

Stories on the water, from the Danube at the Drina

Of Alexander Half-beef Lona

T – Ding-Dong! Monfalcone. Station Of Monfalcone. The train OEBB PV 132 operated by Öbb Österreichische The 2.50 pm train from Trieste Centrale to Wien Hauptbahnhof departs from tracks 2. Attention, to move away from the line yellow.

Travellers are advised that on this train, in one of the central carriages, there is a woman sitting facing the opposite direction of travel, her eyes fixed on the book she is reading. She is wearing a pair of eyeglasses That holds in balance on the tip of the nose.

Enter In the convoy a lad And Yes sits Of forehead to she. The lad peek with Do nervous The mobile phone, Then the puts back in pocket. From the bag extracts a book. The opens, start to read, but immediately puts it on the table that separates him from the other passenger.

With The back towards the high.

The lad he snorts, he gesticulates And he mutters as if he was arguing with someone.

There woman he stops For a moment Of light. Peek The book of the boy, then says out loud...

C - " The bridge on the Drina", big nice novel... Not I am She's one of those who usually starts a conversation like that. But she knows that he...

T - there woman indicates The book

C - ugh... but she knows That him has risked Of become a terrorist?

THE - A terrorist? But Who? From Who is speaking?

C - About the author of the book That is reading, Ivo Andrić, don't you know his story?

T - The lad Yes takes away there jacket, there he supports on the seat nearby.

L - No, look, the book was lent to me by a... Let's forget it, less I speak Of him Better And. "You have to read it, And an absolute masterpiece. It is no coincidence that he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature". Imbecile, him And the his books.

C - Well, at least The his writer The Nobel he has it won. The mine instead... They said: "he arrives, he arrives". Then The years they pass by, the Academy Of Sweden decide Of give The Award to others, and goodbye illusions.

T – The boy lengthen a hand.

THE - Me I'm calling Luan, live here but I arrive on the other Part of Italy: Naples. You know North calls South? Well, basically. I am I. AND she, me Excuse me, Yes it's fun Always to speak in riddles? First the man who could become a terrorist, Then this other one That Yes deceives Of WIN the awards. Not There I understand Nothing.

C - Don't take this as a silly compliment, but I have to tell her That When he smiles And Very, Very... cute. Yes, it's as if everything around her... lights up.

T - With a gesture from the hand try Of cancel the his words.

C - But now don't take me for one of those seductresses... four money. If no they find many in tour. On trains, then... Forgive me? I am... or rather my name is Claudia. Yes, almost like him.

T - Luan law "Danube"

THE - Danube

T- little more above: "Claudio Magris".

THE - Claudio Magr..

C - Yes, Claudio Magris, that's who I was talking about. This writer Trieste has waited The Nobel For a bit', Then I think he got tired. After all, Jorge Luis Borges said, after you have it won, that award, Not you can more to write books that make sense. "This is also how we can find comfort."

L - Here we go again. Is he doing it on purpose? Every time he opens his mouth, he mentions some name or story I know nothing about.

T - The from a tap on the arm.

THE - Me stories Who era The missed terrorist, That And Better.

C - AND touched to the young poet Gavrilo Principle shoot two shots from a Browning FN Model 1910 semi-automatic pistol kill The symbol from the tyranny, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of the Empire Austro-Hungarian, and his wife Sophie. It was the morning of June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo. That ambush mortal has changed there History.

T - Unscrew The cork from the its canteen, drinks a sip of water, remains For a moment to secure The empty.

C - But to to challenge the weapon could to be a other young man affiliated with the nationalist group Mlada Bosna, Young Bosnia, That he was aiming to unify everyone the peoples Yugoslavs. Yes, a little intellectual That, several years After, would be became one esteemed diplomatic And a from the more clear and significant voices from the literature of the '900: own him, Ivo Andrić.

T - Luan Yes covers The face with the hands.

L - I can't believe it. Is this the author of the book I'm reading? Now I understand Why to a Certain point he writes..

"Everything is fine generation has the own illusions regard at the civilization; some they believe Of contribute to the his progress, others to witness its decline. In reality, it flares up, smolders, and dies out simultaneously, depending on the place and point of view from which it is observed."

