

# Spirit of Bosnia / Duh Bosne

An International, Interdisciplinary, Bilingual, Online Journal  
Me?unarodni, interdisciplinarni, dvojezi?ni, online ?asopis

## Conversation

Mak Dizdar

*To R. Konstantinovi?*

I wanted to listen, hear, understand  
the conversation between one wave and one conch

But they told me,  
nice  
but have you been listening, hearing, understanding the conversation  
of those who walk upright like you  
of those who soar beneath heaven's clouds like you  
but like you they are not birds  
they descend to the bottom of the sea like you  
but like you they are not fish

Now I am silent

One ear I am turning toward the waves and the conches  
the other toward the ones  
who walk  
upright

I am listening

Tell me yet again  
When will I hear and understand and start to speak

*Translated by Keith Doubt – © 2008 Keith Doubt*

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