

Some Romani Phrases

Phrase	Meaning	Notes	Source
Ajsi bori lachi: xal bilondo, phenel londo	Such a daughter-in-law is good who eats unsalted food and says it is salted	Slovakia	1.40
Akana mukav tut le Devlesa	I now leave you to God	Lovara, funeral comment	3.79
Amaro baro them	Our big land, ie ancestral homeland		1.109
Ande save vitsa	In which vitsa		9.193
Ando gav bi zhuklesko jal o pavori bi destesko	In the village without dogs the farmers walked without sticks		3.167
Ando gav bi zhuklesko shai piravel o manush bi destesko	In a village without a dog a man can walk without a stick		3.175
Ashen Devlesa, Romale	May you remain with God		3.214
Baxt hai sastimos tiri patragi	Wish luck and good health	Said on Slavas	9.119
Bengesko niamso	Cursed German		4.87
Bi kashtesko merel i yag	Without wood the fire would die		3.56
Bolde tut, kako	Please turn away	If she was unable to avoid passing in front of one or between two men, a gypsy woman might say this to avoid possible marhime	3.151
Chailo sim	I am replete (ie full)		3.30
Das dab ka i roata le neve vurdoneski	To give a push to the wheel of the new wagon	i.e. to provide a kick-start to newlywed households	3.201
Devlesa araklam tume	It is with God that we found you		3.245

Devlesa avilan	It is God who brought you		3.245
Droboy tume Romale		Traditional greeting (response is Nais tuke (thank you))	3.149
Dza devlesa	God go with you	Russia	2.90
El Crallis ha nicobado la liri de los Cales	The king has taken away the law of the gypsies	Cale; note the hybrid of Romani lexicon and Castilian phonology, morphology and syntax	6.167
Feri ando payi sitsholpe te nauyas	It was in the water that one learned to swim	Lovara	3.60
Gadje Gadjensa, Rom Romensa	Gadje with Gadje, Rom with Rom		4.96
I chatski tsinuda de tehara, vai de haino, khal tut	The true nettle stings from the beginning		4.94
I chirikleski kul chi perel duvar pe yek than	The droppings of the flying bird never fall twice on the same spot		4.24
Isi ili daba	Here there are also smacks		1.35
Isi ma xarica love; so hramosorav andi gazeta; a-ko isi pomoshinav tumen	I have a little money; I am a journalist; maybe I can help you		1.209
Jekh dilo kerel but dile hai but dile keren dilimata	One madman makes many madmen, and many madmen make madness		1.37
Ka xlia ma pe tute	I am going to shit on you	Albania	1.34
Kai zhal o vurdon vurma mekela	Where the wagon goes a trail is left		4.97
Kaski san?	Whose are you?		9.193
Kay zhala I suv shay zhala wi o thav	Where the needle goes, surely the thread will follow		4.95
Kon del tut o nai shai dela tut wi o vast	He who willingly gives you one finger will also		3.205

	give you the whole hand		
Kon khakhavel o balo wi leste si I shuri	He who feeds the pig also holds the knife over it when it is fattened		4.115
Kon khal but, khal peski bakht	He who eats much eats away his own luck	Kalderash saying	3.224
Love k-o vast, bori k-o grast	Money in hand, bride on horse		1.286
Mandar tsera tai kater o Del mai but te aven tumenge	From me a little money, but may God give you plenty	?tumenge -> humungous	3.201
Mashkar le gadjende leski shib si le Romeski zor	Surrounded by the Gadje, the Rom's only defence is his tongue		3.51
May angle sar te merel kadi yag	Before this fire burns out	Armaya	3.169
May kali i muri may gugli avela	The darker the berry the sweeter it is	Lovara	3.54
May mishto les o thud katar i gurmni kai tordjol	It is easier to milk a cow that stands still		3.53
May mishto phabol o kasht o chordano	Stolen wood burns better for being stolen		4.94
May sigo sar te may khav	Before I even have my next meal	Armaya	3.169
Me mangav te jav ando granitza tumensa	I want to go to the border with you		1.208
Me piav pani	I drink water	Cf Skr me pina pani = to drink water	1.108
Me san de spiroski shey	I am Spiro's daughter		9.193
Me som Bardu	I am Bardu		1.218
Mukhenpe te khan la lumia	If they conquer the world		4.90
Na bister 500,000	Don't forget the 500,000	Ref to the holocaust	1.243
Na daran Romale vi ame sam Rom chache	Do not fear, you Gypsy men, for we too are Gypsies		3.245
Na may kharunde kai chi khal tut	Not to scratch where it doesn't it		3.52

