

ka Katančićeve Biblije kažu u predgovoru da žele pridonijeti hrvatskoj biblijskoj kulturi i proučavanju Riječi Božje. Oni i izdavač zaslužuju podršku za sjajno obavljen posao. Nadamo se da će kroatistima i bibličarima ovo izdanje pomagati u proučavanju povijesti hrvatskog jezika i napredovanja Crkve u razumijevanju Riječi Božje. Osobno smatram da je ovo izdanje Biblije u jednom svesku rudnik građe studentima teologije i kroatistike pri pisanju seminarских i diplomskih radova. Bilo bi vrijedno istražiti što su Katančić i njegovi suvremenici mislili pod „jezikom slavno-iliričkim izgovora bosanskog“ te jesu li Katančić i Čevapović bili u općeeuropskom i katoličkom kontekstu kada su priredili prijevod Svetoga pisma doslovno vjeran Vulgatinu tekstu, bez dovoljnog uvažavanja književnog hrvatskog svojega vremena. Današnji prevoditelji trude se, naime, biti sadržajno vjerni izvorniku, ali i čitateljima s njihovim duhovnim potrebama i jezičnim ukusom. Zato postoje različiti tipovi prijevoda, ovisno o računanju na čitatelje i prihvaćanju u različitim slojevima kršćana, jer su Bibliju pisali nadahnuti vjernici za vjerničku zajednicu a preko zajednice i za pojedince.

Mato Zovkić

A BOSNIAN CATHOLIC'S REVIEW OF A UK NOVEL ON THE SIEGE OF SARAJEVO

Kevin SULLIVAN, *The Longest Winter*, Twenty7 Books, London 2016, 326 pp.

Kevin Sullivan was born in 1957 in Glasgow, Scotland. He harmonizes dynamically his Scottish ethnicity, UK citizenship and living in Sarajevo with his wife Marija and their daughter Katarina. He studied History and English at Glasgow University. He came to Bosnia for the first time in September 1991 on his way to Croatia where he intended to cover the fighting in the Dubrovnik area and returned in October 1992 as a correspondent for United Press International. At the beginning of 1993, he visited Gornji Vakuf in Central Bosnia, travelling in an armored Land Rover, and drove over a land mine. He broke his left foot badly and his right leg and was transferred to the UK for medical treatment. For three years he lived with his family in Singapore and worked there, then in Spain. In 2001 he returned to Sarajevo, where he worked for OHR until 2007. He continues to live in Sarajevo with his family and, besides writing, works for the International Commission on Missing Persons.

On page 2 of this novel,

readers are offered a geographical map of war-torn Sarajevo in 1992-1993 with a Government controlled section and a "Rebel" controlled section. In the map are clearly marked localities that are mentioned most often in the novel, from the Chamber Theatre and the Presidency to the village of Otes from which the young British volunteer doctor has to evacuate a seriously ill boy to London. In a two-page "Historical Note", the 1992-1996 war for ethnic territories in Bosnia and Herzegovina is depicted as a tragic consequence of the disintegration of Yugoslavia in 1991. Sullivan describes as "Rebels" the militia of ethnic Serbs who were assisted by professional officers of the Yugoslav Army in the ethnic cleansing of thousands of Bosniaks-Muslims and Croats from their centuries-old native places. He points out: "This novel is set in Sarajevo during the first winter of the siege and is based on true events".

In the plot of the novel Sullivan presents masterfully the young British volunteer doctor, Terry Barnes, in her mission to evacuate the sick boy, Miro Pejanović, from the suburban village of Otes to London for life-saving medical treatment. Due to the siege circumstances, there is no one to meet her at Sarajevo airport, but American journalist, Brad, and his colleague, Anna,

take her to the Holiday Inn in the center of the city and initiate her in the dangers of life in the city on the way. Once in the hotel, Terry meets arrogant journalist Michael Baring, and also Anna's friend, Sanela, who takes her to the hospital where she meets Dr Dario Jurić, coordinator of Miro's evacuation. The next morning, Sanela's boyfriend Zlatko takes Terry to Otes, where a fatal battle between the Rebels and Government forces is taking place. At UN military headquarters in the PTT building, they get papers to enter the airport and board a plane with Miro and his mum. On the way to Otes "there were abandoned cars and trucks everywhere, some of them overturned, the factories fire-blackened and the walls with shell holes" (p. 95-96). On their way, they hear bullets some of which are targeting their car. Thanks to Zlatko's extraordinary sense of orientation and courage they reach the building where Mrs. Edisa Pejanović and her son Miro are eagerly waiting for them, Terry examines Miro and promises to pick them up the next morning.

On the same evening, Zlatko, Terry and Dr Jurić attend the children's song contest, which is taking place in spite of war circumstances, as a form of morale-boosting for the performers and the spectators. That night, Govern-

ment military authorities decide to evacuate the remaining 1,500 civilians from Otes and abandon the settlement to Rebel forces, who were armed with tanks. In the evening, during a party in honor of Terry, the building shakes from an explosion and Dr. Jurić orders all the guests to move to the hall of the building for safety. "They slept in the frail light of a winter moon. Terry closed her eyes. Before she dozed she felt a curious peace, as safe as anyone could feel on such a night, sleeping with heroes" (p. 265). Next morning two soldiers, provided by military commander Alija, escort Terry and Zlatko to take Miro and his mum. In a critical moment, Terry asks Mrs. Pejanović to take Miro out of the cot. "Terry was at that moment quite sure about what she must do. She hadn't come to this place to bring medicine. She hadn't come to ease Miro's entry into Britain. She had come to carry him across this street. His mother couldn't do it. She would have crawled through fire for him, but now Mrs Pejanović wasn't capable" (295). Although the French military checkpoint recognizes the validity of their written permission to board a UN Hercules military airplane, they request additional written permission to enter the airport building. Only after threatening pressure from a British flight officer and his escort

are the three last-minute Sarajevo passengers able to board.