That What has held Andrić distant from that terrible episode? I intend, from the attack mortal to Franz Ferdinand?

C - Probably The Done That Andrić, born to Travnik in 1892 and died in Belgrade in 1975, he did not get along well with the weapons. Nothing to That see, For to understand each other, with the anarchist Luigi Lucheni, who stabbed Princess Elisabeth of Austria to death on September 10, 1898. Nor with Gaetano Brescia, That The 29 July of the 1900 outfit end to life of the king Umberto THE shooting him Three shots Of pistol.

In Everything is fine case. For The inquisitors Andrić era a type I suspect. So much That, After the attack Of Sarajevo, came locked in the prison Of Split. AND Then, Still, in those from Sebenico, Maribor And Zenica. Him he succeeded to Not rot behind the bars only.. ..Thank you at the tuberculosis. After to have obtained there grace, Indeed, he went straight to Zagreb For get your lungs treated.

T - Luan Yes takes away The Basque, shaking The splendid copper hair

L - What a story. My... well, that idiot I just left at the station was right... Now I'm... And coming wants Of light "The bridge on the Drina". But his too, what's his name?

T - Peek there cover of the book And law "Danube - Claudio Magris".

THE - Danube - Claudio Magris. Also Claudio Magris was a Almost terrorist?

C - Good God, No. OR Better, Not That results to me. Magris And a man mild, a refined scholar Of literature and of tongue German, has written many books, essays And novels.

In short....

THE - "He holds 'na capa square", as they would say from my parts. But, in concrete, Of What speaks This "Danube", who was reading intently before?

C - It is a great tribute to the beautiful Blue Danube, celebrated in music by Johann Strauss. A journey through history, literature, traditions, legends... That Then, that water blue, the Hungarians And the French there they saw dye Of an elegant shade of blonde. Perhaps because they masked the shame of admit That, in reality, The his True color And yellow mud. Today, Then, with all the rubbish That There they have thrown in..

T - Luan mime a big weight on the stomach.

THE - Me is saying That, to light Magris, I would try one... like I could say without offend Nobody - me in first of all -
... tiredness infinity?

T - Claudia puts on The sulk Of Who, in reality, he has it taken badly.

C - He's wrong, me believe. Danube And a book full Of anecdotes that there they would fascinate. If the I said, For example: That there was a man That has dedicated all there its life to just explore a part Of This river infinite. There would you like to listen to a story like that?

T - The lad ago a half bow.

THE - But Certain.

C - “Engineer Newelkowsky spent a lifetime tracing the borders from the Upper Donau, of the Danube superior and, a time circumscribed This territory, For sift it, classify it and catalog it palm to palm in space and over time, in the colors from the waters And in the tables customs, in its landscape that offers itself to instant perception and in the centuries that have built it.”

T - Luan raise a hand, near Of attract there its Attention.

L - Is are you kidding? A life dedicated For entire to define... the identikit Of a river?

C - We are not talking about just any river, Magris recalls That The Danube And state blessed from many as a sort of dam placed there by God himself to stop the flood of the army Ottoman. Someone else has I even wanted to imagine that the watercourse took shape after the universal flood unleashed by Yahweh to purify there Earth from the evil of the men.

In short, Not we are speaking Of a stream of any mountain.

“Like Flaubert or Proust, Neweklowsky devoted his entire life existence at work, at the writing, to the book. The result It is a volume in three volumes of 2164 pages in total, including the illustrations, That weighs five chili And nine hundred grams, And That, as he says The title, faces Not The Danube, but, more modestly, There navigation And there floating in the Upper Danube.

THE - As say That The bridge on the Drina, to the comparison, they built it in a flash! Also if, in reality, Not And gone

that's right: it took six years, from 1571 to 1577. From what little I've managed to read about the masterpiece so far Of Andrić me it seems That Also that of the Stari Most, as the they call to Visegrad, is was a story infinity.

T - Grab it The novel, the fold in bad way, For start to read

C - As Yes ago to abuse Like this the books...

THE - If And For This, I do Also the ears to the pages. This way I don't lose my place. And if I really like a book, I underline the phrases best with markers Of different colors.

