

## **Moments in the Unknown**

*(Translated from Serbian by Danijela Trajković)*

Sometimes you get into your blood  
and explore the mysteries of your own body,  
such as curious adventurers used to penetrate  
through the dangers of distant rainforests.

The longest stay you make in the caverns of your heart  
and you wonder: has anybody ever  
detected the secrets of their labyrinth?  
And, are there some lost sheep and beasts  
in the intricate passages?

Then, frightened, you sting yourself with the memory  
where the blood vessels pulse strongly  
and you come out of you with blood,  
out of impenetrable corridors  
where one can be easily lost.



**Ranko Pavlović** (born in 1943) is a writer, poet, essayist, literary critic and playwright. His poems and short stories have been translated into Italian, Polish, Hungarian, English, Romanian, German, and Dutch namely. He has published seventeen poetry collections, sixteen collections of short stories, five novels, two collections of essays, a book of literary criticism, and ten radio dramas for adults, eighteen collections of short stories for children, six poetry collections for the youngest, a novel for young people, a dozen texts for children's theater and about twenty radio plays for children. He has won many awards, among which The Ivo Andric Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement. He lives and works in Banja Luka, Republika Srpska.

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