child, symbolized by the "innocent child's eyes" and the flowers, with the brutality of war, depicted through images of bloodshed and violence. This juxtaposition highlights the tragic impact of war on the most vulnerable and innocent members of society.
5. **Question:** What role does the imagery of blood play in the song?
 - **Answer:** Blood imagery in the song serves to symbolize both life and death. It represents the vitality of the young lives lost and the violent manner of their deaths. The transformation of blood into flowers also suggests a sense of continuous life or remembrance even after death.
6. **Question:** How does the reference to specific dates and locations contribute to the song's impact?
 - **Answer:** The reference to specific dates and locations, like "16th of June 1943" and "village Vatasha," grounds the song in historical reality, making the tragedy more tangible and poignant. It emphasizes that the events described are not just poetic metaphors but real occurrences with lasting consequences.
7. **Question:** In what way does the poem use the metaphor of spring and flowers to represent hope or remembrance?
 - **Answer:** The emergence of flowers where the child's tears and blood meet the ground symbolizes rebirth and hope amidst tragedy. It suggests that even in the

face of despair, life continues in different forms, and the memory of the lost lives endures, inspiring future generations.

8. **Question:** What is the significance of the “fiery rifle” adorned with flowers in the context of the song?
 - **Answer:** The "fiery rifle" adorned with flowers symbolizes the merging of beauty and violence, innocence and resistance. It represents a call to arms to protect the innocent, urging people to fight against the forces that caused such senseless death. The flowers soften the harshness of the rifle, suggesting that the fight is not just for survival but also for preserving the beauty and purity that the children symbolize.
9. **Question:** How does the song's structure and repetition contribute to its overall message?
 - **Answer:** The song’s structure, particularly the repetition of the first and last stanzas, creates a circular narrative that emphasizes the ongoing nature of the tragedy. It suggests that the loss is not just a one-time event but a continuous source of pain and remembrance in the collective memory.
10. **Question:** Discuss the emotional impact of the line, “A child was killed in vain.”
 - **Answer:** This line delivers a powerful emotional impact, underscoring the senselessness of the child's death. It evokes feelings of sorrow and outrage, challenging the listener to reflect on the futility of violence and the preciousness of life, especially the life of a child.



LOVE – Aco Sopov

*Love your eyes, like lightning they strike,
warm chest like fire it burns,
mellow lips, into flames they turn,
under your hands,
beneath your strength,
let the demons freeze,
let them shiver,
oh, my friend, my sweet friend!
Not singing you love songs,
nor sleepless nights do I grieve,
this song speaks about battle,
in it my blood burns,
There -
where the peoples fire ignites,
and the guns thunder
and between the hills it echoes*

*There –
where Tito's brave fighters
for life in death without complaint they serve,
there love grows,
there love reinforces,
endless love
eternal love.*

*In the midst of those storms
in the midst of the rain-bullets,
my friend, my golden friend
first to go,
first to be,*

*but if a bullet
takes away your youth
don't mourn,
don't regret-
your burning eyes will brighten-
and passionate filled frozen hearts you will flame
and cold tables in war you will raise*

*Love your eyes, like lightning they strike,
warm chest like fire it burns,
mellow lips, into flames they turn,
under your hands,
beneath your strength,
let the demons freeze,
let them shiver,
oh, my friend, my sweet friend!*

Aco Shopov, original version published in Pesni, 1944.

The song is dedicated to the partisan Vera Jovic, who died on May 23, 1944 and to which the song "Ochi" is dedicated. It was published for the first time in the partisan newspaper Ogin of the Third Macedonian Strike Brigade.

"Love" by Aco Shopov is a stirring poem that combines elements of romantic imagery with the harsh realities of war, making it an intriguing piece for analysis.

