

316.647.5:2:316.7(497.771)(049.3)
316.7:316.334.55(497.771)(049.3)

Branislava Paunovska¹

HOLIDAY CUSTOMS IN TETOVO (Department lecture, 23.10.1952)

As in all places, depending on the mentality, have their own specific customs, whether they are connected to certain holidays or other things, likewise in Tetovo there are a number of customs. Their emergence dates to the distant past, and when transferred over many generations, have been preserved even today. Whether keeping in full their old form or passing down through every family in a modified form, they sprout up from every corner as if they have let down deep roots, continuing to maintain their old tradition.

These customs, conducted in their own way, are meant to evoke unusually high interest in the viewer. Entering their essence, one can fully see their beauty, their aim and character and create a clear image of them, regardless of whether a custom represents a feast, name day or any other holiday.

Although there are different forms of the implementation of customs, in general, whether it is separately or collective, all of them have the same aim, which is to create a holiday atmosphere where one can see something that is not part of the every day, rather something specific to that holiday.

As such, when describing the customs of the feast (slava) we note that a fast is held one week before the feast for health, and the house is cleaned (ordered). On the eve of the feast, one calls or “invites”, the closest relatives (brothers, sisters and others) are invited to dinner with a *faraklojsona* (a regular apple) and a bottle of *rakija* (brandy). They send friends: brine, boiled wheat, and *panagija* (traditional bread). The guests that are invited to feast, eat, drink and give blessings:

¹ The manuscript titled “Holiday customs in Tetovo” by Branislava Paunovska is handwritten, in a notebook, as a Departmental lecture (seminar work) at the Studies of Ethnology Department at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje in 1952, under the mentorship of Prof. Dr. Branislav Rusik. Branislava Paunovska is a representative of the first postwar generation of Macedonian ethnologists, and the “Departmental lecture” based on field research was written in the 7th semester of her studies in ethnology. The notebook was found in 2022 by Prof. Dr. Ljupčo S. Risteski in the manuscript legacy of Prof. Dr. Galaba Palikruševa which is now kept in the Digital Archive of Ethnological and Anthropological Resources at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology in Skopje. The transcription of the text was done by Prof. Dr. Ljupčo S. Risteski, with the language and text represented completely in their original form with the aim of noting the linguistic characteristics of the Macedonian language at the time, without proofreading interventions.

“Life to the host, life to the hostess. Life to your children. Next year with a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law. May we be alive and healthy, the house open for eternity, the chimney smoking. Amen God, what is well, so may it be.”

Songs are sung, for example:
 Stojan, guests have come
 The guests do not eat, do not drink
 For Stojan is poor
 Animal pens on nine mountains.
 A large herd on Shar mountain.

Oh pine, pine, green pine
 They make from you silver chairs
 Niko the horseman sits on you
 Holds in his hands a silver cup
 Half wine, half gold
 Drink some, oh Niko the horseman
 To your health.

On this holiday, panagija and boiled wheat are prepared at home or in church, and afterward the panagija is placed in the lojsarnik (cutlery box) (). When the guests visit the host, they are offered brine, *sarma* (stuffed cabbage leaves), pickles, *čerez* (chickpeas) (), *lokum* (Turkish delight), raisins, baklava, and more. All of this is placed on the skelelija (table) “. The whole day is marked with songs such as the following example

Little partridge, little pigeon
 With colorful rows, embroidered rows.
 You fly high, you walk wide,
 You walk wide, you come back.
 You come back and fall onto the house
 Straw on the house, feast in the house
 May the host live
 Drink something oh sweet guests
 Welcome.

Ġorġija, Black Ġorġija
 Three guests have come
 Climbed up on your balcony (čardak)
 Wanting a sweet dinner
 A roasted suckling lamb
 Fed from nine mothers
 Grazed on Shar mountain
 Foddered on a marble slab
 Given water from a spring.

