

# Spirit of Bosnia / Duh Bosne

An International, Interdisciplinary, Bilingual, Online Journal  
 Međunarodni, interdisciplinarni, dvojezični, online časopis

## Ulysses

When he's,  
 usually after midnight,  
 returning home,  
 the cold concrete of the staircase  
 is waiting for him,  
 and he,  
 such as he is,  
 cannot control  
 the tidal wave of ontology:

what is *when*  
 what is *he's*  
 what is *returning*  
 what is *home*  
 what is *what*  
 ...?

In front of the entrance,  
 he starts shaking empirically  
 and sees himself as Ulysses  
 if he manages  
 to get through that jungle.

If not -  
 he realizes he's not.

(1999)

*Translated by Stephanie Krueger and Sasha Skenderija*  
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**Amir Brka** (b. 1963 in Tešanj) is a Bosnian poet, prose writer and cultural historian. His prolific and diverse opus has received quite unique critical acclaim in Bosnia and the West Balkan region. His poems and stories have been awarded the most prestigious Bosnian literary prizes and translated into several European languages.

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