

# Paparuda

Ritual dance from Moldova, Romania  
Presented by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu

Paparuda is the name of an ancient Romanian deity that people appeal to for rain in times of extreme heat or drought.

Paparuda also refers to a magic ritual practised in Romania. Similar rituals with different names are found in other countries.

Originally the ritual was carried out on a set date, probably the spring equinox. Under pressure from Christianity, it was moved to the third Thursday after Easter. Nowadays it is held only occasionally, during a period of severe drought.

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The three-part ceremony begins with “the birth.” Young people are bedecked with leaves and a crown of flowers. This part must always be done next to a water source. The procession comes next, when the young people dance their way through the village, the rhythm set by their singing. As they pass, the villagers douse them with water or occasionally with milk. They also make them offerings such as food, money or small objects. In the third part, called “the burial,” the members of the procession return to the water source, remove their “costumes” of leaves and crowns and throw them in the water.

**Formation:** individuals in a circle

**Position:** free hands, facing center

**Pronunciation:** pah-pah-ROO-dah

**Music:** *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 8, Band 17*

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Meter: 4/4

Description of *Paparuda*  
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Meas.      Count

## **Introduction**

No action

## **Figure 1** (In and out toward center)

<b>1</b>	1	Step on R twd center
	2	Step on L twd center
	3	Step on R twd center

4 Lift on R heel while raising L ft (knee bent 45°) near R ankle

Note: Bring arms straight, up twd sky (palms can be facing up or down) during the entire measure

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Meter: 4/4 Description of *Paparuda* (continued)

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Meas.	Count	<b><u>Figure 1</u></b>
<b>2</b>	1	Step on L bkwd
	2	Step on R bkwd
	3	Step on L bkwd
	4	Lift on L heel while raising R ft slightly in front (knee bent 45°)

Note: Bring arms down during the entire measure

**3-8** Repeat measures **1-2**, three more times (4 in total)

**Figure 2** (Promenade LOD)  
(Facing LOD)

<b>1</b>	1	Step on R onto LOD
	&	Step on L near R
	2&	Step fwd on R
	3	Step fwd on L
	&	Step on R near L
	4&	Step fwd on L

Note: measure **1** = two *two-steps*

**2-8** Repeat measure **1**, seven more times (8 in total)

Style:

During the figure **2**, arms are moving together from side to side (Onto R and L according to the ftwk). This movement can be done arms down or at waist level or up above head. Freely, the dancers could add some turns during the figure.

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Final pattern:

(F1 + F2) x 4.

Song for  
Paparuda

Paparudă, rudă,  
Sai în sus și udă,  
Udă cu cofița  
Ca să crească vița.

La-la-la...

Paparudă, rudă,  
Sai în sus și udă,  
Udă cu găleata  
Ca să crească roada.

La-la-la...

Paparudă, rudă,  
Sai în sus și udă,  
Udă cu ulciorul  
Să crească feciorul.

La-la-la...

Paparudă, rudă,  
Sai în sus și udă,  
Udă cu cănița  
Să crească fetița.

La-la-la...  
Au-aaau...

Paparudă\*, rudă\*\*,  
Run and water,  
Water with a pitcher  
So the vine will grow.

La-la-la...

Paparudă, rudă,  
Run and water,  
Water with a bucket  
So the harvest will be plentiful.

La-la-la...

Paparudă, rudă,  
Run and water,  
Water with a jug  
So the young man will grow.

La-la-la...

Paparudă, rudă,  
Run and water,  
Water with a little cup  
So the young girl will grow.

La-la-la...  
Au-aaau...

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\*Paparudă is the name of an ancient deity in Romanian mythology.

\*\* Rudă means “relative” (adj.), but here it simply serves as a rhyme.

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