Discussion Questions and Answers

- 1. Question:** How does the poem juxtapose the imagery of love and war?
 - Answer:** The poem juxtaposes love and war by using romantic imagery, such as "lightning" eyes and a "warm chest," against the backdrop of war's brutality, symbolized by references to guns, thunder, and bullets. This contrast highlights the resilience of human emotions, even in the direst circumstances.
- 2. Question:** What is the significance of the recurring theme of "eyes" in the poem?
 - Answer:** Eyes in the poem are symbolic of vision, insight, and connection. They "strike like lightning," suggesting a powerful impact on the observer. This imagery might represent the way the subject of the poem, presumably Vera Jovic, captivated and inspired those around her, even in times of war.
- 3. Question:** How does the poem use natural elements to convey its themes?
 - Answer:** The poem employs natural elements like fire, lightning, and storms to convey themes of passion, strength, and turmoil. These elements serve as

metaphors for the intense emotions and chaotic environment of war, blending the personal with the political.

4. **Question:** What does the poem suggest about the nature of love in times of war?
 - **Answer:** The poem suggests that love, in times of war, is intense and all-consuming. It is portrayed as a force that can inspire and drive individuals, giving them strength in the face of adversity and potentially transforming the horrors of war into something meaningful.
5. **Question:** How does the repetition of the first stanza at the end of the poem contribute to its overall impact?
 - **Answer:** The repetition of the first stanza creates a circular structure, emphasizing the enduring nature of the feelings expressed. It serves to reinforce the themes of love and resilience amidst chaos, suggesting that these emotions persist despite the passage of time and the ongoing war.
6. **Question:** What is the role of Tito's fighters in the poem, and how do they relate to the theme of love?
 - **Answer:** Tito's fighters are portrayed as embodiments of bravery and sacrifice. Their willingness to face death for their cause is intertwined with the theme of love, suggesting that love is not only a personal emotion but also a driving force for collective action and resistance.
7. **Question:** Discuss the metaphor of "rain-bullets" and its significance in the poem.
 - **Answer:** The metaphor of "rain-bullets" blends the natural with the violent, symbolizing the constant threat and presence of war. It suggests that, just as rain is pervasive and unavoidable, so too is the danger and uncertainty of war.
8. **Question:** What does the poem convey about the impact of an individual's sacrifice in war?
 - **Answer:** The poem conveys that an individual's sacrifice in war has a profound impact, both on a personal and a collective level. It suggests that such sacrifices can inspire others, kindle passion, and strengthen the resolve of those who continue the fight.
9. **Question:** How does the poem's use of repetition and refrain ("Love your eyes...") contribute to its emotional impact?
 - **Answer:** The repetition of the refrain serves to emphasize the intensity of the speaker's emotions and convictions. It acts as a rallying cry, urging the subject of the poem and others to embrace their inner strength and passion even in the face of adversity. The repetition creates a sense of urgency and determination, reinforcing the theme of resilience.
10. **Question:** Explore the significance of the line, "but if a bullet takes away your youth, don't mourn, don't regret."
 - **Answer:** This line encourages the acceptance of sacrifice and the willingness to endure hardship for a greater cause. It suggests that while losing one's youth to war is tragic, it

should not be mourned because the legacy of passion, strength, and determination will live on. It conveys the idea that the impact of one's actions and love can outlast their own lifetime.

SONG FOR CVETAN DIMOV – Koco Racin

*In the abyss of torture in Skopje
lies Cvetan, doesn't say a word;
hit the whippers,
his veins burst,
but his eyes burn and sting.
Five days the gruesome torturers
break his bones and drain his life.
Silence, silence,
speak quietly –
CVETAN DIMOV is dying in agony!
The executioners are preparing for a feast:
Blood they will drink of our Cvetan...
Let the music rage...
Let the whipper rage...
A Macedonian dies for the people!
"REVENGE, FRIENDS, I WANT FROM YOU,
LET MY BLOOD BE AVENGED!"
silence, silence,
speak quietly,
CVETAN DIMOV dies in agony...*

Kosta Solev Racin, "Poezija (Poetry)", "Nasha kniga (Our book)", Skopje, 1987, pg. 203.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eC6zmfrRv6k>

In 1942, after severe torture, he was thrown from the window of the fourth floor of the Regional Bulgarian Police Administration in Skopje by Ljubomir Jordanov, head of Group A of State Security in the Regional Police Administration. He soon died in the prison ward of the Skopje hospital. The Bulgarian police falsely said that Dimov had "committed suicide". Even during NOB, a song was sung in his honor to the text by Kocho Racin.