“The rumor that the bridge could never be finished Yes scattered Also in places far away, there they spread both the Turks That the Christians And became Always more a belief concrete. There Rajah Christian no he was rejoicing Of heart, though Not externalizing the own feelings. Also the native Turks who had looked with pride at the construction of the vizier, they began to to wink Between They and shake there head with air contemptuous”.

T - Claudia Yes crumple the hands.

C - If you think about it carefully, the concept is always the same. The greats rivers, The Danube as there Drina, The Bit as The Reno, I am considered at the stregua Of divinity minors. Demigods that not Yes they fold to the powerful, That they do the tantrums, they break the banks, they overwhelm campaigns And houses with the They floods. It is no coincidence that legends flourish along waterways. full Of witches capricious, Of boatmen That they have sold

the soul to the Devil, Of mysterious attendance That They hinder any type of human intervention planned to tame the water spirit.

L - If that's the case, Andrić doesn't miss a single legend. flowery around at the construction of the bridge on the Drina. There is that of the twins infants walled up you live in the pylons like sacrifice For to appease there fury of the river. TO they the Architect Of All The project, Minar Sinan, I had granted to to hold on in contact with there own mother through two small windows. OR that of man black, the Arabic without name that Yes install to live in a big room obtained in the structure same from the construction, and that children will continue to fear meeting even when the legend will vanish during the jobs Of remake of the bridge.

C - Then, however, Who Yes trust from the legends must to change one's mind in front of to the facts concrete

THE - Indeed Andrić -After have given voice to the mystery- he is forced to leave space at the reality. Listen as he tells The collapse of the myths in front of to the evidence Of a prosaic demystification:

"meanwhile the damage to the bridge they continued, Now small now grown up, Together to the voices, Always more insistent, on the river nymph who did not want the construction of the bridge over the Drina. But a Night, After many stakeouts, the soldiers on guard they had view two farmers That Yes they were approaching on the sly to the scaffolding And with fatigue you they tied the raft. They were states They to provoke, Night After Night, the damages to the bridge in construction. Not Certain there nymph of the river. AND no general Turkish died in battle Yes era

reawakened from the tomb For defend the imposing artifact commissioned by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent.”

C - What you just read is really interesting. Because, if I remember correctly, it was actually someone from Višegrad. to promote with all the his forces there construction of the bridge.

T - Luan he pretends Of threaten her.

L - And no, you're not going to reveal the most delicious parts of the novel I still have to read, are you?! No spoilers, please.

T - We are in I arrive to: Trieste Airport.

L - Calm, I was joking, until to there I am arrived. AND I have to admit That, Yes, she remember Well there history. Why Pasha Mehmed Sokollu, was none other than one of the children from the family Sokolović. Carried away from the its Višegrad house from the Ottomans according to the tradition of conscription required: there practice of the devsirme. Afterwards era state converted to Force to Islam, throwing it towards a prestigious career Before in the army And then in the administration of the Empire Ottoman. In short: that bridge him Not the has wanted build Alone For a start of megalomania, but For open a street Between West and East. He thought really Of create a channel navigable that connected The Don to the Volga, And a other That approached the Mediterranean to the Caspian Sea cutting across the Isthmus of Suez.

C - Era a political visionary And from ideas very much in ahead of his time. But he was also fierce and inflexible: he did not

let's forget That The Bridge And state built forcing the people of the place to shifts Of Work massacring. There they were dealing with as The slaves of the ancient Egypt!

L - You are right, but here a not insignificant question comes into play: how much sacrifice is it right to ask of workers? called to build that That everyone, in the Ottoman Empire, they considered a sumptuous work of unparalleled beauty? Even people who had proven themselves more criticisms on the project they had to admit that Of jewels architectural of the type Not if no they saw many around.

C - Excellent question, my boy! I mean... if I may... that Magris, in this regard, recalls a story illuminating: that of the baron from R, Of which tells the great ETA Hoffmann; this man traveled around the world doing collection of panoramas, and When the he thought it was necessary to enjoy or to create a beautiful visual impact, yes he was panting to to saw trees, to prune branches, leveling the humps of the land, knocking down whole woods or demolishing farms, if they obstructed his view.

THE - Not I understand That What wants say...