The host oftentimes invites the guests to a toast, takes a glass or bottle with brandy or wine, toasts with the guests and then they begin to sing songs one after the other, such as

I brought a nightingale
Half an oka of brandy
Five oka of red wine
To sleep on your lap
On your red apron,
On your silver threaded little apron.

I drink wine, drink water
Sometimes mead.
I drank a little, I got drunk
I am drunk for a week
Sober for a year.

Drink Stojan, drink for me
May it be to your health
In this house for many years.

Before leaving the room to the balcony or in the yard they sing songs like:

Farewell host of the house,
What we ate, drank
Forgive us for what we spent
Be alive, next year you shall come
We go, we come
We to you
You to us.

Be cheerful host of the house
Your house is cheerful too, amen
Whoever drank was cheerful
Whoever listened was even more cheerful
Give us permission (izin) to go home
My stepsister (posesrimke) is waiting for me.

The first feast in the fall is Petkovden (Petka Parasceva day). Many believe that the way the day goes:, whether the sun warms, or the wind blows, or whether or not it rains,

it is believed that however that day goes - all of the holidays of the year will be like that. Much of the population celebrates it.

Michael the Archangel (Arhanĝel Mihail) - on this holiday wheat is not boiled, it is believed that the saint is alive.

Demetrius day (Mitrovden) - a holiday in which one sows, resows and peels apples, pears and other fruit.

Saint Sava (Sveti Sava) - a smaller holiday, however, the women and those who carry that name (name day) celebrate it.

Saint Barbara (Sveta Varvara) - on that day women do not work so their food does not burn.

Saint Nicholas (Sveti Nikola) - celebrated by fishermen, people who carry that name and as a family feast.

Christmas fasts - begin on Sveti Filip (Saint Philip) and last six weeks. One fasts from oil and meat, and finishing fasting with paĉa (jellied meat). Weddings are not held during these fasts.

Saint Spyridon (Sveti Spiridon) - On that day branches of the plum tree are ripped off and placed in a glass so they bloom for God, and wheat is sown. It is celebrated by people who carry that name.

Saint Ignatius (Sveti Ignet) - a holiday in which the fortune of the house is noted. That day, one member of the family who is believed to be fortunate gets up early, takes a pitcher and goes for water. They buy a simit (pastry). They return home and break plum branches on the way. When they enter the door they say: "Good morning! To many years and celebrations by next year!", and they respond: "Amen God, from your mouth to God's ears". Then they go to the oven, light a fire, stoke it with the branches and say: "Ember chicks, ember eggs, male children, female lambs, ember health, ember money, ember abundance (beriket), etc." The other members of the family do the same thing when they get up. It is observed carefully that no one else comes to visit, especially an orphan or someone crying, as it is believed that the whole year will pass in grief. That is why often-times they place a bar on the door.

Christmas eve (*Badŋa veĉer - Badŋik*) - the day before Christmas, oak logs are brought from nearby places (village *Lešok*). Everyone takes one and brings it into the house where a vigil is kept during the night. For dinner, they cook fish in a pan, doughnuts and little pies. They buy chestnuts, walnuts, hazelnuts, pears, apples, ĉerez (chickpeas). On that day, beans are boiled and then dried, and are later scattered throughout the house against (to destroy) bed bugs.

Christmas (Božik) - celebrated for three days. On the first day, they go to church very early, and then to the homes of close relatives, the kum (godfather/best man), the elder in-law, the mother-in-law, etc. On the first two days, only the men and children go, and on the third day, the brides go with their mother-in-laws and older women.

On that day they sing songs such as:

Oh, oh, Christmas day
When did it come, when did it pass
We did not observe you,
we did not dance enough,
As if it was not a week,
but passed in three days

Saint Stephen (Sveti Stefan) - that holiday is on the third day of Christmas. It is celebrated by people who carry that name. Women do not work on that day.

New Year - usually wood is bought on that day. If there are any debts, one tries to pay them so that the new year does not find him in debt.