Discussion Questions and Answers

Question 1: What emotions and themes are evoked by the imagery of torture and suffering in the song's opening lines?

Answer: The imagery of torture and suffering in the song's opening lines evokes emotions of pain, anguish, and brutality. It sets the tone for the narrative, emphasizing the extreme suffering that Cvetan Dimov is enduring.

Question 2: Who is Cvetan Dimov, and why is he depicted as a symbol in the song?

Answer: Cvetan Dimov represents a symbol of resilience and sacrifice. He is likely a historical or fictional figure who endured great suffering for his beliefs or his people, making him a martyr and a powerful symbol of resistance.

Question 3: What does the repeated refrain "silence, silence, speak quietly" suggest about the atmosphere and mood of the song?

Answer: The repeated refrain "silence, silence, speak quietly" suggests a somber and grave atmosphere. It encourages a hushed and respectful tone, as if the events described are too painful or sacred to speak of loudly.

Question 4: Explore the symbolism of Cvetan Dimov's eyes "burning and stinging" despite the torture. What might this represent?

Answer: The burning and stinging eyes of Cvetan Dimov may symbolize his unwavering determination and spirit despite the physical torture. It suggests that his inner strength and commitment cannot be extinguished.

Question 5: How does the song convey a sense of defiance and resistance in the face of brutality?

Answer: The song conveys a sense of defiance and resistance through its portrayal of Cvetan Dimov's refusal to speak or yield to the torturers. His silence in the face of brutality is a powerful form of resistance and an act of defiance.

Question 6: What role do the executioners play in the narrative of the song, and how are they portrayed?

Answer: The executioners in the song are depicted as cruel and sadistic figures who inflict suffering on Cvetan Dimov. They represent the oppressors and the forces of injustice that Cvetan Dimov is resisting.

Question 7: Discuss the significance of the line "A Macedonian dies for the people!" What message is the song conveying about sacrifice?

Answer: The line "A Macedonian dies for the people!" emphasizes the idea that Cvetan Dimov's sacrifice is for the greater good and the welfare of his people. It highlights the noble and selfless nature of his sacrifice.

Question 8: How does the song use music and the idea of a "feast" to contrast the brutality of the torture?

Answer: The mention of a "feast" and music contrasts the brutality of the torture with a sense of celebration and revelry. This may symbolize the cruel indifference of the oppressors and the stark contrast between their actions and the suffering of Cvetan Dimov.

Question 9: Explore the concept of revenge in the song. What does Cvetan Dimov's plea for revenge reveal about the theme of justice?

Answer: The concept of revenge in the song reflects a desire for justice and retribution. Cvetan Dimov's plea for revenge suggests that his suffering should not go unanswered, and that those who caused his pain should face consequences.

Question 10: How does the song use repetition and rhythm to convey its message and emotions?

Answer: The song uses repetition and rhythm to create a sense of urgency and intensity. The repetition of phrases like "silence, silence" and "speak quietly" reinforces the somber mood and emphasizes key points in the narrative, while the rhythm adds a musical quality to the lyrics, making them more memorable and impactful.

