



2026 · The Silence

The Poet's Commandment

Lyrics: Georgy Sheld (Yuri Sheldovitsyn) · 2014 · poem on stih.ru · interview with the poet

Music: Sergio Rykov · 04.04.2024

SoundCloud: soundcloud.com/sergiorykov/zapoved-poeta

Song page: sergiorykov.github.io/music/en/songs/2024-04-the-poets-commandment/

Automatic translation — only to convey the meaning. The song is sung in: ru.

epigraph

The law is not always just,
And truth is at times outside the law,
Where a priest built himself a castle,
There the devil builds a temple of concrete.

We often take our love of self
Vainly, as if we were too good...
But only those are good who could show earthly love
To us out of the kindness of their soul.

The winner is not the one who knocks others out,
The one who wins in all things is the one who rules himself;
Who knows how to love and who lives honestly,
In a hard moment, the Lord Himself helps him.

When people's souls grow tired of living in malice -
Love will cast down hatred forever!
Whoever was an enemy may become a friend,
Every person will be happy.

The godless will come to believe, once he breaks out of hell,
And the believer, in his vanity, will forget about paradise.

All are equal before God, we must not forget,
But each one chooses when to step onto the edge.

It is so important to forgive, it concerns us all! -
Only a coward and a sluggard live without mistakes.
For one who walks through life, stumbling is no sin;
Whoever strives to help bears a cross of reproaches.

I listened to the silence of abandoned villages
And the endless noise in city slums;
I have been to holy places, ancient and steeped in prayer,
Where there is no worldly bustle and no human folly.

In vain I argued, rejecting folly,
And silently listened to the pious voice.
I know the worth of everything I know,
But every hour I try to become richer.

I have seen drunkards with wise eyes
And fallen women with faces of purity.
I know the strong who sobbed uncontrollably
And the weak who carry crosses.

Do not fear a thief in a beggar's guise,
And do not hurry to curse over trifles -
Fear those who look respectable,
A thief with a righteous face carries off part of the soul.

Do not blame your neighbour for all the sins,
Do not plot intrigues and do not weave gossip!
You will be repaid with kindness for this
When you stumble on your path.

Do not judge what you are not sure of;
Do not promise if you have decided to lie.
Do not check once you have already trusted!
And do not give while planning to take back.

Pray when you believe in prayer;
Live only with the one you love yourself.
Drive away those whom you hate;
And trust your eyes, not empty words.

Do not expect that your earthly life
Will continue in heaven.
Without hell you will not know paradise,
And without a soul you are only dust.

epilogue

The more trials there are in life,
The stronger faith must be.
For there is no excuse for despair!
So live in holiness and love life.