

cens sam aghalaq. Jghldu II meta l-Beata Emilia de Vlalar klenet let II-Blrgu u fethet skola fll-Palazz Bettina, dan II-post klenet krletu ghal hames snln, l'zda wara sentejn kellha tabbandunah u tmur fll-Belt Valletta ghax lt-tfajllet boarders klenu qalu llraw qassls bla ras.

Jghldu II fll-Kastell Sant' An lu klenet tidher forma ta' xbejba. Jghldu II ma rawhiex ll-Maltin biss, ghax II meta hemm klenu Jghixu bosta bahrin Ingllzi dawn klenu jghldu II waqt l-ghassa ta' fail-lejl ie II rawha ghaddeja u kienu laqqmuha The Grey Lady. Is-Sur John Powell, II ghadu mimli bil-ghomor, Jghid II meta kien bahrl ujmissu ghassa fail-lejl fll-Kastell Sant' An lu kien raha niezla t-tara li hemm ghat-torri Tal-Bandiera jew Saluting Tower.

Fl-istess kastell, meta fit-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija kien okkupat minn hafna bahrin Maltin u Inglizi kienu hafnu xelters fil-blat u fwiehed minn dawn fejn kienu jin abru ghar-rikreazzjoni darba raw jittajjar farfett il-lejl sewdieni u billi deherilhom li din kienet ha a stramba huma laqqmu l-post The Black Bat l'zda uhud sthajluh fatat jew hares.

Hemm min jghid ll-fl-imghoddi fSant' An lu ie li deher serp kbir u kienu jemnu li jekk jidher dak is-serp kbir tkun ejja xi di grazzja fpajji na.

Jien u ghaddej minn Triq it-Tramuntana fil-Birgu, fuq bieb imbarat bil-hagar nara skrlzzjoni ll diffli tinqara min' a b bal g h a d z anien minn fuqha. ll-kitba titfa' dawl fuq pi z ijlet ta' talb Jew quddies ghall-erwieh, ghax darl kienu bosta dawk ll, qabel imorru d-dlnja l-ohra, fit-testment kienu jordnaw ll mld-dhul ta' dik Id-dar kellu Jslr xi quddies ghal ruhhom. Dnub ll skrlzzjonijiet bhal dawn ma naghtux kashom, ghax dawn

Jumna l-passat taghna meta magghom konna nasso jaw ghajdut dwar dehriet ta' spirti.

Min qara l-ktieb tas-Sur Anton Attard dwar ll-M.U.S.E.U.M. tad-duttrlna fil-Blrgu Jaqra II meta

## TIBAX MINNI: JIEN TARANS

Ommi hi mora rahlija ll ghadha temmen bil-'ares. Tghid stejjer li issa smajna' hafna b'afhom ll-hares jibdel il-flus f'bebbu x i e s q a l g h u x i e b g k b i r a m i l l - h a r e s , d i a l r - l i e j a r a w x p i u r i s j o n i b ' x i t e b u t , e . Imma fost l-ohrajn tghid storja li fiha jissema karattru ti qatt ma smajt ll haddiehor lsemmlh. ll istorja hi din:

Mz'zija Mari' kellha kamra ii kienet Ébi'liit'arag. Kienet i z z o m n i hafna hsajjar u tapitl, il ma tkunx qed tuza, lrrumblati u mqieghda fxi rokna gofiha. Kull darba li kienet tghaddi minn quddiem il-kamra kien johro il-hares minn ot-taplti u jdoqq li-fllexken. U kien idoqqhom sabih. U kien jghidilha: "Tibax minni: jien TARANS",

Din l-istorja ghandha b z o n n x i ftit tifsir. (1) ll-kelma Tarans" tinghad bl-istess accenti tal-kelma 'Kalan' jew 'Parank'. (2) ldoqq il-fliexken ji ifieri ll-hares lkollu flxkun f kull id u jcekclkhom ma'xulxin blex johro boss muzikali bhal meta xi hadd idoqq b'xi kuc arina fuq xi tazzl.

Ommi m'ghandha l-ebda spjegazzjoni ohra hlief li Tarans hu hares li ma tlbiex minnu ghax mhux talli mhux vendikattlv uma Jaghmilx hsara, Imma talli Jaghmel affarijiet sbieh bhal, nghidu ahna, Jdoqq muzikatajbal

Peress li dejjem kelll kurllta' fuq dll-kelma Tarans' u qatt ma slbt ll

nfetah dan ll-post f Dar f z -enqa fi Triq Santa Skolastika, mhux darba u tnejn xi soci klenu Jisimghu tahbit u hsejjes bla ma jaraw ll hadd. Meta qalu b'dan ll ID u n Ó org Preca hu kien lrrfkmandalhom biex jissuffragaw kemm Jistghu ill-erwieh.

Lorenzo Zahra

hadd li seta' jilluminani fuqha, ftit ilu fettilli nfittex fl-kelma internet B'ghageb kbir tieghi, skond l-intemet, 'Tarans' fil-folklor SKO l' huma l-erwieh ta' tfal li jmutu mhux imghamda, li kienu jhufu fil-boskijiet waqt li jnewwhu ghax ma jstghux Jldhlu l-enna. Slbt dll-poezija:

hafna  
TARAN'S TEARS  
haunting melodies through highland hills  
Tarans' tears, lives unfulfilled  
The cries of babes, unbaptised souls  
Whimpering, pitiful sounds of woe.  
Will someone sooth them please?  
Hear their tears rustling through the

I cannot gather them in my arms  
Or keep them safe from further harm.

They did no wrong, but died too soon  
Now forever the babes are doomed  
To wander highland hills unknown  
Poor frightened children, all alone.

Where is the Christ who loves us all?  
Why doesn't he answer the tarans\*?

Listen now to a mother's plea  
And from their torment set them free!

ll-Kelma Tarans\* li taf ommi, u ll-kelma Tarans\* ta' Uintemet x'aktarx li m'ghandhom x'jaqsmu xejn ma' xulxin. Staqsejt till nnifsi Jekk fl-familja tiegħl qattx kien hemm xi kuntattma\*, nghidu ahna, Xi IngliżMi setghu influwenzaw ll ziti. Imma skond ommi, z-zija Mari' qatt ma kienet seftura ma' Mnglizi, u kemm hi u kemm ommi trabbew ir-ralhal, maqtughin minn influwenzi barranin. Ji ifieri ltbqajt ma qtajt ll-kurtita' u Jekk hawn xi hadd ll sema' bil-kelma Tarans\* f'kuntest Malti nlehu pjeclr hafna Jekk jibghat jgharraflill-Imnara.

U'I GATT