On that day a komad (loaf) is kneaded and an old coin or coins are put inside. Once it is baked, everyone sits around the sofrā (table). The host cuts the loaf into as many pieces as there are members of the family and one more part for the house. He turns it three times on the table and everyone takes the piece in front of them. The one whose piece has the coin inside is considered the most fortunate and the coin is kept. That day they gamble, it is said to test their luck.

Epiphany (Vodice) - water is blessed on a river and pigeons are released. If the water in which the cross was placed is frozen then it is believed that illnesses will disappear during that year, or the other way around. After that, children go to houses with a kettle of water, wafting branches of basil and singing:

When you, Lord, were baptized in Jordan
The worship of the Holy Trinity was made manifest.
The voice of the Father bore witness unto you,
calling you the beloved Son
and the Spirit, in the form of a dove,
confirmed those words.
Oh Christ oh God, Who appeared
and enlightened the world, glory be to you.

On the following day, one does not work, “chickens’ epiphany”, so that chickens may lay their eggs.

Three Saints (Tri svetiteľa) - on this holiday women do not work, those who are cured from the illness prepare altar bread.

Saint Tryphon (Sveti Trifun) - Water is blessed in church. People that have grape vines, fields and orchards take the water in bottles to spray them so they can be fertile. On that day the vines are pruned for the first time that year.

Mardi gras (Poklade) - on that day one does not eat meat, but rather fish, doughnuts, šeker pare (syrup cookies), baklava etc. Everyone from the family gathers for dinner and before they begin to eat they ask for forgiveness from each other. The youth go to relatives to ask for forgiveness and give eggs. After dinner, they eat and try to bite *amkaat* (eggs). A halvah, or egg, for “biting” is tied to the ceiling, the string is set on fire on the end and elder women talk about “witch Sava, Anġa” etc. The rest of the string is kept against *logajca* (illness) and the egg is filled with wine and everyone is given some from the wine for their throat.

Clean Monday (Čisti ponedelnik) - on that day, one cleans and washes and the fast begins.

Lent - the Easter fasts last for seven weeks. One fasts with a white egg and completes the fast on Easter with a dyed-red egg. During those fasts one does not eat meat, except one: Blagovec and Cvetnica, one eats fish. Weddings are not held and there is no singing.

Annunciation (Blagovec) - on this holiday, in families that have suffered the loss of a child, the ears of little girls and boys are pierced. Girls who, until then, had not held dough in their hands, knead a sweet pastry and give it to all of their close friends. On Annunciation, the cuckoo cuckoos, and one tries to hear it in the morning and make sure that it is not hungry. However, if it is heard in the evening it is believed that there will be a death during the year (somebody will die), additionally, the one who hears it will have a backward year.

Lazarus Saturday - On the eve of this holiday, the girls and young brides come together to gather the Lazarus Flower from gardens, singing:

Gather Lazare friends
gather Lazare friends
So we gather Lazare, Lazare
So we gather Lazare
The friend who does not come Lazare
The friend who does not come
May a snake bite her Lazare,
May a snake bite her.
May a lizard eat her Lazare,
May a lizard eat her.
May she lay for three years Lazare,

May she lay for three years.
 May she rip three beds Lazare,
 May she rip three beds.
 May she not find medicine anywhere Lazare,
 May she not find medicine anywhere.

Crowns are made from the Lazarus flower. The crown is carried by one of the group called a "bride". They start at midnight singing Lazarus songs and going to houses where they receive gifts, money, eggs, flour, etc. The money is divided amongst them, while bread is kneaded from the flour, etc. There are many songs for this holiday, for example:

For a girl:

