

# Spirit of Bosnia / Duh Bosne

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## Salvation

Faruk Šehić

I live on the other side of all things  
I am not of isms, nor did I come out of anybody's uniform  
I hate most the literary evenings and festivals  
There I feel all the sorrow as it builds up within people  
useless sediment, except in art

I live on the other side of all things  
beside Saturn's ring  
on the Paradise Islands in amber houses  
the last century prematurely aged us  
already we are a hundred years old

I live on the other side of all things  
I learn from a spider and a red slug  
I study the venation of leaves  
I try to be pleasant and cheerful  
but that internal beat  
gives an altogether different rhythm  
prophecy disgusting and bitter  
that confrontation with the world  
wasteland  
where god weeps with sagging shoulders  
and where there is no space for human life  
Christ is a lucrative mass-produced doll  
and nightingales are roasted on the grills of McDonald's.

*Translated by Sara Elaquad – © 2007 Sara Elaquad*

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