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HEALING SPELLS (EXAMPLE OF VILLAGES BARDUBANI AND LOWER SIMONETI IN TERJOLA DISTRICT)

Spell casting occupies a prominent place among the genres of folklore. We have recorded spells in different variants in the villages Bardubani and Lower Simoneti of Terjola District.

In terms of terminology “a spell” (shelotsva) is connected to prayer (lotsva), but unlike prayer the text of spell includes authoritative utterance and threat, in addition to request. A spell contains address to the disease itself. People believe that most of the diseases are caused by evil spirit which harms human beings and animals and therefore must be expelled from the organism. Thus, for healing purposes, the humans use different spells, magic remedies and rituals.

In the opinion of inhabitants of the villages in question the diseases such as fear, being jinxed, headache, eye ache, stomach ache, burn, bleeding and dangerous infectious diseases are better treated with spells than with medical rules and medicines. Therefore, the folklore of the residents in both villages features different types of spells for treating the above-mentioned diseases; collecting as well as examining the spells is rather interesting in terms of history as well as modernity.