Good morning Lazare, Lazare
 Do you want Lazare,
 One time a year Lazare,
 One time a year.
 With all dear relatives Lazare
 Dark eyed girl Lazare
 Dark eyed girl.
 What are you wearing, carrying Lazare
 What are you wearing, carrying?
 With fine thread (ibrišim) hair Lazare,
 With fine thread hair.
 With a gold coin (autanče) forehead Lazare,
 With a gold coin forehead.
 With eyebrows like leeches (pijajce), Lazare.
 With eyebrows like leeches.
 With eyes like thorns (trnavce) Lazare,
 With eyes like thorns.
 With a pencil (kalemče) nose, Lazare
 With a pencil nose.
 With pastry (simidi) cheeks, Lazare
 With pastry cheeks.
 With a boxed (kutija) mouth Lazare,
 With a boxed mouth.
 With pearl (biseri) teeth, Lazare
 With pearl teeth.
 With a turkish delight (lokumče) mouth, Lazare
 With a turkish delight mouth.
 With a cheese pie (kaiče) chin, Lazare
 With a cheese pie chin.
 With mackerel (skumrija) strength, Lazare.

With mackerel strength.
 Others with farewell, Lazare
 Others with farewell.
 This year yards, Lazare
 This year yards.
 By next year palaces, Lazare
 By next year palaces.

Good morning Lazare, Lazare
 Good morning Lazare.
 One time a year, Lazare
 One time a year.
 With all dear relatives, Lazare
 With all dear relatives.
 The hero here is not married, Lazare.
 The hero here is not married.
 Marry him marry him, Lazare
 Marry him marry him
 Lest he will run off, Lazare,
 Lest he will run off

Over two mountain meadows, Lazare
 Over two mountain meadows.
 Over four pastures, Lazare
 Over four pastures
 He will find a girl there, Lazare
 He will find a girl here.
 He will take her by the hand, Lazare
 He will take her by the hand.
 He will give her an apple, Lazare
 He will give her an apple.
 Take, take her home, Lazare
 Take, take her home
 To help my mother, Lazare
 To help my mother
 A change for my father, Lazare
 A change for my father.
 To help my brother saddle his horse, Lazare
 To help my brother saddle his horse
 To embroider my sister's blouse, Lazare
 To embroider my sister's blouse
 Fare well, Lazare
 Fare well.
 This year yards, Lazare

This year yards.
 By next year palaces, Lazare
 By next year palaces.

Good morning Lazare, Lazare
 Good morning Lazare
 Do you want Lazare, Lazare
 Do you want Lazare.
 One time a year, Lazare
 One time a year.
 With all dear relatives, Lazare
 With all dear relatives.
 Mile boasted himself, Lazare
 Mile boasted himself.
 I have a beautiful Gora, Lazare
 I have a beautiful Gora, Lazare.
 More beautiful than a headscarved woman, Lazare
 More beautiful than a headscarved woman.
 Thinner than a shotgun, Lazare
 Thinner than a shotgun.
 Sharper than a sword, Lazare
 Sharper than a sword.
 Harder working than a pitchfork, Lazare
 Harder working than a pitchfork
 Whiter than an egg, Lazare
 Whiter than an egg.
 Redder than wine, Lazare
 Redder than wine.
 Sweeter than sugar, Lazare
 Sweeter than sugar.
 Angrier than a snake, Lazare
 Angrier than a snake.
 This year gardens, Lazare
 This year gardens.
 By next year palaces, Lazare
 By next year palaces.

Good morning Lazare, Lazare
 Good morning Lazare.
 Do you want Lazare, Lazare
 Do you want Lazare?
 One time a year, Lazare
 One time a year.

With all dear relatives, Lazare
 With all dear relatives.
 This crazy small one, Lazare
 This crazy small one.
 Riding a cradle, Lazare
 Riding a cradle .
 In silk nappies, Lazare
 In silk nappies.
 In silver wrappings, Lazare
 In silver wrappings.
 His mother was praying, Lazare
 His mother was praying.
 Ride in that cradle meekly, Lazare
 Ride in that cradle meekly.
 So that you do not flip it crazy one, Lazare
 So that you do not flip it.
 My little one is crazy, Lazare
 My little one is crazy.
 Fare well, Lazare
 Fare well.
 This year gardens, Lazare
 This year gardens.
 By next year palaces, Lazare
 By next year palaces.

