

Useful Kislevite vocabulary, definitions, social order & proverbs

Vocabulary

Adversary: <i>protivnik</i>	Death: <i>smert</i>	Pedlar: <i>khodebshchik</i>
Amulet: <i>ladanka</i>	Dog: <i>sabaka</i>	Plague: <i>chuma</i>
Archaic: <i>drievny</i>	Druid: <i>vedun</i>	Poem, epic: <i>bylina</i>
Archer: <i>luchnik</i>	Dungeon: <i>tyemnitsa</i>	Potion: <i>nastoika</i>
Armour: <i>dospekhi</i>	Father: <i>otets</i>	Prince: <i>knyaz</i>
Arquebus: <i>pischal</i>	Barber: <i>tsiryulnik</i>	Principality: <i>volost</i>
Augury: <i>pryedznamenovie</i>	Folk hero: <i>bogatyr</i>	Raven: <i>voron</i>
Aviary: <i>ptichnik</i>	Forest: <i>lyes</i>	Region: <i>uyezd</i>
Axe: <i>topor</i>	Fur: <i>mekh</i>	Riddle: <i>zagadka</i>
Bandit: <i>razboinik</i>	Girl: <i>devoshka</i>	River: <i>ryeka</i>
Bastard: <i>ublyudok</i>	God: <i>bog</i>	Saint: <i>svyatoy</i>
Bath: <i>banya</i>	Grandfather: <i>dyedushka</i>	Salt: <i>sol</i>
Bear: <i>myedvoyed</i>	Grandmother	Scabbard: <i>nozhni</i>
Beast: <i>zver</i>	(headscarf): <i>babushka</i>	Scroll: <i>svitok</i>
Beer: <i>pivo</i>	Graveyard: <i>kladbishchye</i>	Scythe: <i>kosa</i>
Beeswax: <i>vosk</i>	Grove: <i>roshcha</i>	Skeleton: <i>skelet</i>
Beggar: <i>nishchy bomsch</i>	Hat with flaps: <i>ushanka</i>	Sleigh: <i>sani</i>
Blessing: <i>blagoslovenie</i>	Hag: <i>vedma</i>	Sling: <i>perevyaz</i>
Broadsword: <i>palash</i>	Halberd: <i>alyebarda</i>	Small boat: <i>chaika</i> (seagull)
Buckler: <i>shchit</i>	Harlot: <i>shlyukha</i>	Snack: <i>zakuska</i>
Cairn: <i>mogilink</i>	Healer: <i>lekar</i>	Spear: <i>kopye</i>
Campaign: <i>kampaniya</i>	Hero: <i>gyeroy</i>	Star: <i>zvyozda</i>
Cannon: <i>pushka</i>	Heroine: <i>gyeroinya</i>	Stove: <i>pech</i>
Castle: <i>zamok</i>	Honey: <i>myod</i>	Strong spirit: <i>vodka</i>
Cathedral: <i>sobor</i>	Horse: <i>loschad</i>	Tavern: <i>taverna</i>
Cave: <i>peshchiera</i>	Hovel: <i>lachuga</i>	Tax collection: <i>poliudie</i>
Chainmail: <i>kolchuta</i>	Icebound: <i>polinya</i>	Tea urn: <i>samovar</i>
Chaos: <i>khaos</i>	Icon: <i>obraz / ikona</i>	Torture: <i>pitka</i>
City quarter: <i>kvartal</i>	Keep: <i>ostrog</i>	Vermin: <i>gad</i>
Coaching inn: <i>postoyaly dvor</i>	Mace/club: <i>zhezl</i>	Village: <i>derevnya</i>
Combat: <i>bitva</i>	Magick: <i>koldovstvo</i>	Warrior: <i>voin</i>
Comrade: <i>tovarish</i>	Mead: <i>myed</i>	Weapon: <i>oruzhie</i>
Conjurer: <i>fokusnik</i>	Money: <i>dengii</i>	Werewolf: <i>oborotyen</i>
Conspiracy: <i>zagavor</i>	Moneybags: <i>kalita</i>	Wine: <i>vion</i>
Cottage: <i>dacha</i>	Mountain: <i>gora</i>	Whore: <i>blyad</i>
Cunt: <i>pizda</i>	Owl: <i>sova</i>	Wolf: <i>volk</i>
Dick (insult): <i>khuy</i>	Ox: <i>bik</i>	Whip: <i>knout</i>
District: <i>okrug</i>	Pagan: <i>yazychnik</i>	

