

Stara dama – Engleska

*„Britanija, na geografskim kartama liči na figuru neke stare, otmene i nakindjurene dame, koja ima veliki šešir na glavi, a korača prema moru. Ima i šlep koji se vuče za njom, u hodu, a korača oholo, svesna onoga što je bila. Nije bila makar ko. Da ta stara dama ima, ne samo šlep, nego i pudlu. Irsku”*

London has a specific weather throughout the whole year, but winters during the Great war weren't exactly as we would imagine them by the stereotypes. The temperature was typical for spring season and there was not a single snowflake. There was a lot of rain and fog, but a true British would not consider a good day without a rain or what would they say “a good old English day”. One of the most famous writers, Charles Dickens, had described London during Christmas time like a tough time, a heartbreaking scene where kids had laid on their mother's graves. But the truth is that London was in a much better situation than Dickens described it.

Serious number of people left the war without a basic life things to survive. The group of immigrants felt used after they realized that after war there isn't any solution for them in London. British people had promised opportunities for their immigrants, but they ended up being two-faced and left them on the edge of life.

*„Zadatak je Engleza, sada, da taj svet nauče blagodetima mira. Da se ti vojnici I beskućnici pretvore u korisne članove društva. Zidare, obučare, štavare koža, stolare, bravare... London je međutim kao magnet Evrope. Privlačio sve više, te gomile iseljenika i nesretnika, a sve u tim tihim, mirnim, ostrvima, neku zabunu, neki metež, uz smeh i mržnju, viku i smeh oko Londona”*

Those immigrants gave their all for the better life, they were everywhere looking for any position they could get. They spoke the languages that only they understood, had names that only they can pronounce, that's how London became inclusive. Modesty, calmness and silence, those were the main characteristics for all the hardworking immigrants in Mill Hill.

The capital city of fog didn't shine bright like it did before the war. London was blown up, the charm that London always had, disappeared and the attractions that were visible were old furniture, lot of mud and nothing else.

*„Dok Rjepnin prolazi tim ulicama iza stanice Viktorija, on ima utisak, ne da hoda, nego da pliva. Da je London neka beskrajna, mutna, prljava voda i poplava, koja nosi i njega, iako ne zna kud.”*

Repnin had known that suburbs of every metropolis are other-worldly, only there he felt something that London couldn't gave him. Hundreds of monotonous houses built back in 19th century for working class. In that repetitive line of houses, the only thing that really stood out were their tiny gardens with some kind of flowers in it, even though that the area was known for being rural which follows bad conditions for any plants to survive.

Repnin shows us the beauty and importance of our hometowns and that no matter where we are, our homelands will always have a special place in our hearts.

*„Rjepin diše teško, kao od rvanja – sa Londonom- a oseća kako ga neko davi, i kao i on, da davi, pokušava.“*

Life is one unpredictable game, we never know what it brings to us tomorrow. There will always be ups and downs and challenges that we might think are impossible to pass, in that situations faith in ourselves could help us. As Repnin did, he had tough time to get along with London and people in it, but his faith never left him, he believed that better time is ahead of him.

*„Sad zna zašto radnici u Škotskoj, pa i u Londonu, toliko piju. Da ne čuju. Da ne vide. Da ne gledaju. Da zaborave gde su. Sad zna i otkud ta ljubaznost, kojom ga pozdravlja ona žena, koja pere stepenice, koje vode u radnju“*