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

Jghldu ll fll-Kastell Sant' An lu klenet tidher forma ta' xbejba. Jghldu ll ma rawhiex ll-Maltin biss, ghax ll meta hemm klenu Jghixu bosta bahrin Ingll¿l dawn klenu jghldu ll waqt l-ghassa ta[1] faill-le]l ie ll rawha ghaddeja u kienu laqqmuha The Grey Lady. Is-Sur John Powell, ll ghadu mimli bil-ghomor, Jghid ll meta kien bahrl u jmissu ghassa faill-lejl fll-Kastell Sant' An lu kien raha nie¿la t-tara li hemm ghat-to rri Tal-Bandiera jew Saluting Tower.

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

Hemm min jghid llfl-imghoddi fSant' An lu ie li deher serp kbir u kienu jemmnu li jekk jidher da kis-serp kbir tkun ejja xi di¿grazzja fpajji¿na.

Jien u ghaddej minn Triq it-Tramuntana fil-Birgu, fuq bieb imbarrat bil-hagar nara skrlzzjoni ll difflcli tinqara min'abbal lghad¿d¿amien minn fuqha. Il-kitba titfa' dawl fuq pi¿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 ld-dar kellu Jslr xi quddies ghal ruhhom. Dnub ll skrlzzjonljiet bhal dawn ma naghtux kashom, ghax dawn

Jumna l-passat taghna meta maghhom 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 ll meta

nfetah dan ll-post f Dar f¿-¯enqa fi Triq Santa Skolastika, mhux darba u tnejn xi soci klenu Jisimghu tahbit u hsejjes bla ma jaraw lllhadd. Meta qalu b'dan lll D u nÓorg Preca hu kien lrrfkmandalhom biex jissuffragaw kemm Jistghu illl-erwieh.

Lorenzo Zahra

TIB¯AX MINNI: JIEN TARANS

Ommi hi mora rahlija ll ghadha temmen bil-'ares. Tghid hafna stejjer li issa smajna 'hafna b'afhom ll-hares, li jisibdel il-flus f'bebbux, nìeìs q alghux xiebg'a kbira mill-hares, dj alr-lie ll fihom jarawx piur isjoni b'xi tebut, e. Imma fost l-ohrajn tghid storja li fiha jissemma karattru ti qatt ma smajt lll haddiehor lsemmlh. ll istorja hi din:

Mz^¿ija Mari' kellha kamra ii kienet Ébi^llit^àrag. Kienet i¿¿omni hafna hsajjar u tapit l, il ma tkunx qed tu¿a, lrrumblati u mqieghda ;f xi rokna go fiha. 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: "Tib¿ax minni: jien TARANS",

Din l-istorja ghandha b¿onn xi ftit tifsir. (1) Il-kelma Tarans" tinghad bl-istess accenti tal-kelma 'Kalan ' jew 'Parank'. (2) ldoqq il-fliexken ji ifieri lll-hares lkollu fllxkun f kull id u jcekclkhom ma 'xulxln blex johro boss mu¿ikali 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 tlbiax mlnnu ghax mhux talli mhux vendikattlv u ma Jaghmilx hsara, Imma talli Jaghmel affarijiet sbieh bhal, nghidu ahna, Jdoqq mu¿lka tajbal

Peress li dejjem kelll kurllta' fuq dll-kelma Tarans' u qatt ma slbt lll hadd li seta' jilluminani fuqha, ftit ilu fettilli nfittex fl-kelma internet B'ghageb kbir tìeghi, skond l-intemet, 'Tarans' fil-folklor SKO l¯ huma l-erwleh ta' tfal li jmutu mhux imghammda, li kienu jhufu fil-boskijiet waqt li jnewwhu ghax ma jlstghux Jldhlu l- enna. Slbt dll-poe¿lja:

TARAN'S TEARS

Haunting melodies through highland pis
Tarans[1] tears, lives unfufflled
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
Òr keep them safe from further harm.

They did no wrong, but died too soon
Now forever the babes are doomed
To wander highand 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!

Il-Kelma Tarans* li taf ommi, u l-kelma Tarans* ta' Uintemet x'aktarx li m'ghandhom x'jaqsmu xejn ma' xulxin. Staqsejt till nnifsi Jekk fll-famllja tieghl qattx kien hemm xi kuntatt ma*, nghidu ahna, Xi InglizMi setghu influwenzaw lll ziti. Imma skond ommi, z-zija Mari' qatt ma kienet seftura ma' Mngli¿i, u kemm hi u kemm ommi trabbew ir-rahal, maqtughin minn influwenzi barranin. Ji ifieri lt bqajt ma qtajtx ll-kurtita' u Jekk hawn xi hadd ll sema' bil-kelma Tarans* f'kuntest Malti nlèhu pjeclr hafna Jekk jibghat jgharraf llll-lmnara.

U¯l GATT