Several other parallel stories are developed in the novel. The first one concerns the assassination of Hakija Turajlić, deputy prime minister of BH, on 8 January 1993, travelling in a French APC on his way from the airport where he had met a Turkish delegation. The author does not mention the name of the murdered minister nor the date, but only his cruel death and the unsuccessful attempt by two foreign journalists to find out who ordered the APC door to be opened, after which a Rebel soldier shot the victim. These two journalists ask representatives of the UN in the west section of the city and Rebel spokespersons at Pale, the small town about 16 km north-east of Sarajevo, then temporary capital of the rebel Serbs. The impression the reader gets is that UN officers cannot be criminally prosecuted in a country where they serve as peacekeepers and may have perpetrated criminal acts.

Another parallel story is the tragic destiny of Milena Ristić from Foča, a town in Eastern Bosnia with a majority Serb population. Her father left the family before she was born and her mother ran away when Milena was 12 years old because of a debt she was not able to repay. Milena grew up with adoptive parents

and married local boy Miroslav who succumbed in 1991 to his younger brother's plans for the violent eviction of non-Serbs from Foča. Milena moved to Sarajevo where she worked in a bar and made new friends. On the night when Terry sleeps in the hall of the building with other citizens of war torn Sarajevo for the sake of safety, Milena walks through the same artillery barrage. She dreams of going to meet her father whom she never met alive. Her name appears on a casualty list the following day.

The author does not mention the ethnic or religious identity of his heroines and heroes, probably to avoid confusing or boring British readers. We readers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with other readers in neighboring countries that emerged from former Yugoslavia, recognize their ethnic identity by their names. In the novel, Dario Jurić is a Croat of Catholic descent, the little boy Miro Pejanović is a Serb, but his mother Edisa is a Muslim who gave birth to her son in a mixed marriage with a Serb, and accepted the husband's traditional right to give ethnic identity to the children in such a marriage. The military commander in Otes, Alija, has a typical Muslim name, coinciding with Alija Izetbegović, the first democratically elected president of BH after the silent implo-

sion of the communist regime. I conclude from this that Kevin Sullivan looks at the suffering population of Sarajevo with their scarcities and calamities as human beings who share common needs, fears and joys. By making ethnic Serbs, Bosniaks-Muslims and Croats work, sing and fear together he would like to remind them and his British readers that more elements unite them than ethnic and religious peculiarities. I acknowledge and appreciate this, although I helped to shape the Pastoral Letter of Archbishop Vinko Puljić in February 1992 to be proclaimed to Catholic churchgoers on the eve of the independence referendum. The bishops of BH advised their fellow Catholics to take part in the referendum and to give their vote for the independence of BH because we had had a bad experience with Yugoslavia from 1918 to 1992. We did not expect that the consequence of the legally organized referendum would motivate our Serb fellow citizens to carry out the violent expulsion of non-Serbs from their ethnic territory and keep Sarajevo under siege for nearly four years.

On 23 January 2014 Sullivan gave an interview to Emel Gušić Handžić on the publication of his novel *Out of the West* (November 2013), which is set in Greece during World War Two. In that interview he said: "Two of the

principal Greek characters in *Out of the West* are reluctant members of the resistance; they didn't join it by choice, they had no option. Two of the other characters are a British officer who goes to Greece and a woman who works for the War Office. The book tries to examine how the people in the UK and the people in Greece are both confronting moral issues. It tries to explore the fact that even if you're not in physical danger, in everyone's life people have to make moral decisions". This kind of approach makes his novel writing a kind of philosophical ethics in an entertaining way. He reflects and depicts his characters along the same lines in *The Longest Winter* which makes this novel worth reading.

I enjoyed the English of the author, with short sentences, lively dialogue and often humorous metaphors. For example, Mrs. Nurudinović, the Muslim neighbor of Milena in Sarajevo, knows that Milena "earned her living in a bar that [...] was an unsavoury place. She spoke with a country accent and kept to herself at the beginning" (122); another woman in the novel "had rouge on her cheeks to cover the paleness of winter and a poor diet, she had bags under her eyes and she wore too much mascara" (199); during the children's song contest Dr. Jurić explains to Terry: "We have

to do what we are accustomed to doing, and we are accustomed to holding our contest at this time of year. By being ordinary we resist! By singing we resist!" (222).

In the abovementioned interview, Kevin Sullivan is described as "a Bosnian son-in-law" because he married a girl from Sarajevo and continues to live and work with his family in Sarajevo. They like going for walks in and around Sarajevo. He is a member of the Caledonian Society comprising Scots who live in BH and who organize events from time to time. Among other things, they celebrate the anniversary of Robert Burns (1759-1796), Scotland's national poet. To the question, how does he find living in Bosnia, he regrets that some positive things he had expected at the level of the whole country have not yet happened, but he has not given up his and our hope: "You can turn all the negatives into positives if you have the right approach and I don't think that's unrealistic. Bosnia and Herzegovina can be a success; it's like a football team that has lost a succession of games and it starts to think that it has to lose but I don't think that's the case". By living with us and doing what he does he helps us all to support each other and contribute to the common good in our pluralistic society. This is why I believe that this novel should be read by his

British audience and also translated into Bosnian, to help us look for concrete ways of change for the better.

Mato Zovkić

(Translation: Mato Zovkić and Kevin Sullivan)