

**Sasha Bevziuk (entry in the Ukrainian Spotlight category)**

**A Soldier's Mother**

By Artur Dron

You will now be  
Made of stone.  
Solid and strong  
To the bone.

As I always said to you:  
You're not a stumbling rock  
Or a cornerstone, are you?  
And believe that you're the one  
Which the water doesn't run.

Now we both know:  
There is no rest from war, only farewells.  
But let each of us, who did cry  
And shouted "Oh, God, why?"  
Also give advice  
On how not to fly  
To paradise.

Now I'm watching how  
The softest baby in my life  
Will bravely join this rude and lifeless fight.  
I don't know how,  
Where or when,  
But I will meet your eyes again.  
Amin.

Commentary:

Translating this poem into English was quite hard because of the rhyme - in the original version there is actually no rhyme, so I had to change a few words. The poem is quite short but very emotional and sad. It is about a Ukrainian mother who sends her son to war. Imagine there are hundreds of people in the same situation now, who have been saying to their family members: this is Ukraine nowadays.

It is a sad poem because it reminded me of the day when we left Ukraine a year ago and we told the men in our family - whom we left behind - not to worry because everything evil will be punished and everything happy will reconnect us all. With the whole world on our side, we still hope and wait for the day we can reunite with our brothers, fathers, sons and grandfathers.