Nais tuke	Thank you		3.149
Nashti zhas vorta po drom o bango	You cannot walk straight when the road is bent		4.102
O chavorro na biandola dandencar	The child is not born with teeth	Albania	1.44
O lov tai o beng nashti beshen patshasa	Neither money nor the devil can remain in peace		3.240
O manusha khelevan tut	The people make you dance	Said if a place is nice	1.59
O shoshoy kaste si feri yek khiv sigo athadjol	The rabbit which has only one hole soon is caught		4.89
O Spiro le tinshasko shav	The Spiro who is the son of Tinha		9.193
O ushalin zhala sar o kam mangela	The shadow moves as the sun commands		4.31
O xonxano baro	The great trick	Spanish Romani, a type of swindle	6.62
O zalzaro khal peski piri	Acid corrodes its own container		4.97
Opre Roma!	Roma Arise!	Slogan of the first World Romani Congress	6.317
Ov yilo isi	Is it okay	Lit. is there heart here	1.75
Pachiv tumenge Romale	"This song was offered as a gift to worthy men"		3.94
Perdal l paya	Beyond the waters	i.e. the Americas	3.239
Piri telemosa chi athadjol o kam	The kettle that lies face down cannot get much sunlight		4.96
Prohasar man opre pirende - sa muro djiben semas opre chengende	Bury me standing - I've been on my knees all my life		1.304
Putrav lesko drom angle leste te na inkra v les mai but palpale mura brigasa	I open his way in the new life again and release him from the fetters of my sorrow	Ritual phrase to mark the end of mourning	3.236
Rode chia bora le kanensa tai te na le yakensa	Select one's daughter-in-law with the ears and	Pay more attention to	3.181

	not with the eyes	reputation than looks	
Romale tai shavale akarel tume o Pulika	By your leave, gypsy men and youths, this is Pulika calling you	The proper, formal way to address Rom	3.212
Romale tai Shavale, Churara tai wi Lovara	Gypsy men and youths, Churara and Lovara alike		4.150
Sako peskero charo dikhel	Everybody sees only his own dish		1.35
Sar laci and'ekh vadra	Like crabs in a bucket		1.296
Savo Spiro	Which Spiro?		9.193
Shuk tski khalpe la royasa	Beauty cannot be eaten with a spoon		3.181
Si khohaimo may pachivalo sar o chachimo	There are lies more believable than truth		3.82
Stanki nashti chi arakenpe manushen shai	Mountains do not meet, but people do		3.206
Te avel angla tute, kodo khabe tai kado pimo tai minge pe sastimaste	May this food be before you, and in your memory, and may it profit us in good health and in good spirit		3.235
Te avel angle tute	May this be before you		3.80
Te avel mange bakht drago mange wi te avav po gunoy	All we need is good luck. With luck I would not even mind sitting on a dunghill		4.95
Te aves yertime mander tai te yertil tut o Del	I forgive you and may God forgive you as I do		3.179
Te bisterdon tumare anava	May your names be forgotten		1.59
Te den, xa, te maren, de-nash	When you are given, eat, when you are beaten, run away	Nash - run - whence nash	1.35
Te khalion tai te shingerdjon che gada, hai tu te trais sastimasa tai voyasa	May your clothes rip and wear out, but may you live on in good health and in fulfillment	Armaya	3.107
Te lolirav I phuv mure ratesa	May I redden the earth with my blood	Armaya	3.175
Te malavel les i menkiva	May the malignant		4.92

	disease waste him		
Te merav	May I die	Armaya	3.169
Te merel amaro kuro o lasho	May our favourite stallion die	Armaya	3.169
Te merel muri shey	May my child die tomorrow	Armaya	9.134
Te merel muro dad, muri, dei	May my father, mother, brothers die	Armaya	3.169
Te na khuchos perdal cho ushalin	To try to jump over your own shadow	Lovara	3.44
Te pabaren mange memelia	May you burn candles for me	Armaya	3.169
Te phirav pa-o gav	Lit. To go about the village ie to beg	Poland	1.200
Te pochinen penge lazhav	Pay for their shame		3.174
Te prakhon man pasho o X	May I be buried next to X	Armaya	3.169
Te shordjol muri godji sar shordjol kadi bera	May my brains flow out the way this beer flows out if ...	Lovara armaya	3.166
Te shordjol muro rat	May my blood spill	Armaya	3.169
Te vestinel o dosti Tito, te vestinena o jugoslovenske manusha	Long live comrade Tito and long live the Yugoslav people		1.20
Te xav ka to biav	May I eat at your wedding		1.76
Yekka buliasa nashti beshes pe done grastende	With one behind you can't sit on two horses		3.47
Yodjo la Mimako Zhamutro	Lit. "Yodjo, Mimi's son-in-law		3.115
Zhan le Devlesa tai sastimasa	Go with God and in good health		4.95

Notes:

1. The first figure in the source column refers to the list of sources given [here](#), while the second figure refers (where applicable) to the page number of the citation.

2. Abbreviations used: fr. - from, lit. - literally, mod. Ind. - modern Indian, Skr. - Sanskrit.

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