Good morning Lazare, Lazare
 Good morning Lazare.
 Do you want Lazare, Lazare
 Do you want Lazare?
 One time a year, Lazare
 One time a year.
 With all dear relatives, Lazare
 With all dear relatives.
 A little fir has sprouted, Lazare
 A little fir has sprouted.
 It is not a little fir, Lazare
 It is not a little fir.
 It is a mother's little daughter, Lazare
 It is a mother's little daughter.
 She is proud of her, Lazare
 She is proud of her.
 As a garden with flowers, Lazare
 As a garden with flowers.
 As a vine with grapes, Lazare
 As a vine with grapes.

As a field with corn, Lazare
 As a field with corn.
 As a barrel with wine, Lazare
 As a barrel with wine.
 Fare well, Lazare
 Fare well.
 This year gardens, Lazare
 This year gardens.
 By next year palaces, Lazare
 By next year palaces.

Good morning Lazare, Lazare
 Good morning Lazare.
 Do you want Lazare, Lazare
 Do you want Lazare?
 One time a year, Lazare
 One time a year.
 With all dear relatives, Lazare
 With all dear relatives.
 A little pine has sprouted, Lazare
 A little pine has sprouted.
 It is not a pine, Lazare
 It is not a pine
 It is a mother's son, Lazare
 It is a mother's son
 She is proud of him, Lazare
 She is proud of him.
 As a garden with flowers, Lazare
 As a garden with flowers.
 As a vine with grapes, Lazare
 As a vine with grapes.
 As a field with corn, Lazare
 As a field with corn.
 As a barrel with wine, Lazare
 As a barrel with wine.
 Fare well, Lazare
 Fare well.
 This year gardens, Lazare
 This year gardens.
 By next year palaces, Lazare
 By next year palaces.

Good morning Lazare, Lazare

Good morning Lazare.
 Do you want Lazare, Lazare
 Do you want Lazare?
 One time a year, Lazare
 One time a year.
 With all dear relatives, Lazare
 With all dear relatives.
 Two firs have sprouted, Lazare
 Two firs have sprouted.
 Between them a little pine, Lazare
 Between them a little pine.
 They are not two firs, Lazare
 They are not two firs.
 They are a mother's two daughters, Lazare
 They are a mother's two daughters.
 It is not a little pine, Lazare
 It is not a little pine.
 It is a mother's little son, Lazare
 It is a mother's little son.
 She is proud of them, Lazare
 She is proud of them.
 As a garden with flowers, Lazare
 As a garden with flowers.
 As a vine with grapes, Lazare
 As a vine with grapes.
 As a field with corn, Lazare
 As a field with corn.
 As a barrel with wine, Lazare
 As a barrel with wine.
 Fare well, Lazare
 Fare well.
 This year gardens, Lazare
 This year gardens.
 By next year palaces, Lazare
 By next year palaces.

Good morning Lazare, Lazare
 Good morning Lazare.
 Do you want Lazare, Lazare
 Do you want Lazare?
 One time a year, Lazare
 One time a year.
 With all dear relatives, Lazare
 With all dear relatives.

Two pines have sprouted, Lazare
 Two pines have sprouted.
 Between them a little fir, Lazare
 Between them a little fir.
 They are not two pines, Lazare
 They are not two pines.
 They are a mother's two sons, Lazare
 They are a mother's two sons.
 It is not a little fir, Lazare
 It is not a little fir.
 It is a mother's little daughter, Lazare
 It is a mother's little daughter.
 She is proud of her, Lazare
 She is proud of her.
 As a garden with flowers, Lazare
 As a garden with flowers.
 As a vine with grapes, Lazare
 As a vine with grapes.
 As a field with corn, Lazare
 As a field with corn.
 As a barrel with wine, Lazare
 As a barrel with wine.
 Fare well, Lazare
 Fare well.
 This year gardens, Lazare
 This year gardens.
 By next year palaces, Lazare
 By next year palaces.