C - Magris is convinced that even destruction is an architecture, a deconstruction that follows rules and calculations, an art Of to break down And to recompose, That brings the baron from R. to enjoy from the transparency Of a sunset in the distance.

"AND in the classifications That there life reveals The his heartbreaking flash, in the protocols That they are looking for Of catalog it And no

they pose in such way in evidence the indomitable residue of mysteries And Of enchantment”.

T - Luan Yes crumple the hands. Then he blurts out

THE - Beautiful words! But Still Not I understand.

C - Listen carefully. There's a passage where Magris calls the Danube a great Taoist master. Regardless of the worries of man, flows towards The sea. Towards that That the Gorizia philosopher Carlo Michelstaedter would have called “the persuasion”, that is to say there capacity Of find The center of themselves. Johannes Urzidil, the writer from Prague, considered the Danube the symbol of the Central European peoples And from the nations. A world open And very far away from the claustrophobic Reich Germanic That would be arrived Of there little by little.

T - After a break. Claudia complete The his thoughts.

C - In short, I think the arcane fascination they exert is undeniable. on Of us the rivers. For The They to be a whirlwind of water that never stops and which, at the same time, symbolizes there life That moult continuously, because she is forced to to chase The flow of the time. TO bow to the inexorable Kronos, That Not grants never to a instant to be the same as the next one. Life, death, and rebirth: in movement, in continuous change. is our freedom. Olga Tokarczuk also says so in her book 'The Vagabonds'. Perhaps her... friend recommended she read it, by any chance?

THE - Not I know neither Who is this Olga Torronciuk, or

as Yes call.

C - Olga Tokarczuk. She is a Polish writer and psychologist who has won The Nobel For there literature In the 2018. In short: What Magris wants us to understand is that Nature can be source of inspiration Also For there culture. Listen, for example, this passage from the book:

"The Danube And a sinuous master of irony, Of that irony that has made big there civilization Central European And That era the art of to bypass obliquely there own aridity And give checkmate to one's own weakness. Era The sense from the duplicity from the things and together from the They truth, concealed but a".

L - So you're telling me that Magris would like us to believe That Not exists a truth unique, but That the irony, disenchantment , can they lead us to explore the complexity of things?

C - That's right! But listen to this passage again: "the

Danube there is, Not disappears, Not promises that is

That Not

maintains, Not abandon, flows loyal And verifiable; Not he knows the gamble from the theology, the perversions ideological, the disappointments of love. AND there, tangible And true, And The devotee who The dedication there own existence there he feels flow in harmonious And indissoluble union with the flow of the river".

But there's more. Magris, at a certain point, states that in the eternal flow of the Danube Not there is never a end.

Listen:

"the branches of the river if no they go each one For I count
own, Yes

they emancipate from the imperious unity-identity, they die when he feels like it, one a little earlier and one a little later, like the heart, the nails or the hair That The certificate Of death melts from the bond Of mutual fidelity. The philosopher would have difficulty, in This tangle, to to aim The finger For indicate The Danube, its precise extension would become an uncertain circular gesture, vaguely ecumenical, because the Danube is everywhere and its end is also everywhere in each of the 4300 kilometers squares of the delta".

L - Nice. Do you know that when I start my meditation sessions I always try to visualize a flowing river? But don't be offended: it seems to me that Magris is letting himself get carried away by a slightly too... poetic drift. He writes as if he were Master Yoda from Star Wars when he says: "Luke leaves That there Force flow powerful in Of tea".

C - She Not has everyone the wrongs, knows. Magris And Also a poet in prose, in certain passages of the book. That That counts And The his belief in the Force eternal of the God river, That Not Yes never stop. It flows towards there mouth, inexorable, Where the Wait the great mystery of the jump in sea. Must prepare to the fusion with a huge, very different, yet the same to him. You understand, Now, How much The destiny of the river and humanity end up resembling each other?

THE - There I try, but Not I am of the All Safe.

