

Chanson Pour L'auvergnat: Song for the Auvergnat



Elle est à toi cette chanson
It is for you this song
Toi l'Auvergnat qui, sans façon,
**You the man from the Auvergne who without
any fuss,**
M'a donné quatre bouts de bois
Gave me four pieces of wood.
Quand dans ma vie il faisait froid.
When it was cold in my life

Toi qui m'a donné du feu quand
You gave me a fire when
Les croquantes et les croquants
The yokels, women and men
Tous les gens bien intentionnés
All the very well meaning people
M'avaient fermés la porte au nez.
Had slammed the door in my face.

Ce n'était rien qu'un feu de bois
It was nothing more than a wood fire
Mais il m'avait chauffé le corps
But it warmed my body
Et dans mon âme, il brûle encore
And in my soul it burns still
À la manière d'un feu de joie...
Like a bonfire

Toi, l'Auvergnat quand tu mourras
You, the Auvergnan, when you die
Quand le croc-mort t'emportera
When the undertaker carries you away
Qu'il te conduise à travers ciel
May he take you straight to heaven
Au père éternel.
To the eternal father.

Elle est à toi cette chanson
It is for you this song
Toi l'hôtesse qui, sans façon,
You the landlady who, without any fuss
M'a donné quatre bouts de pain
Gave me four pieces of bread
Quand dans ma vie il faisait faim.
When in my life there was hunger

Toi qui m'ouvrit ta huche quand
You who opened up your bread box, when
Les croquantes et les croquants
The yokels, women and men
Tous les gens bien intentionnés
All the well-meaning people
S'amusaient à me voir jeuner.
Were enjoying seeing me starve.

Ce n'était rien qu'un peu de pain
It was nothing but a piece of bread
Mais il m'avait chauffé le corps
But it warmed my body
Et dans mon âme, il brûle encore
À la manière d'un grand festin...
Like a great feast.

Toi, l'hôtesse quand tu mourras
You, the hostess, when you die
Quand le croc-mort t'emportera
When the undertaker carries you off
Qu'il te conduise à travers ciel
May he take you straight to heaven
Au père éternel.
To the eternal father.

Elle est à toi cette chanson
It is for you this song
Toi l'étranger qui, sans façon,
You, the stranger, who, without any fuss
D'un air malheureux m'a sourit
Looking unhappy gave me a smile
Lorsque les gendarmes m'ont pris
When the police picked me up.

Toi qui n'a pas applaudi quand
You didn't applaud when
Les croquantes et les croquants
The yokels, women and men
Tous les gens bien intentionnés
All the well-meaning people
Riaient de me voir emmener.
Laughed at seeing me led away

Ce n'était rien qu'un peu de miel
It was nothing but a spot of honey
Mais il m'avait chauffé le corps
But it warmed my body
Et dans mon âme, il brûle encore
And in my soul it burns still
À la manière d'un grand soleil...
Like a great sun

Toi, l'étranger quand tu mourras
You, the stranger, when you die
Quand le croc-mort t'emportera
When the undertaker carries you off
Qu'il te conduise à travers ciel
May he take you straight to heaven
Au père éternel.
To the eternal father



The work

Released in 1955, this is one of Georges Brassens's best-known songs. Sung in schools and whistled and hummed in the street, it is almost a command, a moral one in any case. It is the product of an encounter during the horrible winter of 1954 between the artist and Abbé Pierre, the founder of Emmaus.

biographical notes

If the song suggests that acts of friendship are rare, this would certainly not represent the life of Georges Brassens. He had a unique gift of friendship. In March 1943, **he was conscripted to a German work camp at Basdorf. The friends he made there were his friends for life. When he returned to Paris in March 1944, he went into hiding, sheltered by a married couple, Marcel and Jeanne PLANCHE, who lived in a slum house in Paris. They were to play a big part in his life.** Brassens' temporary stay in this insalubrious quartier extended until 1966. **The Auvergnat who is thanked in this song is Marcel and the hostess who gave him a roof is Jeanne.** He wrote other songs for Jeanne, the most famous is "La cane de Jeanne".

Written as a fable and repetitive like a nursery rhyme, children love it. It tells the story of a poor devil, a drop-out on society's fringes, who is rejected by people who have everything and comforted by those with nothing! Good, truly generous people share what little they have—bread, a warm fire, a smile—and appear as a man from Auvergne, a hostess and a stranger. In contrast, cruel people lacking in real generosity wear the mask of "boorish bumpkins."

The song's almost naive, even Manichean tale helps it hit its target: selfishness and indifference to the suffering of others. It accomplishes this not only by its use of simple, direct language but by the magic of an instantly memorizable, timeless melody.

The artist

French writer, composer and singer, born in Sète October 21, 1921. Young Georges grew up in a big Franco-Italian family. He had a happy childhood, filled with music from a very young age, especially French songs and jazz. Uninterested in school but an increasingly avid reader, young Brassens **began writing, especially poems, at the age of 14.** A painful episode in his youth gave him a chance to leave his native region of Hérault for the capital. He did a stint in prison for theft—an adventure he would later use to write two songs, "*La mauvaise réputation*" and "*Les quatre bacheliers*". Working as a laborer for Renault by day, trying his hand at the piano at his aunt's lodging house at night, he immersed himself more and more avidly in the discovery of Fort, Rimbaud and Villon, publishing a first collection of poems in 1942. Then came the war, a stint of compulsory work service in Germany and the years went by, not always in a carefree way. Brassens also did some freelancing for "*Le Libertaire*," an anarchist magazine.

totaling over 200 songs, contains several less well known morsels.....

Discussing

- About the text
- About the song
- meaning
- About someone who was very important at a moment in your life

Reading

- The lyrics of this song
- vocabulary, Assignments/ Rhythm/ Rhyme/ Repetition of a sound, syllable, word, phrase, line, stanza/Figures of Speech/
- Read the lyrics of other songs for Jeanne, the most famous is “La cane de Jeanne”. Who helped him during the War. A very simple song to read and understand.
- Reading some famous texts from **Abbé Pierre** and **Emmaus NGO**
- Make the link between the book “**indignez-vous**” from **Stéphane Hessel** about selfishness in today’s society

Writing

- Try to re-write part of the song (Verse and chorus).in the same way (RHYME SCHEME) to thank as Brassens did someone who helped you, or was very important for you at one moment in your life

French activist Stephane Hessel survived the Holocaust and World War II and turned his experiences into activism to help the modern world survive itself.

"I would like everyone – every one of us – to find his or her own reason to cry out. That is a precious gift. When something makes you want to cry out, as I cried out against Nazism, you become a militant, tough and committed. You become part of the great stream of history ... and this stream leads us towards more justice and more freedom but not the uncontrolled freedom of the fox in the hen-house." Stephane Hessel- Indignez vous!

He is the last survivor of the delegates, including Eleanor Roosevelt, who drafted the Universal Declaration of Human rights



Abbe Pierre, a French priest praised as a living legend for devoting his life to helping the homeless, using prayer and provocation to tackle misery One of France's most beloved public figures. The founder of the international Emmaus Community for the poor, Abbe Pierre had served as a spokesman for France's conscience since the 1950s when he persuaded parliament to pass a law — still on the books — forbidding landlords to evict tenants during winter months.



Watching movies

See the movie “hiver 54” The true story of a French priest and his concerns for the homeless

