

## International Women's Day /Международный женский день

The tradition of celebration International Women's Day in Russia dates back in February 1917. Thereat, it was women's political protest against inequality. Nowadays when women and men are equal, this holiday is an incarnation of spring, beauty, and femininity.

What is a «woman» in Slavic (Russian and Ukrainian) culture?

In Russian folklore, especially in the lyric songs, a girl is identified with purity and tenderness:

"Настасья - белая лебедь"(Nastasia is a white swan) (the epic song 'Dobrynia's marriage'("Женитьба Добрыни")), "Молодой жены да белой лебеди"(Young wife and white swan) (the epic song "Дунай и Добрыня сватают невесту князю Владимиру").

In the fairy tale "Финист - ясен сокол" the elder daughters think just about their appearances ("наряжаются в **сарафаны нарядные**, достают платья новые, надевают **бусы золоченые**" Белая лебедушка: Русские волшебные сказки / Обр. И. Карнаухова. - СПб., 1991. - С. 7), but the younger daughter is not just beautiful "**ни в сказке сказать, ни пером описать: брови соболиные, очи соколиные, русая коса до пояса**", first of all she is "**умница-разумница**".

For Russian culture a mind and an integrity are more important than externality.

The married woman in Russian culture shouldn't be attractive, but she has to be a house-proud woman:

"Не хвали жену телом, а хвали делом!" - Do not praise the wife for the body, but praise for the work;

"Не наряд жену красит - домостройство - Not outfit adorns the woman but house management".

In the Ukrainian folklore, not a swan but a dove is a personalization of a young pure girl.

In the folk Ukrainian song "Вечір надворі, ніч наступає" there is such a girl's description:

«Вийди, дівчино,

**серденько миле!** /

Дай подивитись в карії очі,

/ **Стан** твій **обняти** тонкий дівочий, /

**Глянути** в личко

біле, чудове, /

На косу довгу, на чорні брови. /

Вийди до мене, **голубко мила**, /

**Буду любити вік до**

**могили!»**

A typical Ukrainian girl has black eyebrows, brown eyes, and a long braid.

In peoples' consciousness Ukrainian woman as well as Russian work a lot:

"Наша мати дома домує нам вечерю готує"- Our mother at home is preparing for dinner.

"Матінка столи застилає, своїх женихів дожидає ... " -

Mother's table covers and is waiting for the grooms;

Many talented poets devoted poems to their beloved women and mothers.

**Андрій Малишко "Рушник"**

"Рідна мати моя, ти ночей не доспала,  
Ти водила мене у поля край села,  
І в дорогу далеку ти мене на зорі проводжала,  
І рушник вишиваний на щастя дала.  
І в дорогу далеку ти мене на зорі проводжала,  
І рушник вишиваний на щастя, на долю дала".

**Andrew Malyshko «Ruschnyk»**

Dearest Mother of Mine, you had many sleepless nights  
You led me to the fields next to the village  
And on my long journey, you saw me off at dawn  
And gave me an embroidered towel for luck

(<https://lyricstranslate.com/ru/ridna-maty-moya-dearest-mother-mine.html>).

"Рушник" in Ukrainian culture is not the same as an embroidered towel, is a special sacral symbol of the way of human life.

**Евгений Евтушенко "Всегда найдётся женская рука"**

Всегда найдётся женская рука,  
чтобы она, прохладна и легка,  
жалей и немножечко любя,  
как брата, успокоила тебя.

There is always a woman's hand,  
that it is cool and light

pitying and loving a little bit  
as a brother, reassures you.

Be attentive to your women and do not forget to congratulate them on International Women's Day!

**Поздравляю с Международным женским днём! /Вітаю з Міжнародним жіночим днем! - Congratulations on International Women's Day!**

**Дорогие женщины, будьте любимы и красивы! / Дорогі жінки, залишайтеся коханими та привабливими! - Dear women, be loved and beautiful!**

### **Vocabulary**

**Ни в сказке сказать ни пером описать** (lit. neither in a fairy tale say a pen describe)– national Russian proverb

(used to describe the highest degree of some quality, characteristic, attribute etc) a person, thing etc is too extraordinary to be described:

Eng.- **(mere) words cannot (begin to) describe it; lit.** neither in a fairy tale say a pen describe

**Сарафан** – a part of the traditional Russian costume, long dress without sleeves;

**Нарядный** – well-attended;

**Бусы** – the beads:

**Брови соболиные, очи соколиные, русая коса до пояса** - Sable eyebrows, the eyes of a falcon, fair-haired braid all the way down to the waist;

**Соболиные брови** - Wide, thick, dark eyebrows.

### **Ukrainian vocabulary**

**Серденько миле** - a sweetheart;

**Дивитись/подивитись на+Асс.** – to look at something;

**Обіймати/обняти** – to hug;

**Глядіти/Глянути на+ Асс.** - to glance;

**Голубко мила** – **lit.** a cute dove; here is a Vocative case; an sweet appeal to the beloved girl;

**Буду любити тебе до вік до могили!** – I will love you forever and till the end.