Good morning Lazare, Lazare
 Good morning Lazare.
 Do you want Lazare, Lazare
 Do you want Lazare?
 One time a year, Lazare
 One time a year.
 With all dear relatives, Lazare
 With all dear relatives.
 A girl here under a ring, Lazare
 A girl here under a ring.
 Mile came to cut it off, Lazare
 Mile came to cut it off.
 Fly oh fly, Lazare
 Fly of fly.
 Two pairs of pigeons, Lazare
 Two pairs of pigeons.

They flew to Ľuba's gardens, Lazare
 To Ľuba's gardens.
 And they said to Ľuba, Lazare
 And they said to Ľuba.
 Treat your mother-in-law, Lazare
 Treat your mother-in-law.
 Mother-in-law and father-in-law, Lazare
 Mother-in-law and father-in-law.
 And the two dear brothers-in-law, Lazare
 And the two dear brothers-in-law.

Good morning Lazare, Lazare
 Good morning Lazare.
 Do you want Lazare, Lazare
 Do you want Lazare?
 One time a year, Lazare
 One time a year.
 With all dear relatives, Lazare
 With all dear relatives.
 They flew and flew, Lazare
 They flew and flew
 Two pairs of doves, Lazare
 Two pairs of doves.
 They fell and fell, Lazare
 They fell and fell.
 Into the gentleman's gardens, Lazare
 Into the gentleman's gardens.
 The gentleman was husking corn, Lazare
 The gentleman was husking corn.
 Throwing it to the doves, Lazare
 Throwing it to the doves.
 Saying to the doves, Lazare
 Saying to the doves.
 Hey pigeons, doves, Lazare
 Hey pigeons, doves.
 Go this year Lazare,
 Go this year.
 Come by next year, Lazare
 Come by next year.
 I will have two joys, Lazare
 I will have two joys.
 My dear son will marry, Lazare
 My dear son will marry.
 My dear daughter will marry, Lazare
 My dear daughter will marry.

Fare well, Lazare
 Fare well.
 This year gardens, Lazare
 This year gardens.
 By next year palaces, Lazare
 By next year palaces.

Good morning Lazare, Lazare
 Good morning Lazare.
 Do you want Lazare, Lazare
 Do you want Lazare?
 One time a year, Lazare
 One time a year.
 With all dear relatives, Lazare
 With all dear relatives.
 An old woman here, Lazare
 An old woman here.
 Sitting on the chair, Lazare
 Sitting on the chair.
 Husking white corn, Lazare
 Husking white corn.
 Throwing it to pigeons, Lazare
 Throwing it to pigeons.
 Nibble, nibble Lazare
 Nibble, nibble.
 Two pairs of pigeons, Lazare
 Two pairs of pigeons.
 Fare well, Lazare
 Fare well.
 This year gardens, Lazare
 This year gardens.
 By next year palaces, Lazare
 By next year palaces.

If at any house they are not given a gift, they curse them. Instead of singing “This year yards Lazare, by next year palaces, Lazare”, they sing “This year yards Lazare, by next year graves”.

Palm Sunday (Cvetnice) - a holiday during the large fasts. A willow branch is taken from the church which is then kept under an icon.

Great Thursday (Veliki Četvrtok) - on that day eggs are colored red before the sun rises (with brazilwood). One of those eggs is taken and placed before an icon which will

serve to prevent hail (graduška). There is a belief that if that egg is placed with a saw under a ledge that the hail will stop immediately. Also, in the morning the mother rubs their children with a hot, red egg saying: "Red, white like an egg"

Great Friday (Veliki petok) - a solemn holiday. One does not work on that day. People who suffer from headaches wash their heads on that day. During the year they also avoid washing on Fridays.

Easter (Veligden) - a big holiday. It is celebrated for three days. People greet each other with "Christ has risen", "He is risen indeed". On the first day, one goes to church very early, and afterwards only to the homes of close relatives, the godfather/best man (*kumot*), the elderly in-laws, the mother-in-law, etc. Only men and children visit on the first two days, and on the third, the brides and their mothers-in-law or older women visit relatives. On this holiday, everyone who comes for a visit is given a red egg. Songs are sung on this day, for example:

Come, come Easter day
See what I am working on,
I am spinning silk
Knitting cord,
Spinning silk for socks,
Knitting cord for an overcoat (*dolama*)
Come, come Easter day,
When did you come, when did you pass,
We did not celebrate you,
We did not dance,
As if it were not a week,
But passed in three days.

