

# Spirit of Bosnia / Duh Bosne

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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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