

Ir jšoko ožėlis The Goat in the Garden

Lithuanian folk song

Harmonization: Banga Balakauskienė

This is a humorous children's song, perhaps teaching a lesson. As our little ones grow up, we sometimes see these „stubborn goats“, who appear at the wrong time and in the wrong place. Common people would call a child's capricious behavior “a little goat” (“ožiukas”). As people observed bird or animal behavior in nature, they would create stories, games, and songs for little children.

In the past, physical discipline was part of “folk wisdom” – to teach children a lesson. Today's parenting has moved away from corporal punishment, considering it counterproductive, causing emotions of anger, revenge, and fear. While singing this song, few adults will pay attention to what happens to the goat when it jumps into the garden, and there is no need to explain this in detail to children. The goat jumped into the garden and ate the cabbage leaves. The housewife (“kopūstienė”) went outside and chased the goat out of the garden.

The refrain contains catchwords, which are fun for children, and bring a mood of lightness and happiness to the song. Goats used to have little bells hung around their neck, so the owner could hear where the goat was grazing. The syllables “meilinga džiunga” perhaps imitate the sound of these bells. “Ciba, ciba (cabulai)” were the words used to call a goat to return to the barn. “Judyt budyt” are perhaps the words used to call baby goats to butt heads and play with each other.

The song ends with the loving words “my dear goat” (“oželi mana”) – no matter what mischief the goat gets into, it is still a favorite animal of the family.