Good Friday (Balaklija) - is celebrated for two days on the Thursday and Friday after Easter. On Thursday afternoon, one goes by the river where the girls and boys "court each other". On Friday, one goes out in the morning until evening and there is eating, drinking and singing.

Mid-Week (Rusa Sreda) - on this holiday there is no work done because of "eyes" (so that splinters do not enter your eyes).

St. George's Day (Ćurgovden) - a holiday celebrated by the Christian and Muslim population. On that day one goes to visit close ones and songs are sung, for example:

Come Cveto to flowers,
Let us gather flowers,
Whichever friend does not come,
May a snake eat her,
May a lizard drink her,

May she lay for three years,
May she rip three beds,
May she not find medicine anywhere.

Come friend let us go for herbs,
Whichever friend does not come may a snake eat her,
May she lay for three years and days
May she rip three-nine beds
May she prop herself on a straw,
May she drink water for a hazelnut,
And may everything be too little for her.

People gather herbs and decorate the doors with them and the small children are bathed in water with herbs: dogwood, lovage, geranium, grass, thick pumpkin, spleenwort, tansy and a red Easter egg. In the evening, a bowl of water and herbs is placed under a rose. In the morning, they bathe with that water. A white thread and an old red coin, a thick pumpkin and spleenwort are tied on the children's necks. On that day they are weighed on raw wood, rocked on a swing singing songs, like:

On the mountain we make a swing on the maple,
On the mountain on the maple lejlo, lejlo
All the girls under the maple lejlo, lejlo
All the girls and young men under the maple, lejlo, lejlo,
Љuba sat on the swing lejlo, lejlo
Say Љuba where do you want to go, lejlo, lejlo
I want to go to Stojko for Trajko lejlo,
Trajko is across me, lejlo, lejlo
He took his cap Dear God, lejlo, lejlo
Give me, God, a strong wind lejlo, lejlo
A strong wind to knock white Љuba down lejlo,
So she falls on my lap, lejlo, lejlo
Collect Ćeno some silken cord lejlo, lejlo
As if Simo will wait for you lejlo, lejlo
Simo gathered the whole band lejlo, lejlo
So that you make them sweet coffee lejlo, lejlo
Sweet coffee rum brandy lejlo, lejlo.

They go for an outing (*uranak*) in the St. George (Sv. Ćorgija) Monastery in Dolna Rečica, Tetovo region. They stay almost the whole day to eat, drink and sing songs, such as:

St. Ćugo rides a horse,

Rides a horse, a horse with a saddle.
 Walks around the field,
 To see what abundance there is,
 His old mother asks him,
 Why are you sad so, St. Gurgo?
 Oh mother, old mother,
 The spring crop did not sprout,
 The autumn crop perished.

In Dolna Rečica and Isar on that day, oil is poured (with magical properties) in the evening on a crossroad. Oil is put in hair which is then brushed and trimmed, and then an old coin is placed on top, saying: "Downwards hair, upwards girl."

Jeremiah (Jeremija) - a holiday celebrated because of snakes and whip snakes. The day before, one knocks with a "shovel and tongs", saying "Snake and whip snakes in the sea, Jeremija in the field". The custom is for women to go around yards on that day, get dirty in the grass and drink sheep milk.

Ascension day (Spasovden) - this holiday is celebrated by people who carry that name, women do not work on that day.

Holy Wonderworkers, Cosmas and Damian and St. Philip (Sv. Vrač, Kuzman and Damjan and Sv. Filip) - on these days no work is done to avoid childhood illnesses.