C - Magris himself helps us understand. At a certain point he speaks Of a painter, Johann Matthäus Scheiffele, That he wanted to immortalize The big to rush of the military long the Danube For go to supply The armies Of instruments of death. AND Then, everyone those fallen in battle, those fields

soaked

of the blood of young soldiers, those ruins scattered all over Europe, what purpose did they serve? A retreat from the civilization, he says the writer. To the sunset Of a world that still thought about designing splendid buildings, as The bridge on the Drina. TO to establish strong contacts Between peoples Of languages And cultures different. Those 'my peoples' to whom Emperor Frantz Joseph addressed himself when he wrote a letter For communicate the own decisions.

L - Yes, Really, it seems That there History Not There you teach never anything.. The to flow of the centuries And full Of wars useless, of millions and millions of deaths. And what do we do?

We continue to produce powerful, terrifying weapons . There we delude That accumulating cannons, mortars, tanks, missiles to Always more long range, The world you finally find a balance, a peace lasting. We can destroy whole neighborhoods Of a city doing just fly of the drones remote controlled. AND Now there is Who threatens again the appeal to nuclear weapons. As if they weren't there states the bombings Of Hiroshima And Nagasaki, with everyone those dead. More Of two hundred thousand, without to count the people That For all there life they have carried on the own body the terrible signs from the contamination.

C - Has reason she, Luan, it seems That there History Not There taught anything. And if Antonio Gramsci were alive, perhaps he would no longer write those words from fascist prison to his son Delio. At that time him he believed Truly That there History was about everyone The men of the world For push them to unite for improve if same And The world. Today Instead us...

Of the rest, Not And easy oppose to Who he believes That

only after a tough confrontation and a violent clash can it arise a period Of peace lasting. Why, second

Some pundits argue that opposition is the fundamental law that governs Nature. Magris, at one point, cites the great Austrian ethologist Konrad Lorenz. Not forget the his inclinations Nazi-leaning youth , And remember That observing the rats And the otters, the naturalist he thought That there struggle For the existence it was inevitable. On the other hand, Not could believe That The men were the protagonists or the purpose of the cosmos. Precisely for this reason era Safe That Not is They allowed to withdraw to the fate of hitting each other.

T - Yes stop For take up again breath.

C - Lorenz tried to imagine if it were possible to spare every being, human or animal, from cruelty and pain. But, to the time same, era ready to justify the law That places, inevitably, a pack against the other. AND the pack, to second from the constellation historical, can to be the city, The match, there class, there tribe, there nation, there race, the West or the World Revolution.

THE - I understand Well, Lorenz he was reasoning from naturalist. AND For He did not discuss the laws of Nature. After all, how can we humans give lessons in peaceful coexistence when... There we behave from executioners in the comparisons Of other living beings like animals? And I'm not just thinking of those that we transform in food. There we humiliate in the circuses, in the zoo, in parks entertainment, Where let's go to look at them as if they were funny objects without personality. Without dignity. But let me say that it was very beautiful when dreamers like Gramsci still existed. Now we have to deal with these... horsemen of the apocalypse. Unscrupulous people, prophets of a violence that knows no bounds.

compassion. Which obeys only the laws of profit, of interest national, Of an arrogant supremacy of the rich on poor, of the elimination Of Who not the thinks as tea. For fortune There I am remained The writers.

Many of the They books There they help to find trajectories different to those dictated from horrible protagonists Of a global tragedy that is pushing us towards catastrophe.

C - There literature Central European And Still there, ready to reveal to us all there pettiness And there wickedness of man. Franz Kafka, like Italo Svevo or Robert Musil, have given us unforgettable figures Of self-harmers. Men That they manage to triumph on the stupidity And on injustice Thank you at the their precarious capacity Of Not forget never the own shortcomings, the own weaknesses. You think to the grin fierce with which Zeno Cosini talks first of all about himself, and then about the rituals bourgeois from the family Malfenti And Of Who the revolves around. But also consider the grotesque fate of Joseph K., accused by a phantom tribunal of crimes for which no one can account.

THE - AND At that time listen What he writes Andrić, to about Of what Magris says.

"Yes he was doing street in them the unconscious philosophy from the kasaba second there Which there life And a prodigy incomprehensible, that uninterruptedly Yes consumes And Yes crumbles, but to the same time hard And resists, indestructible as The bridge on the Drina".

