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The day the monastery at Plehan moved up to the heavens

Jozefina Dautbegović

The day was mild

say eyewitnesses

when a white cloud rose toward the sky

First all the Stations of the Cross

unwillingly soared up toward the heavens

With Jesus in the rear as usual

bearing his own cross

Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows

covered her eyes

With a lily in his teeth Saint Anthony looked for

the forgotten

young God behind the heavy doors of the baptistery

Saint Mark refused to move away

He is the patron and for every event

there must be witnesses

for the trustworthiness of the tale

The mosaic behind the main altar

by the grace of the author showing the monastery's founders

broke up into thousands of colorful stones
Each one in its cell carried the consciousness thereof
Even if the author survives they will never find
themselves at the same table
on the picture
When the monastery at Plehan moved up to the heavens
it left the kneeling bench behind
for those who repent before it's too late
which little Jesus on Saint Anthony's back
strongly doubted that they would
All the minor saints repudiated the earth
That was more or less understandable
since they had a second homeland in reserve
On the chestnut tree out front
both bells remained
hanging
The last thing the monastery's protector
Saint Mark saw as he knelt down
was the sun through the smoke
white and thin
like a communion wafer

Zagreb, 1993

tr. W. Browne 2025.01

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