Winter and summer Athanasius day (Atansovden) - in these holidays, the people go to the "Kale" in Tetovo where the Church of Saint Atanasija is found. They stay the whole day, singing, dancing, etc. On the summer Athanasius day, women that have not given birth go around a try so that they can conceive.

St. Mina and St. Sisoës (Sv. Mina and Sv. Sisoja) - are celebrated to avoid various childhood illnesses (epilepsy). On that day, mothers whose children are ill make a loaf of bread and fast.

Fiery Mary (Ogñena Marija) - work is not done that day to avoid fire.

St. Dusi, Pentecost (Sv. Dusi, Duhovden) - this holiday is celebrated for three days. On the first day, the people go to church with an *oroškojna*. The church is covered with hay which is used to make wreaths, as many as there are children there, and it is then placed before an icon. The *oroškojna* is used the next day to clean the graves.

John day (Ivan den) - on this holiday, John's flower and mint are picked and sold the next day. The flower is kept for destroying moths, and the mint for eating.

St. Elijah, Elijah day (Sv. Ilija, Ilinden) - celebrated by the Christian and Muslim population. On that day, the people go to the "Teke" on St. Elijah's grave and leave various gifts and light candles.

Transfiguration (Preobraždenie) - a holiday during the Mother of God (Bogorojčni) fasts. Fish is consumed, and for the first time in the year, grapes.

Dormition of the Mother of God (Golema Bogorojca) - on this holiday, people not just from the city but the villages as well, go to the village Lešok in Tetovo where the St. Mother of God monastery is found. They bring gifts, carpets, kettles (*posuđe*), lambs, etc. They sing and dance the whole day, and the most notable aspect is that boys and girls court each other.

Vrtolum - ss celebrated for the bees. On that day it is seen how the bees will fare during the year (whether they will swarm), based on the weather, whether it will rain, be windy or if the weather will be good. No work is done that day to avoid headaches.

Assumption of the Mother of God (Mala Bogorodica) - people go to Lešok village where the St. Bogorojca monastery is found. Weddings are not held between the Assumption and Dormition of the Mother of God.

Elevation of the Holy Cross (Krstovden) - the day the cross is found. The women do not work. Fruit is left on the trees until that day and from that day on they start gathering. Fields are sown with corn, etc.

St. Theodor, Todoraja (Sv. Todor, Todoraja) - on this holiday, wheat and corn are boiled and taken to church. The women themselves, or their mothers, and sisters (close ones) take from three dishes without being noticed. After that, twigs from the three bridges and water from three fountains. In the evening, as soon as they take a bite, they take the first bite from their mouth and, without saying anything, go to sleep.

Beneath their pillows, they put wheat and corn and the bite. They wear their nightgowns inside out and put a glass of water on a chair or a small wall. They cross themselves, praying: "God, may I see the one who is my destiny in my dreams. If he is over water, may the twigs be a bridge. If he is thirsty, may he drink the water".

Presentation of Mary (Prečista) - celebrated as a family feast. Songs are sung, such as:

Drink some Sir Ilija,
May the ever-pure aid you,
Pure to the drop,
Be joyous oh host of the home,
May your home be joyous, amen,
Guests, friends have come
Bringing good news,
Your white herd has birthed lambs,
Your goats birthed kids,
Your cows birth calves,
Oh host, I brought some
wine and brandy
Let us drink and get drunk,
Straw before the house,
Feast inside the house.

May he live,
the host.

If there is a drought the next year, girls and a group of children gather and make a wreath of ivy. One member of the group pretends to be a “bride”, *dodole* songs are sung among houses, for which the group receives gifts, money, etc.

Are you home hostess, Oi dodole dear God,
Wake if you are sleeping, Oi dodole dear God,
Be joyous if you are drinking, Oi dodole dear God
May soft rain fall, Oi dodole dear God
May it bring out the wheat and wine, Oi dodole dear God
May the grain storage fill up, Oi dodole dear God
May the desolate eat, Oi dodole dear God
Those without leg, without hand, Oi dodole dear God,
Those without father, without mother, Oi dodole dear
God.