

# Comme facette màmmeta

(How your mum made you)  
Lyrics by Giuseppe Capaldo (1874–1919)

s Quanno **màmmeta** t'ha **fatta**,  
-a Quanno **màmmeta** t'ha **fatta**,  
s Vuò **sapé** comme **facette**?  
Vuò **sapé** comme **facette**?

s Pe' 'mpastà sti ccame **belle**,  
-e Pe' 'mpastà sti ccame **belle**,  
s Tutto **chello** che mettette?  
Tutto **chello** che mettette?

Ciento **rose** 'ncappucciate,  
Dint' 'a **martula** mmiscate  
Latte e **rrose**, **rose** e **latte**,  
Te **facette** 'ncopp' 'o **fatto**!

ss Nun **c'è** bisogno 'a **zingara**  
P'addivinà, Cuncè'.  
ss **Comme** t'ha **fatto** **màmmeta**,  
'O **ssaccio** meglio 'e **te**!

s E pe' **fa**' sta vocca **bella**,  
-a E pe' **fa**' sta vocca **bella**,  
s Nun **servette** 'a stessa **ddosa**,  
Nun **servette** 'a stessa **ddosa**

s Vuò **sapé** che 'nce mettette?  
-e Vuò **sapé** che 'nce mettette?  
s Mo te **dico** **tuttocosa**,  
Mo te **dico** **tuttocosa**.

Nu **panaro** **chino**, **chino**,  
tutt' 'e **fravule** 'e **ciardino**,  
Mele, **zucchero** e **cannella**  
Te 'mpastaie 'sta vocca **bella**.

ss Nun **c'è** bisogno 'a **zingara**  
P'addivinà, Cuncè'.  
ss **Comme** t'ha **màmmeta**,  
'O **ssaccio** meglio 'e **te**

s E pe' **fa**' sti **ttreze** **d'oro**,  
-o E pe' **fa**' sti **ttreze** **d'oro**,  
s Mamma **toja** s'appezzentette,  
Mamma **toja** s'appezzentette.

s Bella **mia**, tu **qua**' muneta?  
-a Bella **mia**, tu **qua**' muneta?  
s Vuò **sapé** che 'nce servette?  
Vuò **sapé** che 'nce servette?

'Na **miniera** sana **sana**,  
Tutta **fatta** a **filagrana**,  
'Nce **vulette** pe' sti **ttreze**,  
Ch'a **vasà**, nun ce sta **prezzo**!

ss Nun **c'è** bisogno 'a **zingara**  
P'addivinà, Cuncè'.  
ss **Comme** t'ha **fatto** **màmmeta**,  
'O **ssaccio** meglio 'e **te**!

## Legend:

Bold italics: Strong beat.

Non-bold italics: Weak beat.

s: Silence at start of the beat.

-a, -e, -o: Continuation of preceding indicated vowel sound across the start of a beat.

(i.e. syncopations)

ss: Silence for first two pulses of the beat.

# Comme facette màmmeta

## (How your mum made you)

Translation by David Wilson

When your mum made you,  
When your mum made you,  
Do you want to know how she did it?  
Do you want to know how she did it?

To put together this lovely flesh,  
To put together this lovely flesh,  
Everything she put in it?  
Everything she put in it?

She mixed a hundred rosebuds  
In her kneading trough.  
With milk, roses, roses and milk,  
She put you together quick as a flash.

You don't need a fortune-teller<sup>1</sup>  
To work it out, Cuncè.<sup>2</sup>  
How your mum made you  
Is something I know better than you.

And to make this lovely mouth,  
And to make this lovely mouth,  
She didn't repeat the dose,  
She didn't repeat the dose.

Do you want to know what she put there?  
Do you want to know what she put there?  
Well, I'll tell you everything.  
Well, I'll tell you everything.

A basket overflowing with  
Strawberries from the garden,  
Apples, sugar and cinnamon  
Are what she made this lovely mouth with.

You don't need a fortune-teller  
To work it out, Cuncè.  
How your mum made you  
Is something I know better than you.

And to make these golden tresses,  
And to make these golden tresses,  
Your mother spent her fortune,<sup>3</sup>  
Your mother spent her fortune

My beautiful, how much money  
My beautiful, how much money  
Do you want to know she needed?  
Do you want to know she needed?

A whole gold mine  
Made completely of filigree  
Is what she needed for these tresses  
Which are priceless to kiss.

You don't need a fortune-teller  
To work it out, Cuncè.  
How your mum made you  
Is something I know better than you.

---

<sup>1</sup> Literally "gypsy woman".

<sup>2</sup> Diminutive form of "Cuncetta" (or "Concetta").

<sup>3</sup> Literally "impoverished herself".