

Yar ko Parag (Armenia)

Yar ko Parag (YAR koh pah rahg) loosely translates as, “Darling, I love your slim shape.” Tineke van Geel choreographed this dance based on traditional Armenian steps and styling. Tineke presented it at a number of workshops, including Dance for All Ages at the 2019 Stockton Folk Dance Camp held at University of the Pacific. This dance has also been widely taught by Lee Otterholt, although his styling is slightly different.

Music: Contact Tineke van Geel at vangeel@xs4all.nl

Video: Do an internet search for “Yar ko parag dance.” There are several videos posted on YouTube.

Formation: Open circle of dancers facing ctr, hands joined and down in V-pos.

Steps & Styling: Slow and smooth, not bouncy.

| Meas | meter varies | PATTERN |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| 2 | | INTRODUCTION. Start on “Yar.” |
| | I. | FIGURE I. Vocal. Facing ctr. (6/8 Meter) |
| 1 | | Step R to R (cts 1-3); step L in front of R (cts 4-6). |
| 2 | | Step R to R (cts 1-3); step L behind R (cts 4-6). |
| 3 | | Repeat meas 1. |
| 4 | | Sway R to R (cts 1-3); sway L to L (cts 4-6). |
| 5-8 | | Repeat meas 1-4. |
| | II. | FIGURE II. Instrumental. (6/8 Meter) |
| 1 | | Step R to R (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L behind R (cts 4-6). |
| 2 | | Sway R to R (cts 1-3); sway L to L (cts 4-6). |
| 3-8 | | Repeat meas 1-2 three times. |
| | III. | FIGURE III. Meter varies. |
| 1 | | (5/8 Meter) Small step R to R (cts 1-3); small step L fwd (ct 4); step R in place (ct 5). |
| 2 | | (6/8 Meter) Small step L to L (cts 1-3); small step R fwd (ct 4); step L in place, start raising R knee (cts 5-6). |
| 3 | | (3/8 Meter) Bend L knee (ct 1); touch R, full foot, beside L, stretching knees (cts 2-3). |
| 4-6 | | Repeat meas 1-3. |
| <u>Sequence:</u> | | (Fig I, Fig II, Fig III) 3 times Fig I, Fig II to the end of the music |

Yar ko Parag — continued

Lyrics

Western Armenian transliteration

Gananch derevit madagh

Yar ko parag boyit mernem

Che tud aseyn kez garnem

Yerek dari miyan al kez vra sovorel em

Yar ko parag boyit mernem

Che tud aseyn kez garnem

Namakov hishele indz

Prnadz parevit madagh

Yar ko parag boyit mernem

Che tud aseyn kez garnem

Namakov hishele indz

Kez vra sovorel em

Yar ko parag boyit mernem

Che tud aseyn kez garnem

Yar = darling

ko = your

parag = thin or slim

boy = shape or height

boyin = of your shape

mernem = let me die

Armenia, officially the Republic of Armenia, is a landlocked country in the Armenian Highlands of Western Asia. It is a part of the Caucasus region and is bordered by Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, the Lachin corridor (under a Russian peacekeeping force) and Azerbaijan to the east, and Iran and the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhchivan to the south. Yerevan is the capital, largest city and financial center.

Poetic meaning

I am prepared to sacrifice myself for your youth

Darling, I love your slim shape

Even if they say no, I want to take you

For three years I did nothing but study on you

Darling, I love your slim shape

Even if they say no, I want to take you

S/he mentioned me in a letter

I am prepared to sacrifice myself for your greeting

Darling, I love your slim shape

Even if they say no, I want to take you

S/he mentioned me in a letter

I studied that letter over and over

Darling, I love your slim shape

Even if they say no, I want to take you



Tineke van Geel presented Yar ko Parag during the Dances for All Ages workshop at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2019.