

Spoon Sweets

Serbian transcript:

A: Како бисмо слатко објаснили, то је...

Б: Слатко, то уствари се прави тако што се воће дуго кува са пуно шећера и мало воде, тако да се добије нешто што је течније од џема, као воће, кухано ушећерено воће у неком шербету. Шербет је општепозната ствар шта је, или као кандирано воће. Исто је специфично, нема ништа са чиме могу директно да, овај, упоредим, али оно што је исто за слатко... Добро, слатко је ствар престижа у традиционалним српским кућама јер се обично гости дочекују са мало слатка и са чашом воде. И онда, када је добро слатко, онда свака посета лепо почне, и онда је прва главна тема за разговор „како је добро слатко“ и „како правите ваше слатко“ и „зашто сте изабрали баш трешње ове године, а не дуње“ и тако даље.

A: Ја се сећам што ми је тренер тениса причао, у његово време, он сад има неких шездесет година, али у престижним београдским породицама, ћерка би када дођу гости, пошто ћерке тада нису ишле у школе или чисто да би биле добро образоване домаћице, ћерка би дошла са неком елегантном тацном и чашом воде и слатким, и онда би она послужила госте са осмехом на лицу и тако уз неку културу. Без тога посета не би могла да почне, просто није културна кућа ако не послужи слатко на почетку, и онда би она добила комплимент „здрава била и добро се удала“.

Б: Да, да...

A: Ако је слатко добро, онда би...

Б: Да, да... То уствари осликава ту неку традиционалну улогу жене. Да, јер жена се бирала између осталог по томе и каква ће домаћица да буде. А то су све били узорци њеног понашања.

A: „Види какво сам слатко направила, зар не желиш да ме ожениш?“

English translation:

A: How can we explain what spoon sweets are, they're...

B: Spoon sweets, they are made by cooking fruit over a long period of time with a lot of sugar and a little bit of water, and as a final result you get something more liquid than jam. It's like fruit, cooked, sweetened fruit in sherbet. Sherbet is well-known everywhere. Or similar to candied fruit. It's very specific; there's nothing I can directly compare it with, but what's also interesting about spoon sweets is... Well, spoon sweets are a matter

of prestige in traditional Serbian homes, because guests are usually greeted with a little bit of spoon sweets and a glass of water. And then, when the spoon sweets are good, each visit starts off on a good note, and the first topic of conversation is "these spoon sweets are really good" or "how do you make your spoon sweets" and "why did you choose cherries this year and not quince", etc.

A: I remember what my tennis coach told me, in his day... He's about sixty years old, but in prestigious Belgrade families, when guests arrived a daughter would... Since daughters didn't go to school back then, or simply to be well-prepared homemakers, a daughter would enter with an elegant platter holding a glass of water and spoon sweets, and she'd serve the guests with a smile on her face and general proper behavior. The visit couldn't begin without it; a home wouldn't be considered well-kept if they didn't serve spoon sweets at the very beginning, and then she'd be given a compliment which goes: "May you be healthy and marry well."

B: Yes, yes...

A: If the spoon sweets were good, then she'd...

B: Yes, yes... This actually describes the traditional role of a woman. Yes, because a wife was chosen based on what kind of a hostess she would be. And these were samples of her behavior.

A: "See how good my spoon sweets are, don't you want to marry me?"

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