**Do The Russians Want War?**  
poem by Yevgeni Yevtushenko  
set to music by Alexander Nicolayevich Kholminov   
singing translation by Leonard Lehrman  
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first published in *The Hilltop Beacon*, 1966  
(inspired by Mario Pei's non-singing translation,   
*Columbia University Forum*, Winter 1966)  
  
O, do the Russians long for war?  
Ask of the stillness evermore,  
Ask of the field, or ask the breeze,  
And ask the birch and poplar trees.  
  
Ask of the soldiers who now lie  
Beneath the birch trees and the sky,   
And let their sons tell you once more  
Whether the Russians long  
Whether the Russians long  
Whether the Russians long for war.  
  
Not only at their country's call  
Did Russian soldiers fight and fall;  
They died that men from ev'ry shore  
Might live without the fear of war.  
  
Ask those who fought, and those erased,  
Ask those who at the Elbe you embraced.  
These monuments are only for  
To show if Russians long  
To show if Russians long  
To show if Russians long for war.  
  
Yes, we can fight when fight we must;  
Be we don't wish to breathe the dust  
Of soldiers brave from ev'ry clime  
Who give up life before their time.  
  
Ask of the women in our life,   
Ask of our mothers - ask my wife -   
And you will never wonder more  
Whether the Russians long  
Whether the Russians long  
Whether the Russians long for war.  
  
Their answer rises loud and clear  
For all men, ev'rywhere, to hear.  
The message now is as before:  
The Russians do not long  
The Russians do not long  
The Russians do not long for war.