C - I still answer her with Magris! At a certain point she talks about the Danube as

"a refined artisan That thread the city through whose waters flow like pearls destined to form a precious necklace. But that jewel contains in itself all the illusion, there precariousness of the live. Exactly like the operetta, That solves the existence in the joke "waiter, champagne", without ever hiding the fact that he is a brilliant fiction, there mask And there simulation of the brio. Why Franz Lehár, Robert Stolz And The others, they gave life on the stage at the more Pretty factory of the gallant cynicism and sentimental. A world papier-mâché which, even without to give oneself too much importance, distracts from the seriousness of real life."

T - Luan takes from the bag a brush, Yes restart the hair.

THE - In the course of the time they have invented thousand ways to distract us from the life real. I'm thinking to When Andrić tells That The bridge on the Drina he was coming fully illuminated a alone night during the year. It coincided with the birthday of Franz Joseph, a very important figure. stranger at the people Of Višegrad. A symbol Of power not Certain loved from those parts. Nevertheless, Yes was decorating the bridge with young fir trees, Yes they were softening the pylons with garlands Of leaves. To the to fall from the darkness, the Stari Most was sparkling Of a multitude Of lights to petrolium And Of small lamps, obtained filling Of tallow the cans Of tin that contained, until to few hours Before, the rations Of food of the military Of room there.

C - Listen to what Magris writes. It seems provocative, but if you think about it, he's right.

"The marshal Tito has finished For to resemble Always more to Francis Joseph, And Not Certain For have soldier under its flags in the Before war world-wide, but rather For awareness or The wish Of gather a legacy - and a Danubian supranational leadership".

T - Sorry... But... I'd like to tell you two things, if I may butt in: there Before And That We are in I arrive to: Cervignano-Aquileia- Grado. The second: that the defunct Yugoslavia ended up resembling Very at the old Austria. As imposing and precarious, fragile, mined from the inside from too many underground struggles . The Yugoslav mosaic, in my opinion, had absorbed the spirit of the old Central Europe, with a sprinkle of communism and collectivism added.

C - AND you know Why All that That the man Yes deceives to create on bases very solid, at the end collapses miserably? Magris explains it to us again, recalling the dualistic heresy of the Bogomils. This world, according to their vision, was created by Satan. By the devil, in short. God has no jurisdiction on the our screw: Yes And forced to watch the fate of men from afar. Only in this way, according to They, Yes can explain The triumph of the bad in the earthly things .

T - Luan waves The his smartphone.

L - While I was listening to her, Claudia, I checked what Wikipedia tells of the Danube. AND if she me quote the Bogomils, whose existence I didn't even know, then I read them that... wait, I'll find the point..., ah yes, here it is, that a Certain Amedeo, defined 'appreciated sedimentologist',

he claimed That The Danube is born from a faucet.

C - It's true! Magris also says so, having gone to verify it. on the place, to Furtwangen, if actually That's how things are. However, I'm sorry to disappoint you: no faucet. There source official of the river Yes finds in Donaueschingen, in the Black Forest, where the rivers join Breg And Brigach. But Then, if the he sees she This tap placed in the vicinity Of Furtwangen, or below Of there, That start dripping? And, after a while, the dripping water becomes more and more more important, Always more intrusive. Until to form Before a puddle, Then a stream of water and more in there, a to stream liquid That becomes suddenly the immense Danube. Magris, after joking about it a bit, Not he hesitates to define it a nonsense.

L - Certain That us humans we are own a big cauldron Of ideas brilliant And crazy. When Andrić talks about the bombings that damaged seriously The bridge on the Drina in both the wars world championships, Not can Do to less Of say That there were people ready to celebrate. Why inside of us they coexist light And the darkness, in balance precarious. AND if The bad manages to prevail, if the process that leads to armed clashes is triggered, to the massacres Of people helpless, Not Yes succeeds more to stop there spiral from the cruelty.

“It may be that this evil faith that fixes everything, cleans And puts back to new, For Then right away After swallow and destroy, Yes will expand on all there Earth; Perhaps Of All the world that God created will become a desert because of his senseless constructions and his cruel passion for destruction, a pasture For there its hunger insatiable And the his

appetites incomprehensible”.

T - Claudia brings a hand to to screen The eyes, as if Not wanted see those Images terrible.