Definitions

alknik: whisperer or rumour-monger

appanage: the practice of dividing property equally among one's heirs, creating ever-smaller land holdings called *appanages*

Ataman: ungol leader, head of the community and commander in battle

batog: vicious ungol flail used for punishment and torture

balalaika: triangle-shaped mandolin with three strings

byliny: Kislev's legendary heroic folk songs - long and stirring

Caftan: ankle-length, heavy coat (usually fur-lined)

Chukhna: Norse settlers, practically a racial slur

Duma: the Tsar's inner council

dvoeverie: the practice of two faiths, specifically, the persistence of traditional animist beliefs among the recent tide of the, newer, sanctioned deities

golytha: colonists, usually from the northern frontiers, usually trying to escape debt or even criminal justice

Gostinnyi Dvor: Kislev's traditional market place, now the upmarket side of town, populated by *gosti*, *boyars* and *nemtsy*

gusli: popular stringer instrument of the lap-harp family, for many a symbol of the *skomorokh*

izba: peasant dwelling or hovel (log house with an unheated entrance room and a single living and sleeping room heated by a clay or brick stove)

kalachi: festival vendor or opportunist

kartoga: penal servitude based around prison farms

khazak: nomad or vagabond

kvas: popular, cheap and weak beer

mestnichestvo: feudal hierarchy where rank was based almost exclusively on pedigree

nemtsy: a foreigner, literally "those who cannot speak"

obschina: peasant communities organised around a communal form of tenure

okroshka: cold soup with mixed raw vegetables and kvass

pelmeni: dumpling filled with minced meat wrapped in thin dough and boiled

Peklo: Land of the Dead (warm and happy afterlife)

Rusalki: water nymphs, mistresses of dreaded Vodyanoy, rulers of streams and lakes

Schii: omnipresent cabbage stew

Sbiten: hot mead, usually consumed in the winter

skomorokh: traditionally a travelling minstrel or clown, increasingly priests of the Old Ways

Steppe: endless windswept plains devoid of all but the occasional tree but carpeted in flowers

Streltsy: town guards, literally "those who shoot" (sing. *strelets*)

Taiga: swampy spruce forests dotted with birch and aspen stretching for hundreds of miles

Troika: sleigh or wheeled carriage, drawn by three horses abreast

Ungols: fierce tribes of nomadic horseman who scratch a living in the harsh Steppes

Ukase: edict of the tsar or a religious leader (patriarch)

Varangian Guard: Prince of Erengard's highly renowned personal bodyguard, composed of specially-trained Norse warriors

Varangians: Norse colonisers who founded much of Kislev's aristocracy

veche: public assembly open to all free men, used to solve issues of city policy & choose officials

vedomye zheny: village wise women i.e. busybody (male=*vedun*)

volkhv: court wizard and/or astrologer (sort of urban *skomorokh*)

yarlik: charter granted by the Tsar to princes awarding them with the title of city-state

Zalozhniy: souls of the damned (ghosts)

Zemsky Sobor: Council of the Motherland, Kislev's national assembly dominated by boyars

