

Brief notes on the poem „DRESSING WITH HANDS“

The poem DRESSING WITH HANDS is about waking up. It begins with the letter A and lists images and words that gradually come to mind as I work my way through the alphabet. The poem concludes with a fresh beginning: ... and Zlos.

To begin with, I asked people around me to translate the poem into a language they were familiar with and to record their readings (including in dialect). This has resulted in translations, adaptations or texts developed through associative thinking. The challenges of such a language project are as varied and individual as the solutions found.

Now I invite everyone to contribute their own piece to this ever-expanding collection of poetry from ANZIEHEN MIT DEN HÄNDEN. I imagine there will be as many variations as there are participants. The motto: there is enough language for everyone.

This project invites you to play with language as a means of everyday communication accessible to us all. Accordingly, the aim is not to produce the best translation, adaptation, rewriting or reimagining. There may be several English or Arabic versions. It is also possible to read or sing the poem (in German or another language – all texts are also available as PDFs) in your own voice (or as a group). Furthermore, the poem can be painted, modelled in clay or drawn. In short: there are many ways to get involved.

Interesting facts about the poem itself:

- The poem follows the alphabet, but has omitted the letter V, in German: v as in vergessen (forgotten)
- The letter C sounds like 'Zeh' in German. That is the big toe.
- Yoghurt – according to the new German spelling rules, 'Joghurt' is now written with a J. That is why the poem refers to the age of the cup as well as that of the author.
- Zlos: The made-up word 'ZLOS' is composed of 'Z', the last letter of the alphabet, and 'los', the adverb meaning 'to start'. The end of the poem is also a beginning for the reader: Zlos.

To date, the poem is available in the following languages:

Arabic, Polish, Turkish, Hebrew, English, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Russian, Greek
Dialects: Bavarian, Berlin dialect, Rhineland dialect

All results can be viewed on the website and are also on display at the MACHmit! Museum für Kinder in Berlin

More infos:

<https://Machmitmuseum.de/>

<https://itsayorki.de/wirklichkeit/>

Send me a note with your questions or ideas at wirklichkeit@itsayorki.de

