



KORANT

Korant kot najbolj poznana maska s ptujskega polja, če že ne Slovenije, vsako leto znova in znova preganja zimo iz dežele, kot veleva ljudsko izročilo. Nekoč so to masko smeli obleči le fantje, ki so odslužili vojaški rok in so bili samski. Dandanes temu več ni tako. V korantovi opravi srečamo majhne otroke, ženske Korante lahko srečamo tudi na haloškem območju, vendar se razlikujejo od »polanskega» po tem, da imajo na glavi namesto trakov in peruti pritrjene kravje rogove.

Nekoč so si fantje korantovo opremo izdelali doma, sedaj pa za to skrbijo mojstri, ki se načrtno ukvarjajo z izdelavo korantij.

Obraz korantove kape je narejen iz usnja, na sredini kape je pritrjen nos, ki močno spominja na svinjski rilec, pod nosom mu za brke služijo sirkove vejice, pod njimi pa so na vrvico nahizana semena belega oz. temnega fižola, ki bi naj predstavljale zobe. Iz ust korantu visi dolg rdeč jezik. Ob strani kape so namesto ušes pritrjena gosja oz. puranja peresa. Vrh kape pa koranta krasijo razni živo pisani trakovi in rože izdelane iz »krep« papirja. Korant ima oblečen kožuh iz dolgodlake ovce. Okoli pasu pa ima na verigi privezane kravje zvonce s katerimi pozvanja in tako plaši staro in mlado.

Za obrambo v rokah nosi palico, na kateri je na koncu pribita ježeva koža, torej ježevko. Korant je obut v volnene doma spletene rdeče ali zelene nogavice, na njih pa še ima nataknjene črne čevlje. Koranti hodijo od hiše do hiše v skupini, spremlja jih hudič, za darove pa pobirajo svilene robce, včasih pa dobijo tudi kakšno klobaso.

Enega izmed prvih korantovih opisov najdemo v župnijski kroniki župnije sv. Marko niže Ptuja iz konca 19. stol. Kronist piše, da je korantova oprava narejena iz narobe obrnjenega ovčjega ali zajčjega kožuha, obrazni del je iz starega usnja, po navadi iz kakšne rabljene torbe, ki ima prišit nos in izrezane odprtine za oči in usta. Kapa ima rogove izdelane iz usnja, slame ali klobučevine, okoli pasu nosi korant privezan kravji zvonec, v rokah pa ježevko. Takšen lik, kot je opisan v kroniki, so v začetku devetdesetih let 20. stol. replicirali člani etnografskega društva Korant Markovci in ga vsako leto lahko občudujemo na markovskem fašenku.

Sama podoba maske se je skozi stoletja spremenjala in je bila pogojena s socialnim statusom tedaj živečih ljudi. Bogatejši so imeli bolj načinkane in umetelno izdelane maske, maske revnejših pa so bile skromnejše. Če danes govorimo o tem, da je izdelava korantove opreme zelo draga je tudi v preteklosti bilo podobno, saj si tisti najrevnejši slednje prav tako niso mogli privoščiti.



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According to folk tradition, Korant, as the most famous mask from the area of the Ptujsko polje or even of all of Slovenia, drives away winter year after year. In the old days, only unmarried men who had finished military service were allowed to put on this costume. Nowadays, this is no longer the case, since even small children and women can wear it. We distinguish between the village Korant that is covered in colourful ribbons and feathers, and the one from Haloze that has cow's horns.

Boys used to make the Korant outfit themselves at home, while today the outfits are made by professionals.

The facial part of the head mask is made from leather, and the nose that is attached in the middle of the head mask is reminiscent of a pig's snout, while sorghum branches are used for the moustache; below there are white or dark beans threaded on a string which serve as teeth. A long red tongue hangs from the Korant's mouth. Goose or turkey feathers are attached on the side of the mask. The top of the mask is decorated with colourful ribbons and paper flowers. The Korant's fur is made of shaggy sheepskin. Around their waist they wear cows' bells fastened with a chain, with which they make a lot of noise and scare young and old alike.

In their hands they hold a "ježevka", a wooden club with hedgehog skin at the top end which used to serve as a weapon. The Korant wears a pair of red or green knitted socks with black shoes on top. Korants go from door to door in a group, accompanied by a devil; they collect handkerchiefs, but also get a sausage sometimes.

One of the first descriptions of a Korant is found in the register from the end of the 19th century in the village of Markovci near Ptuj. The chronicler describes the Korant's outfit as made from sheep or rabbit skin worn inside out, the facial part being from old leather, usually from a used handbag, with a nose attached and openings cut for eyes and mouth. The head mask has horns made from leather, straw or felting, while he has one cow bell tied around his waist and holds the ježevka in his hands. The Korant as described in this Chronicle was replicated in the beginning of the 90s of the 20th century by the members of the Korant Markovci ethnographic society and can be admired at Carnival in Markovci each year.

The image of the mask changed through centuries and depended on the social status of the individual society. Wealthy people had richer and more skilfully made masks, while poor people had simpler ones. Nowadays, the Korant's outfit is known to be expensive, but in the past this was the same, since the poorest people could not afford it either.

