



Alunelul

This dance is from the village of Cena in Dobrogea, is but one of many dances bearing the name “alunelul”, which are found all over Oltenia in Romania. It is from the village’s repertoire and is danced at the “Sunday Hora” as well as all other dance occasions.

Traditionally, it has thought that “alunelul” means ‘little hazelnut’. The reference hearkens from the Beltane festivities and therefore refers to the testicles---in a playful way, as is the spirit of the Beltane Fests. The dance stems from May Day (also known as Beltane). May Day is what remains of a very sensual country folk celebration of the fertility of the Spirit, Nature and the Community. The May Pole is a phallic symbol and the hazelnuts were representative of testicles!

Alunelu, alunelu hai la joc,
sá ne fie, sá ne fie cu noroc!
Cine-n hora o sá joace
mare, mare se va face.
Cine n-o juca de fel
va ramine mititel.

Alunelu, alunelu, come to dance!
Let it be lucky for us!
Whoever dances the hora
will become big.
Whoever does not dance,
will remain small.

Alunelul, alunelul hai la joc,
sá ne fie, sá ne fie cu noroc!
Joaca joaca tot pe loc,
sá rasar , a busuioc.
Joaca joaca tot asa,
joaca si nu te lása.

Alunelu, alunelu, come to dance!
Let it be lucky for us!
Dance, dance, right in place.
Let the sweet-basil bloom.
Dance, dance, just like this.
Dance and don’t let up.