

NAGRADA „RADE BRKA”

MOSTARINA



Kroz našu varoš ne protiče reka, neg' veliki bački kanal. Još dok sam bio deran, deda mi je divanio da je u njegovo vreme kanal bio tol' ko dubok i širok, da su se na njemu mogla komotno mimoići dva velika šlepa pod teretom.

U to vreme su kanal premošćavala dva mosta. Jedan je bio železnički, a drugi drumski. Sad ih imamo nekol'ko. Al' ova dva su najpoznatija. A postali su poznati po ni malo lepim događajima.

Nije prošlo ni nedelj' dana kako je otvoren ovaj drumski, a sa njega je u kanal prvi skočio Mile-brica, zbog neuzvracene ljubavi. Ondak je posle njega skočila baba Kata. Bila je polu šlogirana, pa je jadnica tako sebi prekratila muke. Tad su se svi u selu pitali, kako se mogla tako bangljava popeti na ogradu mosta? Kanda joj je neko od familije pomog'o da prikorači ogradu. Najpre će biti da joj je pripomogla njena snajka, Nata. Ona je svekrvu najviše volela. „A ko će kome, ako neće svoj svome!”

Išli su neki i na železnički most. Al' ne da skočidu u kanal, već da se bacidu pod ajziban (voz). Poslednji je to pokušao pijani Triva. Tak' i je trešten pijan bio, da se nije mog'o valjano ni odraziti, pa ga je ajzibal sam' malko potkačio i bacio na železnu ogradu mosta. Na žalost njegove familije ost'o je živ, al' neupotrebljiv za bilo kak'i pos'o.

Posle tog Trivinog kiksa, niko više nije iš'o na železnički, već na ovaj drumski. I ko god je sa njega skočio, o'ma se udavio. Čerez toga ovaj naš most posta poznat u celom srezu. Ai dalje...

I kogod je rešio sebi da prekrati muke, dođe na naš most, i samo buuč! A pošto nigdi u drugim selima nije bilo tako dubokog kanala, ni' tako visokog mosta, počese iz celog sreza dolaziti kod nas da se utapaju. To je takva navala bila. A nije se zakazivalo, kao danaske kod lekara. Neg' dođeš i o'ma skočiš! Jedino je trajalo malo duže dok su ih čamcima tražili i čakljama vadili.

A i kako nebi bila tol'ka navala. Most na glasu, a ništa se ne naplaćuje. Uglavnom su se ljudi bacali s mosta noćom, kad niko ne vidi. A morali su da ih vadidu iz kanala! I opet nisu mogli da im naplatidu. Di ćeš ti uzeti novce mrtvacu?

Da je tad postojao seoski turizam, kakvu bi mi turističku atrakciju od tog' napravili!?

THE PRIZE "RADE BRKA"

BRIDGE TOLL

Through our Town a river does not flow, but a grand Backa canal. While I was just an urchin, my granpa used to confabulate that, in his times, the canal was so deep and broad, that on it two big barges with burden could go past each other easily.

At that time, the Canal was bridged by two overpasses. One was railway, the other one road. Now we have got several of them. But these two are most famous. And they became famous by not at all nice happenings.

Not a week did pass after the road bridge had got opened and off it Mile barber jumped into the canal over an unrequited love. Afterwards, granma Kata jumped off it. She suffered half of a stroke, so poor woman put herself out of her grave misery. Then all the villagers wondered how such a crippled woman could mount the bridge fence? As if someone out of her kin had helped her skip the fence. First of all, it might have been her daughter-in-law, Nata, who might have given her a hand. She loved her mother-in-law most.. "And who would help but the nearest relatives!"

Some even went to the railway bridge. But not to jump off it into the canal, but to throw themselves under the train. The last one to try it was drunk Triva. He was so blind drunk, that he could not really throw himself, so the train only brushed him and launched him onto the steel bridge fence. Unfortunately for his family, he remained alive, but unusable for any doing at all.

After that foux-pass of Triva's, no one else would go on to that railway bridge, only on to the road one. And who ever jumped off it, they drowned immediately. Hence, this bridge of ours, became famous in the whole of the County. And further on...

And whoever resolved to put themselves out of misery, they would come on to our bridge and just PLOP! And since no other villages possessed such a deep canal, nor a high bridge, out of the whole County people would come over to us to get drowned. It was such an influx. And no making an appointment was needed as today with the doctor. But you come over and jump at once! It only lasted a bit longer for the rescuers would look for the drowned ones in boats and drag them out with the poles.

And how there would not be such an influx? Famous bridge and no fee charged. Mostly, people threw themselves off it at night, in secrecy, so that nobody could perceive them.

Godine su prolazile, a ljudi su se i dalje utapali sa našeg mosta. Lani su ga i renovirali. Tako su ga namodili sa električnim lampama...Al' džabal! Ljudi se sve manje utapaju. Kanda im više nije do tog'. I bez toga su ubiveni al' se katkad desi nešto što vas podseti na vreme kad je naš most post'o poznat.

