

# POBELELO POLE

Slovenian group dance from Bela Krajina

Dance notes by Dick Crum 10/88

Dances exclusively accompanied by singing are a rarity in the Slovenian Alpine region of Yugoslavia, except in relatively low-lying areas approaching the Pannonian plainland, where Slovenians share many culture traits with neighboring Croatians and Hungarians.

In the Bela Krajina district, bordering on Croatia, a number of singing dances have been recorded, as well as a few dances done with neither vocal or instrumental accompaniment ('silent' dances). These are generally recognized as the result of heavy immigration into this area in the past, prompted, among other things, by the Turkish occupation further south. Many of the immigrants came from the Dinaric mountain zone, where dancing without instrumental accompaniment was more the rule than the exception.

*Pobelelo pole* (po-beh-LEH-lo POH-leh, 'The field was white') is traditionally performed in the village of Predgrad on 'Anževo' (AHN-zheh-voh, St. John's Day, December 27 [winter solstice]). The song is a typical South Slavic lyrical ballad.

**Meter:** 2/4

**The dance:** Closed circle, mixed men and women, hands joined and held down at sides in "V" position. (Old-time villagers recall that *Pobelelo pole* was done exclusively by women in former days, i.e., up into the 1930's.)

Meas 1	ct 1	<i>Pobe-</i>	Facing to the L, step Lft forward in RLOD.
	ct 2	<i>lelo</i>	Continuing in RLOD, step on Rft, turning to face the center of the circle.
Meas 2	ct 1	<i>po-</i>	Facing center of circle, step in (toward center) with Lft.
	ct 2	<i>le</i>	Still facing center, step back (outward) with Rft, turning to face L in preparation for repeat of pattern.

The above pattern is done a total of 6 times (12 measures) to complete 1 verse of the song; then the dancers perform 1 pattern (2 measures) without singing, i.e., in silence, before continuing on to the following verse.

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Slovenian dance song from Bela Krajina

Transcribed and translated by Dick Crum 6/88

Dance song from Predgrad (PRED-grahd) in the Bela Krajina (BEH-lah KRAH-yee-nah) district of Slovenia, Yugoslavia.



- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 1.  | Pobeleslo pole z ov cama,<br>pobeleslo pole, pobeleslo pole<br>z ov cama, z ov cama.          | <i>The field was white with sheep.</i>                         |
| 2.  | Ne imale ovce čobana,<br>ne imale ovce, ne imale ovce<br>čobana, čobana.                      | <i>The sheep had no shepherd.</i>                              |
| 3.  | Čobanče je leglo, zaspalo,<br>čobanče je leglo, čobanče je leglo,<br>zaspalo, zaspalo.        | <i>The young shepherd had lain down<br/>and fallen asleep.</i> |
| 4.  | Sinoč so mi došle tri vile,<br>sinoč so mi došle, sinoč so mi došle<br>tri vile, tri vile.    | <i>Last night three <u>vile</u>* came to me.</i>               |
| 5.  | Pa so meni srce vadile,<br>pa so meni srce, pa so meni srce<br>vadile, vadile.                | <i>And they took out my heart.</i>                             |
| 6.  | Najprva si bila majka ti,<br>najprva si bila, najprva si bila<br>majka ti, majka ti.          | <i>The first was you, mother.</i>                              |
| 7.  | A druga je bila sestrice,<br>a druga je bila, a druga je bila<br>sestrice, sestrice.          | <i>The second was my young sister.</i>                         |
| 8.  | A tretja je bila ljubica,<br>a tretja je bila, a tretja je bila<br>ljubica, ljubica.          | <i>The third was my sweetheart.</i>                            |
| 9.  | Tebi ču ja, majko, oprostit,<br>tebi ču ja, majko, tebi ču ja, majko,<br>oprostit, oprostit.  | <i>I will forgive you, mother.</i>                             |
| 10. | Sestri ču ja ruke odrezat,<br>sestri ču ja ruke, sestri ču ja ruke<br>odrezat, odrezat.       | <i>I will cut off my sister's hands.</i>                       |
| 11. | Ljubco ču ja žarko poljubit,<br>ljubco ču ja žarko, ljubco ču ja žarko<br>poljubit, poljubit. | <i>I will kiss my sweetheart<br/>passionately.</i>             |

\* *Vile* (VEE-leh) are legendary Balkan fairies or wood nymphs; their behavior is often (though not always) malevolent.