

Lucia

In the cold, dark month of December
we need something to help us remember,
that after rain, snow and ice,
brighter days will us entice.

Lucia, her maids and star boys,
unlike Santa, do not bring us toys,
Instead, they bring beautiful voices singing songs that we know,
and candles, so many, sparkling aglow.

Most of you probably know Lucia's story,
but did you know Lucia comes from Latin's "lux", meaning light, in all its glory?
Tonight, we like to tell you briefly why Scandinavians cherish Lucia so much,
and what makes December 13th our hearts so deeply touch.

The many legends om St Lucia speak of an Italian girl, in vain,
who, because of her religious beliefs, had to endure much pain.
The stories of her past, be they true or fake,
are often gruesome as rumor has it she was burned at the stake.

Somehow, stories of Lucia's life made their way north to the lands of snow and cold,
so Lucia's tradition in Scandinavia is actually quite old.
However, in the Middle Ages in Sweden, what people would really celebrate,
was the longest night of the year, and in big parties they'd partake.

In the 1700s, the tradition continued on many Swedish farms,
the farmer's daughter in white, carried food and drinks in her arms.

1927 was a very important year,
for Skansen. In Stockholm, since the first public Lucia celebration took place there.
Since then, every year, a Swedish Lucia is crowned,
and in the light of her beauty, people almost drown.

Now at schools and workplaces across the nation,
Lucia comes to visit, December 13th is one big celebration.
Nobel price winners who are still in town,
might also get a visit from the girl in the white gown.

It reminds us that Christmas is near,
and that soon we'll celebrate the New Year.
We also recall times from the past,
and we'll make new memories that will forever last.

Lucia has always been special to us.
And we hope that for generations to come, she'll continue to be

The Lucia Legend written by Jeannette Horwitz (f.Edin)