THE PARTIZAN MARCH - Aco Shopov

*The night is quiet, dozy
silently the forest whispers
the moon dreams before the branches
the stars weep in the sky
the early spring is diligent
spreading its feminine beauty
her body – like the pine trees
her eyes – clear spring
her face – the bud of a rose
her hair – green grassland
Oh my, this immense happiness
to be a partisan in spring
when the forest leaves sprout
and the springs hum
oh my, endless happiness
to walk through a forest
to release a screech from you throat
to sing rebellious songs
to let your neck go
The night is quiet, dozy
silently the forest whispers
the moon dreams before the branches
and the stars weep in the sky
Don't walk a long march
do not step on the maiden's body,
with light fluttering wings,
A fairy carries it mountainously!*

Discussion Questions and Answers

1. **Question:** How does the song use the imagery of nature, such as the forest, moon, stars, and spring, to set the mood and atmosphere?
 - o **Answer:** The song uses nature imagery to create a serene and peaceful atmosphere. The forest, moon, and stars evoke a sense of tranquility and beauty, while spring symbolizes renewal and femininity.
2. **Question:** What is the significance of describing spring as "diligent" and having "feminine beauty"? How does this relate to the theme of the song?

- **Answer:** Describing spring as "diligent" and having "feminine beauty" suggests that the season represents growth, vitality, and the nurturing qualities of nature. This relates to the theme of the song by highlighting the beauty and optimism of being a partisan in spring.
3. **Question:** How does the song portray the happiness of being a partisan in spring? What elements contribute to this happiness?
 - **Answer:** The song portrays the happiness of being a partisan in spring through the imagery of nature awakening and the sense of freedom. The budding forest leaves, humming springs, and the ability to sing rebellious songs all contribute to this happiness.
 4. **Question:** Discuss the symbolism of the fairy carrying the maiden's body mountainously. What might this symbolize?
 - **Answer:** The fairy carrying the maiden's body mountainously could symbolize the protection of innocence and beauty in the midst of conflict. It suggests that even in challenging times, there are elements of purity and grace that should be preserved.
 5. **Question:** How does the song use repetition, specifically the repetition of the first and last stanzas, to reinforce its message?
 - **Answer:** The repetition of the first and last stanzas creates a cyclical structure, emphasizing the enduring qualities of nature and the happiness of being a partisan in spring. It reinforces the sense of timelessness and continuity.
 6. **Question:** Explore the idea of rebellion in the song. What does it mean to "sing rebellious songs" in this context?
 - **Answer:** Singing rebellious songs in the song represents an act of resistance and defiance against oppression. It signifies the partisan's commitment to their cause and their willingness to challenge authority through music.
 7. **Question:** How does the song use sensory imagery, such as "clear spring" eyes and "green grassland" hair, to create vivid mental pictures?
 - **Answer:** Sensory imagery in the song creates vivid mental images of the feminine beauty of spring. It allows listeners to visualize and connect with the natural elements described, enhancing the overall experience.
 8. **Question:** Discuss the role of the moon and stars in the song. What emotions or symbolism do they convey?
 - **Answer:** The moon and stars in the song convey a sense of calm and contemplation. They symbolize the beauty and vastness of the night sky, adding a touch of wonder and mystery to the song.
 9. **Question:** How does the song balance themes of nature's beauty and the challenges of being a partisan? What is the overall message?
 - **Answer:** The song balances themes of nature's beauty with the challenges of being a partisan by emphasizing the happiness and optimism that come from

being in harmony with nature even in difficult times. The overall message is one of resilience and hope.

10. **Question:** What emotions or feelings does the song evoke in you as a listener, and why do you think the songwriter chose to convey these emotions?

- **Answer:** As a listener, the song evokes feelings of serenity, appreciation for nature, and a sense of determination. The songwriter likely chose to convey these emotions to highlight the beauty and strength found in nature and to inspire a sense of unity and purpose among partisans.