C - Curious, really. In this passage, Andrić is in perfect harmony with The final from the 'Consciousness Of Zeno'. Where Italo Svevo imagines that, in the future, a sicker man of the others Yes will climb to the center of the our world And will do explode a explosive device from the effect devastating. So much from to transform there Earth in a nebula ready to wander in the universe without more parasites And illnesses.

They should read it Everything is fine day in the TV news, that final of Swabian. Perhaps There it would help to quit Of believe That with the violence from the weapons Yes may solve the problems of coexistence on this splendid planet.

L - You know what I tell you? We humans are really stupid. After centuries of wars, we still think that the roar of the cannons will be able to solve the our problems.

They continue to repeat “si vis pacem para bellum” Alone to fill their mouths with Latin words that have never brought Well. On the contrary, they do only The game Of Who produces weapons. And we Europeans? We are doubly stupid. We have created a union Between the peoples That And Always ready to sabotage if same. Above all For Not to crush the feet to the big ones powers world championships: I intend America, Russia, China, one day maybe India too.

C - Magris And agree with she, do you know? Listen here:

"to Budapest Yes can warn The sense Of a Europe After the

show, but it is not, like Vienna, just a

stage of the remembrance of things past, but also a robust and sanguine city, which suggests what strength Europe could and should have, if it knew how to treasure from the its dispersive multiplicity Of energie And unified them rather than wear them out in an elision perpetual, in a permanent stalemate.”

T - We are in I arrive to Udine. Luan Yes raise, thread there jacket, gathers his things.

L - It's a shame that the atmosphere in Budapest is really bad right now. AND Not Alone there. The wars Yes they are multiplying, the powers strong they do to competition to Who show Better the its own muscles. And Europe thinks that the right antidote to arrogance And at the violence is run to acquire new weapons, instead of convincingly proposing a severe moratorium on the headers nuclear. Enough open a newspaper, listen a news, Why, you go up an anguish..

C - It would be enough little For to be happy.

L - There is a beautiful passage in which Andrić recalls that the sun rises to the morning Why us men we can look around And wait to the our occupations. AND sets in the evening For allow us Of sleep And Of rest from labors of the day. The cycle from the life should to be The our teacher, instead...

C - Yes, And True. We are too distracted from thousand chimeras, from impossible dreams. And we can no longer wake up, every morning, saying Thank you For The sun, For The new day that there Wait. Of the rest.. us Europeans we have given up for too long time at the our autonomy. AND Still Today Europe

has fear to claim their own sovereignty. When The former Yugoslavia was a powder keg of opposing nationalisms, we had to be the ones to attempt a mediation. We are always states masters Of diplomacy. Instead we have left that they left from Aviano the bombers. Deceiving ourselves, one more time, That were the explosions, their destruction, to solve a deep crisis politics, geographic, human. That even today hatch under the ash of a calm Alone apparent.

L - I'm sorry to interrupt this lovely conversation. Thank you for your time, but I've arrived. I have to DESCEND here. Me Wait a other train, up to Naples.

C - wait... Before Of leave us, Yes face a gift: read the words That Andrić has wanted put In the final of the his novel. A other final That we should remember more often..

L - "one What will be impossible, to do disappear of the All And forever the large men, the large spirits from the soul noble who, For love Of God, they want build works intended to last and make the world more beautiful and man can live in it more easily And Better. If they came to missing, it would mean that God's love has also died out and disappeared from this world."

T - Luan ago a nod Of greeting. Then, law the last one phrase.

THE - "But This Not can happen".

With a smile, quickly reaches the exit of the

compartment And he's going down. Claudio Yes leaves to lull For A bit from Andrić's words. Then, as if someone were calling him, he jumps up and tries to follow her.

C - Wait, Luan. I wanted ask her if...

T - But The lad And at this point distant, Not can feel. Claudia returns to the his place, takes Between the hands "Danube" by Magris.

Then, Yes he notices That on the table Of forehead And remained there copy of the "Bridge on the Drina" forgotten from Luan. Opens The book.

On the first page, under the writing Oscar Mondadori, in pen And marked a number Of telephone. Claudia smiles.

The train he's starting again.

You we thank Of have traveled with us.