



Name: Vasilarhontissa

Origin: Greece

Lyrics:

Metsovo – Epirus, Greece

On the present recording, eventually the music changes rhythm to 4/4 (Slow, Quick, Quick) and dancers proceed to dance the same steps but in “W” position and in 4/4 rhythm, to the transition dance called “Pogonissios” or “Sta Dio”.

Especially in the slow music, the joy of this dance comes from the Epirot way of changing weight only at the last moment, flexing the supporting knee and rolling onto the foot as it steps.

1. Ore then ine i krima ki athiko, Vasila arhontissa,
Then ine ki amartia na 'ne Vasilo, Vaso, se erimia.
2. Ore na 'ne Vasilo se erimia, Vasila arhontissa,
Se kleftika limeria na stroni pevka, Vaso, stromata.
3. Ore na stroni pevka stromata, Vasila arhontissa,
Ki' oxies proskefalakia, ki' o Themios Gakis Vaso fonaxe.

Translation:

1. Is it not sad, is it not wrong, Vasila arhontissa,
Is it not a sin, that Vasila, Vasa, went to the wilderness?
2. In the wilderness, Vasila arhontissa,
In the hideout of the kleftes, laying out pine needles for a bed.
3. Laying out pine needles for a bed, Vasila arhontissa,
And beech leaves for a pillow. Themios Gakis called Vasa.



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Vasila is a woman's name; the kleftes were more or less romantic brigands. The song refers to the kleft Themios Gakis' abduction of the daughter of Nicholas Averof, a notable (arhon) of Metsovo.

Presented by Dennis Boxell, winter 2001



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