

# Spirit of Bosnia / Duh Bosne

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## I'd Prefer

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I'd prefer  
to watch with delight  
the mastery of a crow as it cracks a walnut  
*(the hidden substance reachable only  
by shattering a world)*  
and then drops it from above  
a busy city intersection  
and then waits for the boring cars to pass  
so that she can feast on it

I'd prefer to go to the Botanical Garden  
of the National Museum  
as soon as possible  
to catch with my camera  
ten square feet of glorious blooming crocuses  
awaiting me for just  
a few brief mornings  
elusive to those who run after power, glory or daily bread

I'd prefer  
to take my fresh croissant and my fragrant coffee,  
sit in front of my urban refuge, and  
plan to send to the world  
my photos of the glorious crocuses –  
if the world is still there the next morning

I'd prefer  
to shove my head under the earth, waiting for me anyway,  
and join the moles in looking for crocus bulbs  
to ask them to please last longer this dismal year

But  
there is an ancient drama unfolding outside  
*Among the peoples in conflict:*  
who will take the power, who will take the honour

who will take the blood, who will take the soil  
who will be writing history  
and who will be beaten until he confesses everything he doesn't know  
who will be killed and ditched by a road in a distant land

I'd prefer ...

But I must  
go out to the street, to join the angry masses  
side by side with those whom I don't know and share nothing  
except for this land, beautiful and miserable

So, here I am, and I am supposed to sing it all with delight

But how to sing and celebrate Those Above  
who spit at Those Below  
until the wheel of fortune whirls around  
all over again  
in an hour or two?

*Sarajevo, February 11, 2014*

*Translated by Amira Sadiković, William A. Hunt, and the author*

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