Zhar Ptitsa: legendary firebird

Zmei: guardian dragons of the mythical Thrice-Tenth Kingdom

Approximate social order

kholop: a slave

izgoi: a serf, bound to his master's land

zakup: an indentured servant

bobyli: peasant without plowland

muzhik: a peasant

smerd: a "free" peasant with limited rights to travel

posadnik: an elevated-form of peasant, such as a steward or miller

gosti: highest ranking merchants, exempt from taxes and empowered to purchase land

dyachok: priest whose duties included reading and singing

konyushy: squire or "master of the horse"

pomestia: recently created, service gentry, granted *pomest* lands after performing services to the Tsar

deti boyarskie: petty nobility, literally "sons of boyars"

boyars: landed aristocracy

dvorianstro: highest aristocracy (usually Norse descendants)

druzhyna: nobility's legendary personal bodyguard

kynaz: prince, ruler of several regions, each comprising dozens of districts

Tsar: autocratic ruler of all Kislev

Units of measurement

Sazhen: approx 2 yards

Funt: approx a pound

Vedro: a bucket of ...

Verst: approx ½ a mile

Pud: approx 36 pounds

Bocka: a barrel of

Currency

rouble: ½ Gold Crown

kev: 1/10 rouble

kopek: 1/6 kev

kuna: marten pelt (pl. *kuny*)

veshka: squirrel pelt

bela: ermine pelt

grivna: bundle of pelts

Useful words & phrases

Sir / Madam: *ofitsiant / ofitsiantka*

Hello: *zdrah'stvoite*

I'm delighted: *Ochin Preeyatna*

How much is that: *skol'ko eto stoit*

I'd like: *ya hochy*

Yes / no: *da / nyet*

Good / bad: *khoroshiy / plokhoy*

Big / small: *blo'shoy / malen'kiy*

Cheap / pricey: *deshoviy / dorogoy*

Hot / cold: *goryachiy / kholodniy*

Old / new: *stariy / noviy*

Open / closed: *otkritiy / zakritiy*

Please / Thank you: *Puzhalsta / Spasibo*

Excuse me / you're welcome: *Izvineetye / Puzhalsta*

Where / when / how: *gde / kogda / kak*

How long / how far: *skol'ko / kak deleko*

Left / right: *leviy / praviy*

Up / down: *vverkh / vniz*

Yesterday / today / tomorrow: *vchera / sevodnya / zavtra*

Day / week: *den nedelya*

Month / year: *mesyatz / god*

I do not understand: *ne paneemah'yoo*

Health (To You): *Za Vas!*

Proverbs

A fool has no fear of going crazy.

A man leaves his sins behind him, but his wife brings them into the house.

All girls are darlings; where do bad wives come from?

An aged horse is 10 times more useful than an aged bridegroom.

Beat your wife to learn a lesson.

Even a sick wolf can kill a lamb.

Even a skomorokh weeps sometimes.

Even the fool may ride; even the sage may walk.

Fear life, not death.

Fear not the clever enemy, but the foolish friend.

He who does not weep in this world will weep in the next.

He who is destined for the gallows will not be drowned.

Hens should not pretend to be roosters.

Her hair is long but her wit is short.

If only one evil woman lived in Kislev, every man would want her as his wife.

If the hostess is pretty, the vodka is good.

If you want to find the Devil, look behind the cross.

It's a sin to leave a wedding sober.

Love your neighbour, but put up a fence.

Luck is better than wealth.

My only hope was in a fool and then he became wise.

Nobody's seen the Devil but everyone blames him.

Priests sing over the dead; mosquitoes sing over the living.

Rapidly a tale is spun; with much less speed a deed is done.

Save your meal for tomorrow; do your work today.

The early bird that sings may wake a hungry cat.

The falling leaf is a message to living men.

The gods are too high; the Tsar too distant.

The grave calls if you drink; the grave calls if you don't.

The icon and the axe come from the same tree.

The muzhik walked to Kislev, just to hear a proverb!

The temple is near but the road is icy; the tavern is far but I'll be careful.

Time is money but money is not time.

We are brothers, since we have dried our rags under the same sun.

When the cudgel fails, try roubles.

