



Božo Banović
TRI PESME · THREE POEMS
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Translation of the Poems

The poems were written by the Serbian poet Duška Kisin (born 1966). The translation reads as follows:

I

Često slušam pesme te,
i pored radosti njenih,
zatvaram oči
i sanjam ribnjak
mrtvih riba.
Zašto su gradovi pod kišom
tako prokleta prazni?
Zašto više niko ne prolazi
s duhom svetiteljskim
kroz maglinu sećanja?
Zašto sreća traje
samo jedan dan
i ni tren više?

II

Sve će valjda ovo brzo proći,
bez gorčine,
i srećna ću biti,
dok budem gledala
neke nove ljude, nepoznate,
i neke nove priče
budem pričala.

III

Odjednom, preko noći,
ozelene sve, u mojoj boji.
Da l' će biti zelenije sve?
Da l' mi se čini, ili na mene
neko baca čini,
dok doba prolaze
i mimoilaze se stalno
putem kojim hodam?

I

I listen to those songs often,
and, despite their joyfulness,
I close my eyes
and dream of pond
of dead fish.
Why are cities under the rain
so doomed and empty?
Why is there nobody passing
with holy man's spirit
through the gloom of remembrance?
Why does the happiness last
only one day
and not a moment longer?

II

All this will likely pass quickly,
without bitterness,
and I will be happy,
while watching
some new, unknown people,
and while telling
some new stories.

III

Suddenly, over night,
everything turned green, in my colour.
Will everything become greener?
Is this an illusion,
or am I under spell,
while the seasons flow,
ever bypassing
the road I am walking on?

Serbian Pronunciation Guide

The pronunciation of the Serbian language is fairly simple. With a few exceptions, every letter is always pronounced the same way, no matter what precedes or follows:

A	[a]	as a in car
B	[b]	as b in business
C	[ts]	always as ts in nuts ; never as <i>c</i> in <i>car</i>
Č	[tʃ]	as ch in church
Ć	[tɕ]	as ch in church , but softer; if in doubt, you may well pronounce it as the letter above
D	[d]	as d in dig
DŽ	[dʒ]	as J in John
Đ or DJ	[dʒ]	as J in John , but softer; if in doubt, you may well pronounce it as the letter above
E	[ɛ]	as e in let
F	[f]	as f in feel
G	[g]	always as g in game
H	[x]	as h in help
I	[i]	as ea in east
J	[j]	as y in year ; never as <i>J</i> in <i>John</i>
K	[k]	as k in kettle
L	[l]	as l in love
LJ	[ʎ]	as li in million , or as gl in Italian article gli
M	[m]	as m in mouse
N	[n]	as n in nephew
NJ	[ɲ]	as ni in onion , or as gn in Italian bagno
O	[ɔ]	as au in autumn
P	[p]	as p in put
R	[r]	as r in rice ; when between consonants (eg prvo , srce , meaning <i>first</i> and <i>heart</i>), it should be sung as schwa [ə] with [r] at the end of the syllable, like one would sing <i>first</i> or <i>bird</i> in English, ie, pər-ʋə , sər-tse
S	[s]	always as s in sound ; never as <i>s</i> in <i>busy</i>
Š	[ʃ]	as sh in shoe
T	[t]	as t in time
U	[u]	as oo in cool
V	[v]	as v in verb
Z	[z]	as z in zealous
Ž	[ʒ]	as s in pleasure