

# Spirit of Bosnia / Duh Bosne

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## Lullaby

Mak Dizdar

How delicate and fragile you are  
How beautiful and pure  
Like every child when born  
Your hair silken and bedewed  
Like the leaves of a young plant's stem in April  
Your lips are rose buds still to blossom  
Hands the blue intimation of dawn  
Legs as though you have none, you poor thing  
They are like two lilies for caressing only  
So how will you come into the world so tiny  
So unguarded  
That is why we shall never part, my darling  
Never shall we say good-by  
Never body of my body  
Soul of my soul  
Never  
I know  
You will carry me in your heart  
For I gave you my heart and everything around my heart  
You will carry me as long as you will  
Greet the birth of day  
And the appearance of stars  
As long as you will be, greet the budding treetops  
And grieve the falling leaves  
You will live even when your eyes close  
You will live in your children  
In your children and the children of their children  
You will live  
Live  
  
It will be known we were moments of being  
A grain of sand in the shoal  
A spark in the fire  
A blade in the grass  
Of eternity

How delicate and fragile  
You are  
And you must live  
You must live among people, yet you have no words  
You must live among wolves, yet you have no teeth  
And how will you discern a man from a wolf  
A wolf from a man  
Your hands are the blue intimation of dawn  
With them you need to grapple  
To do battle in skirmishes  
With serpent miracles in which the dragon dwells  
So let them grow quickly  
Let them grow stronger and still more quickly

Your legs are two delicate lilies for caressing  
And I will ask you with dew from my most beautiful flower  
I will tell you the most beautiful story  
Of this and that other world  
That you be ready for sweet  
Dreams and for sleeplessness  
In the heart of tight circles  
In the thorns of long  
Roads

Your lips are young buds  
I will feed you water from the beak of a swallow  
That you grow teeth to curse the fiend  
That you coo for the good-hearted guest  
It is wise to be silent in life  
But if you speak a word  
May it be as heavy as every truth  
May it be said for man

You came here  
Where it was most unwelcome to come  
Here where it was most insane to arrive  
Here where it was most heroic to appear  
Because here one does not live only to be alive  
Here one lives to die  
Here as well one dies  
In order to live

Now is the end of the song  
Now are my words completed  
Sleep  
Sweetly

We will never part my darling  
Never body of my body

Never soul of my soul  
Never  
Because you need  
To continue your life  
It is good you continue life on earth

Translated by Keith Doubt

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