("Mother Ukraine's Layers of War")

'Best Friend'

Foggy stage, lights change colors like a rainbow. Only the faces of a man, Andriy, and his dog, Cosmo, are lit. Harp music gently plays in background.

Andriy:

Sometimes...he is in my dreams.

Cosmo:

You're not dreaming my Andriy. I am here. With you. On the road to the gate.

Andriy:

Oh, Cosmo, I am so happy you're not hurt. I saw blood when the bomb hit and I thought I lost you.

Cosmo:

No. You will never lose me. Don't worry, master. I will always be by your side. Like a Doberman, but I'm just a mixed breed---

Andriy:

You are the best breed. A combination of good qualities any dog can have. My loyal defender, my Cosimo. My best friend. Naykrashchyy druh.

Cosmo:

Why do humans hurl missiles at each other, Andriy?

Andriy:

I don't have the answer my love. I am ashamed of my kind.

Cosmo:

It wasn't you, Andriy. It was the other side who hurled missiles.

Andriy:

Why do humans hurl missiles at each other, Cosmo?

Cosmo:

Why do people love one another?

Andriy:

Huh?

Cosmo:

Some questions cannot be answered so easily. Soon, we will find all the mysteries solved.

Andriy:

I'm so glad you're here my friend.

Cosmo:

Let's walk together to Him, to Her, to It, to find our answers.

Andriy:

You look like the same when you were puppy.

Cosmo:

As do you. I mean, happy and peace on your face. The wrinkles have disappeared.

Andriy:

Your gray has turned brown again. And you've gained some weight.

Cosmo:

Just enough. Follow me now. I will lead the way as usual.

Andriy:

I'm afraid.

Cosmo:

But I am here with you.

Andriy:

Please don't leave me again.

Cosmo:

I never will. That's impossible.

Andriy:

Good boy. I love you. Ya tebe lyublyu.

Cosmo:

Those were your last words I heard down there. Now we're forever free,

Andriy:

Forever safe.

Cosmo:

Your wounds I kissed before you shut your eyes.

Andriy:

I felt it. But I couldn't speak. But now--

Cosmo:

I love you. Khorosha lyudyna. You're a good man.

The man touches the dog's frame from his head to his tail. Kisses his head. The dog raises his paw. They shake hand and paw. Then the harp music rises as the man and his best friend walk into the clouds. Fade out to black as music subsides.

Linda Pallotta, (C) July 2022, lindapallotta@yahoo.com, (917)325-5067