

African

(Translated from Macedonian by Muhajlo Sviderski)

I need you as a white master
among the black people
to worship you as God
As equator which divides me into two halves
Mirage and dehydration
Every year new chain around my neck
Every month ritual trans
Every day death knocks on the door
Every night the belly touches the back
Every hour I dream bread
Every minute planned extermination
and every second I reborn myself multiplied
I need you as a nomad in my desert
as a hermit in the sand
find oases
and inhabit them as a sinner.

New Justification

(Translated from Macedonian by Muhajlo Sviderski)

*To all drivers, taxi drivers
and airport workers*
Forgive me
but
when I move elsewhere
I carry with me three lakes
the land around them
the sky over it

the clouds above it
the migratory birds through them
the song in their throats
the roads inscribed beneath their feathers
and the return
tattooed in their genetic code
the yesterday`s smiles
and the tomorrow's bread
That's why my suitcase
is so heavy.



Slavica Gadzova Sviderska (1984) is a poet, researcher, literary translator, doctor of theory of literature. She is the author of the poetry books *Infinity* (2001), *Letters* (2012), *Politics of Love* (2015), *Bodies* (2017), as well the studies *Literature and the discourses of power* (2013) and *Sense and Absurdity* (2016). She researches the discourses of power and the political violence in literature. In 2012 she was awarded the Enhalon prize at the Struga Poetry Evenings. In 2016 she won the Karamanov prize for the poetry book *Bodies*. Her poetry is published in several anthologies of contemporary Macedonian poetry and translated into English, Chinese, Italian, Czech, Slovak, Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian and Albanian. She is founder and editor of the publishing house Vostok. She translates poetry and prose from Slovak.

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