

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 IIraw qassls bla ras.

Jghldu II fll-Kastell Sant' An lu klenet tidher forma ta' xbejba. Jghldu II ma rawhiex II-Maltin biss, ghax II meta hemm klenu Jghixu bosta bahrin **Ingliz** 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 u jmissu 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 II fl-imghoddi fSant' An lu ie li deher serp kbir u kienu jemmu li jekk jidher **dak** is-serp kbir tkun ejja xi **di grazzja** fpajji **z**na.

Jien u ghaddej minn Triq it-Tramuntana fil-Birgu, fuq bieb imbarat bil-hagar nara skrlzzjoni II diffli tinqara min **abba** lgha **d**anien minn fuqha. II-kitba titfa' dawl fuq **pijizlet** ta' talb Jew quddies ghall-erwieh, ghax darl kienu bosta dawk II, qabel imorru **d**-dinja l-ohra, fit-testment kienu jordnaw II mld-dhul ta' **dik** Id-dar kellu Jslr xi quddies ghal ruhhom. Dnub II 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 II-M.U.S.E.U.M. tad-duttrlna fil-Blrgu Jaqra II meta

TIBAX MINNI: JIEN TARANS

Ommi hi mora rahlija II ghadha temmen bil-'ares. Tghid stejjer li issa smajna' hafna b'afhom il-hares jibdel il-flus f'bebbu **ni** d'sqalghux **ie** b'g kbira mill-hares, **d**jalr-lie jara **w**xpiur isjoni b'xi tebut, e. Imma fost l-ohrajn tghid storja li fiha jissemma karattru ti qatt ma smajt III haddiehor lsemmlh. II istorja hi din:

Mz'zija Mari' kellha kamra ii kienet **Ebi** **li** it **arag**. Kienet **iz** **omni** hafna hsajjar u tapitl, ilma tkunx qed **tuza**, lrrumblati u mqieghda fxi rokna **go** fiha. Kull darba li kienet tghaddi minn quddiem il-kamra kien johro il-hares minn ot-taplti u jdoqq li-fliexken. U kien idoqqhom sabih. U kien jghidilha: "Tibax 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) Idoqq il-fliexken ji ifieri III-hares l-kollu fl-xkun f kull id u jcekclkhom ma' xulxin blex johro boss **mu**zikali bhal meta xi hadd idoqq b'xi kuc arina fuq xi tazzi.

Ommi m'ghandha l-ebda spjegazzjoni ohra hlief li Tarans hu hares **li** ma tlbix minnu ghax mhux talli mhux vendikattlv **u** ma Jaghmilx hsara, Imma talli Jaghmel affarijiet sbieh bhal, nghidu ahna, Jdoqq **mu**zikatajbal

Peress li dejjem kellu kurllta' fuq dli-kelma Tarans' u qatt ma slbt 111

nfetah dan II-post f Dar f'z-enqa fi Triq Santa Skolastika, mhux darba u tnejn xi soci klenu Jisimghu tahbit u hsejjes bla ma jaraw III hadd. Meta qalu b'dan III D u n'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' t'fal li jmutu mhux imghamda, li kienu jhufu fil-boskijiet waqt li jnewwhu ghax ma jstghux Jldhlu l-enna. Slbt **dli**-**poe**zija:

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!

Il-Kelma Tarans* li taf ommi, u l-kelma Tarans* ta' Uintemet x'aktarx li m'ghandhom x'jaqsmu xejn ma' xulxin. Staqsejt till nnifi Jekk fl-familja tiegħi qattx kien hemm xi kuntattma*, nghidu ahna, Xi InglizMi setghu influwenzaw 111 ziti. Imma skond ommi, z-zija Mari' qatt ma kienet seftura ma' **Mngli** **z**i, u kemm hi u kemm ommi trabbew ir-ral, maqtughin minn influwenzi barranin. Ji ifieri ltbqajt ma qtajtix II-kurtita' u Jekk hawn xi hadd II sema' bil-kelma Tarans* f'kuntest Malti **nl**ehu pjeclr hafna Jekk jibghat jgharraflill-lmnara.

U-I GATT