

Kouventa stin Kouventa - Albania

Title: Κουβέντα Στην Κουβέντα / Kouventa stin Kouventa
Translation: Conversation
Music: 4/4
Artist: Giorgos Heretis

Source: This dance was observed by Jaap Leegwater with some friends in a Greek restaurant in Amsterdam 2018. There was a nice performance going on by a visiting performing group from Greece. One of the dances they did was to this tune Kouventa stin Kouventa. Jaap was sitting next to Ivon Despotovic (the wife of the belated Ciga Despotovic. She agreed with Jaap that it was an Albanian (Kosovo) dance performed to a Greek song. A great modern recording, and Jaap was told, a hit in Greece. Jaap wrote down the steps. The second pattern was added by Jaap and Mea.

Formation: Hands held in W-position, moving in LOD (CCW)
Style: Light with a relaxed bouncy style.
The two patterns are alternated on leader's call, or done 4x each.

Musical introduction: 8 or 16 counts (to the *a cappella* singing introduction)

Meas **Figure 1**

- 1 Facing R, four proud walking steps R, L, R, L (cts 1,2,3,4)
- 2 Turning to face ctr, step on R ft (ct 1), lift L knee in front (ct 2), step on L ft in place (ct 3), double touch R toe on the floor twds ctr, then slightly to R (cts 4,&)

Meas **Figure 2**

- 1 Make an arc with R foot and step on R to R (ct 1), cross L foot behind R (ct 2), step on R foot to the right side (ct 3), make an arc with L foot forward and out to the left, keeping the foot near the floor (ct 4)
- 2 Step on L to L (ct 1), cross R behind L (ct 2), step on L foot to L (ct 3), make half arc with R foot twds ctr keeping foot near the floor (ct 4).
- 3 Step R forward to ctr (cts 1-2), touch with L toe in front of R (cts 3-4)
- 4 Step backwards on L (ct 1), step back on your R (ct 2), cross L over R (cts 3-4) (Like a Yemenite)

SONGTEXT (original, translation, and English translation)
Kouventa Stin Kouventa (Κουβέντα στην κουβέντα)

Original

Το σημάδι στο λαιμό σου
δεν το είχες φως μου χθες
Κι οι κακιές οι γλώσσες λένε
Πως εμένα δε με θες

Και κουβέντα στην κουβέντα
Ο καημός μεγάλωνε
Και μου φέραν ντοκουμέντα
πως κοιμάσαι μ'άλληνε
Και ποτήρι το ποτήρι
Το μπουκάλι τέλειωνε
Για της άλλης το χατήρι η ζωή μου έλιωνε.

Τα γλυκά τα μάτια φώς μου
χαμηλώνεις κι όλο κλαις
Κι ήρθαν και μου βάλαν λόγια
Και μ'ανάψανε φωτιές

Και κουβέντα στην κουβέντα
Και μου φέραν ντοκουμέντα
πως κοιμάσαι μ'άλληνε
Το μπουκάλι τέλειωνε

Translation

To simadi sto lemo su
den to ihes fos mu hthes
Ki i kakies i gloses lene
Pos emena de me thes

Ke kuventa stin kuventa
O kaimos megalone
Ke mu feran ntokumenta
pos kimase m'aline
Ke potiri to potiri
To mpukali telione
Gia tis alis to hatiri i zoi mu elione.

Ta glika ta matia fos mu
hamilonis ki olo kles
Ki irthan ke mu valan logia
Ke m'anapsane foties

Ke kuventa stin kuventa
Ke mu feran ntokumenta
pos kimase m'aline
To mpukali telione

English Translation

My love, yesterday you didn't have that scar on your neck
and the rumours say that you don't want me.

And word by word my sorrow grew
and they brought evidence to me that you sleep with another woman
and glass by glass the bottle was getting empty
my life was ending because of the other woman's sake

My love you deject your sweet eyes and you are always crying
and they came and told me all these rumours. And they put me on fire

And word by word and they brought evidence to me that you sleep with another woman
and glass by glass the bottle was getting empty

Dance description by Mea Nordenfelt © 2019

Presented by Mea Nordenfelt at the Lyrids Folk Dance Festival 2019, Vancouver, BC, Canada