Tu blizu kanala živeo je Toza-đilkoš, kog' su celog veka, mati i žena izdržavale. Već je im'o i unuke, al' je i dalje landro po selu i džabalebario, dok jednog dana nije dozlogrdilo i materi i ženi, pa ga izbaciše iz kuće! On o'ma ode u prvi bircuz i napi se k'o morka. Posle fajronta, on po navici krenu kući, pa prelazeći most, seti se da tamo nema kud. Kad se nađe na sredini mosta, reši sebi da prekрати muke! Pope se nekako onako ožderan na ogradu mosta i skoči dole. Na njegovu žalost, to je bio let u prazno. Pošto je kanal već godinama bio zapušten i zagađen, baš na tom delu di je kadgod voda bila najdublja, bilo je više mulja, neg' vode. Kad je vid'o, di je skočio, o'ma se otrezrio i poč'o da doziva u pomoć!

Ne prođe mnogo vremena, a na mostu se okupi puno sveta, da vidi tu atrakciju. Dođoše ubrzo i milicija i kola Hitne pomoći. Al' kako ga izvući iz tog' mulja? Moradoše da pozovu vatrogasce, koji se spustiše konopcima do davljenika. Vezaše ga ispod pazuha i uz pomoć dizalice izvukoše ga iz mulja.

E, taj Toza je bio prvi i jedini koji je skočio s tog mosta, a da se nije udavio. A bolje da jeste! Nije usp'o sam sebe da kazni, al' nije ost'o nekažnjen.

Prvo mu je policija napisala prekršajnu kaznu za izazivanje panike i opšte opasnosti kod lokalnog stanovništva. Vatrogasci su mu naplatili izlazak i korišćenje dizalice.

Sad već dobrano trezan i ogorčen, Toza poče da mlatara rukama i da histerično viče:

– Pa, zašto samo mene da kažnjavate, a tol'ko je njih skakalo s ovog mosta, pa nikom ništa!

– E, moj Tozo! Ovi su se pre tebe svi udavili u kanalu, a jedino si ti ost'o živ. A da smo svima njima uspeli da naplatimo, a kol'ko ih se samo utopilo s ovog mosta, di bi nam bio kraj? Naša bi varoš bila najbogatija u srezu. A posle ovol'ke kazne, kandi ti više neće pasti na pamet ni da prelaziš most, a kamoli da skačeš sa njega! I zapamti:

„Ko ne plati na mostu, plati na ćupriji!”

Veselin Milićević

And they had to be dragged out of the canal! And no fee all over again. How could you charge a dead man?

If there had existed village tourism then, what a tourist attraction we would have made of that!

Years were gone by, and people still drowned jumping off the bridge. Last year they even renovated the bridge. They moderated it thusly using electric lamps..But in vain! People get drowned less and less. As if they do not care for it any more. Without that, people are crestfallen as yet. But, sometimes a thing happens that reminds you of the times when our bridge became famous.

There, near the canal Toza-puppy lived whom, the whole life of his, his mother and his wife would support. He already had grandchildren, but he still gadded and idled about the village, until one day his mother and his wife had it with, so they threw him out of the house! He at once went to a pub and got blindly drunk. After the working hours were over, he, as habitually, started off home, but, while crossing the bridge, he recalled he did not have home any more. When he reached the middle of the bridge, he resolved to put himself out of misery! He somehow mounted the fence of the bridge thusly drunk and jumped off it downwards. Unfortunately for him, it was in vain. Since the canal had been neglected and polluted for years, in that part exactly, where the deepest waters used to be, now more slime abode than water. When he observed where he had jumped, he got sober at once and started calling for help!

Not long had passed, and on the bridge a lot of people gathered to see the attraction. Police and the Ambulance got over soon, as well. But how to get him out of that slime? They had to summon the firemen, who lowered them down by ropes to the drowning man. They tied him under the armpit and by way of a derrick they got him out of the slime.

So, that Tozo was the first and the only who jumped off the bridge without getting drowned. And he would better be! He managed not to punish himself, but he did not pass without punishment.

First, the police brought offence charges against him for provoking panic and general danger with the locals. The firemen charged him for the exit out of the canal and for using the derrick.

Now well sobered and indignant, Toza started flailing his hands and screaming hysterically:

“Why would you punish only myself, and so many people used to jump off the bridge, and none at all it was!”

Toza of mine! These before you, all got drowned in the canal, and you are the only to stay alive. And if only we could have charged them all, and how many had drowned by jumping off the bridge, where we would have been now? Our town would have been the richest one in the whole of the County. And after you were charged this much penalty, it would be the least of your thinking even to cross the bridge, let alone jump off it! And remember:

“Who pays not on the swings, they make up on the roundabouts”.

Veselin Milicevic