Spirit of Bosnia / Duh Bosne
An International, Interdisciplinary, Bilingual, Online Journal
Međunarodni, interdisciplinarni, dvojezični, online časopis

The Legs of Nermin Tulich

Ivo Šoljan

To a dear friend and a member of the Sarajevo Shakespeare Society – (Sarajevo, Bosnia, 1992-3, and beyond)

> "Nermin Tulich, a young Sarajevo actor,
> lost both of his legs in the artillery attack on
> the bread-line…", Associated Press (AP), on
> Bosnia's misery

What has shorn off the legs of Nermin Tulich?
What madness has left them twitching on a Sarajevo street?
What screaming fear has doomed the city to slow death?
What brains, what nerves, what bones, what demons?

> "There is special Providence in the fall of a sparrow," he sang.
> A sonnet rang, profound, derisive, light on his lips:
> "Ah, wherefore with infection should he live
> And with his presence grace impiety…?

A swarthy little man, a friend, a player,
Strutting and fretting his hour in the street,
Becomes, in a terrible instant, the news, a story,
To feed the ever-hungry ears and eyes, possibly souls,
A vital, life-giving, bit…

What has shorn off the legs of Nermin Tulich?
What brains, what nerves, what bones, what demons?
"Ring the alarum bell! Blow wind, come wrack!"
But, look, Nermin is dancing, wildly dancing, again!

Originally published in Grand Valley Review, Vol. IX, Fall 1993, p. 22 – *© 2007 Ivo Šoljan*

The preceding text is copyright of the author and/or translator and is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License.