

ANĐELKO VULETIĆ
THE CROATIAN POET AND WRITER

The Croatian author Anđelko Vuletić was born in Trebimlja, municipality of Trebinje (Bosnia and Herzegovina), in 1933. He has studied the South Slav languages and literature at the University of Sarajevo. Because of his "anti-socialism" activity he was denied further studying in Sarajevo, so he went to Skopje (the capital of Macedonia) and to Belgrade (the capital of Serbia), where he finished his studies. He started to work as a teacher in Modriča, then as a lecturer at the Workers' University "Đuro Đaković" in Sarajevo, and as a counsellor in the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has been living in Zagreb since 1993.

As a poet, he is prone to psalmodic intonations, to surrealism, to calamburies and to playing with words. The themes in his poems are similar to those in his prosaic works: his birthplace, the political and the mental image of Balkan, the war, the ideology... Some of his collections are: *"The grammar or the exile"* (1961.), *"The only hope"* (1962.), *"Seven eternal questions"* (1965.), *"When I'll be as big as an ant"* (1977.), *"Cypresses in homeland"* (1980.), *"The readers of time"* (2001.), *"Space mirror"* (2002.), etc.

He also writes novels and dramas, and he translates from French, Hungarian, English, Czech, and Slovenian. His works are translated to several languages.

In his novel *"The bitter sun"* (1956.) he deals with the tragic fate of unimportant, ordinary Herzegovina's people, and in his novel *"The tree that grows at the hell's gate"* (1963.) he writes about the viciousness of human nature, as well as about the ill-treating of the closest family members. The novel *"The ninth miracle at the east"* (1966.) is the modern variation of classic myth about Oedipus, with some autobiographical elements. His other two novels, *"The day of Vila Vukas's arrest"* (1980.), and *"The young careerist's troubles"* (1984.), deal with the symbolism and the mythical surroundings in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The novel *"The miraculous plant of doctor Engel"* (1989.) is a fictional biography of a physician whose obsession is to invent a medicine for the treatment of hatred and evil in people, whereas the novel *"Two temples, two ruins"*, prepared to be printed in 1969, and published in 1994, is a critique of the communist system. Similar theme can be found in his novel *"The female supervisor of the Moscow's girls"* – the plot is situated in Sarajevo, in the days of communists' repression. On the other hand, his novel *"The flame and the straw"* (2006.) deals with the intimate drama of the main hero, and in such a manner revives the era of big ideologies and revolutions.

In his novel *"The defeat of the revenger"* Vuletić deals with the problem of revenge – of any revenge. In the days of the hardest siege of Sarajevo, in the nineties, a group of ex-political prisoners, at the funeral of a friend of theirs, sets an aim: to bring revenge to their tormentors. In the middle of the every-day dangers due to the siege of the town, through the skillfully narrated life-story of those Sarajevo's war days, Vuletić's heroes don't care about the surviving, but let the hatred and revenge direct their lives. Led by the desire for revenge, after a lot of various happenings, when they set their hands on their former tormentors, and become tormentors themselves, they perish. The main idea in this Vuletić's novel is that there is a turning-point in any revenge and in every revenging action: the revenge destroys the revengers, that is, everyone who practices any revenging policy. The revenge and the hatred are destroying forces that bring deletion to human life, and make a person the negation of himself/herself.

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