VOICE FROM MACEDONIA - Kole Nedelkovski

*Oh, silence, silence, you miserable tyrants!
Enough of these lies and malice—
slandrous voice from the mouth awful
over my people in every age.*

*Well, for centuries already
squeals and moans from wolfish guests –
for the brother who should share it
to gnaw his dry bones.*

*So let him decide for himself now
with his own will, fate and everything,
to console himself once in his life,
to raise his race gloriously without noise.*

*Let Shar and Pirin shout in unison
the birth song in dark skies
and the tempestuous Aegean—for a century to splash
the heavy voice of new hymns.*

Kole Nedelkovski's poem "Voice from Macedonia" is one of the most famous patriotic-revolutionary poems in Macedonian literature.

In August 1941, his second book "Walking the World" was published. Only ten days later, on September 2, 1941, Kole Nedelkovski ends his life, during an attempt by the Bulgarian police to arrest him in the apartment where he lived. It remains unclear whether he was thrown by the officers or jumped himself through the window of his room.

Discussion Questions and Answers

- Question:** What is the tone and mood set by the opening lines of the poem, especially with the repetition of "silence, silence" and the reference to "miserable tyrants"?
 - Answer:** The opening lines of the poem set a tone of frustration and defiance. The repetition of "silence, silence" emphasizes the desire to break free from oppression and lies, and the reference to "miserable tyrants" conveys a sense of anger and condemnation.
- Question:** How does the poem address the theme of oppression and slander against the Macedonian people?
 - Answer:** The poem addresses the theme of oppression and slander by condemning those who spread lies and malice over the Macedonian people in

every age. It highlights the historical suffering and injustice faced by the Macedonian population.

3. **Question:** Explore the symbolism of the "wolfish guests" and the idea of a brother "gnawing his dry bones."
 - **Answer:** The "wolfish guests" symbolize foreign powers or oppressors who have invaded and exploited Macedonia. The idea of a brother "gnawing his dry bones" suggests betrayal and division within the Macedonian community.
4. **Question:** What message does the poem convey about the importance of self-determination and raising one's race "gloriously without noise"?
 - **Answer:** The poem conveys the message that self-determination is essential for the Macedonian people to overcome oppression and achieve greatness. It emphasizes the need to take control of one's destiny and build a proud and united nation.
5. **Question:** How does the poem use geographical references like "Shar," "Pirin," and the "Aegean" to evoke a sense of Macedonian identity?
 - **Answer:** The poem uses geographical references to evoke a sense of Macedonian identity by connecting the Macedonian people to their homeland and heritage. It reinforces the idea that Macedonia is an integral part of their identity.
6. **Question:** Discuss the significance of the phrase "raise his race gloriously without noise." What does it mean to achieve greatness without noise?
 - **Answer:** The phrase "raise his race gloriously without noise" suggests that the Macedonian people should work towards greatness through peaceful and dignified means, rather than resorting to violence or conflict. It emphasizes the importance of achieving success with honor.
7. **Question:** How does the poem convey a sense of unity and solidarity among the Macedonian people?
 - **Answer:** The poem conveys a sense of unity and solidarity by calling for Shar, Pirin, and the Aegean to shout in unison and sing a birth song. It implies that the Macedonian people are connected and should work together for a common purpose.
8. **Question:** What role does patriotism play in the poem, and how does it inspire the reader?
 - **Answer:** Patriotism is a central theme in the poem, inspiring the reader to take pride in their Macedonian identity and heritage. It encourages a sense of loyalty and love for one's country and people.
9. **Question:** Explore the historical context of the poem and the poet's own fate. How does this context impact the poem's meaning?
 - **Answer:** The historical context of World War II and the poet's tragic fate add depth to the poem's meaning. The poet's death while resisting arrest underscores the theme of sacrifice and commitment to the Macedonian cause.

10. **Question:** How does the poem use language and imagery to convey a sense of urgency and determination?

- **Answer:** The poem uses strong language and vivid imagery to convey a sense of urgency and determination. Phrases like "raise his race gloriously" and "tempestuous Aegean" evoke a passionate and determined spirit among the Macedonian people.