



ATUNIS GALAXY ANTHOLOGY 2021

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Pavol Janik (Slovakia)



Mgr. art. PAVOL JANIK, PhD., (magister artis et philosophiae doctor) was born in 1956 in Bratislava, where he also studied film and television dramaturgy and scriptwriting at the Drama Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts (VSMU). He has worked at the Ministry of Culture (1983-1987), in the media and in advertising, President of the Slovak Writers' Society (2003-2007), Secretary-General of the Slovak Writers' Society (1998-2003, 2007-2013), Editor-in-Chief of the Slovak literary

weekly *Literarny tyzdennik* (2010-2013), Honorary Member of the Union of Czech Writers (from 2000), Member of the Editorial Board of the weekly of the UCW *Obrys-Kmen* (2004-2014), Member of the Editorial Board of the weekly of the UCW *Literatura - Umeni - Kultura* (from 2014), Member of the Writers Club International (from 2004), Member of the *Poetas del Mundo* (from 2015), Member of the World Poets Society (from 2016), Director of the Writers Capital International Foundation for Slovakia and the Czech Republic (2016-2017), Chief Representative of the World Nation Writers' Union in Slovakia (from 2016), Ambassador of the Worldwide Peace Organization (*Organizacion Para la Paz Mundial*) in Slovakia (from 2018), Member of the Board of the International Writers Association (*IWA BOGDANI*) (from 2019). He has received a number of awards for his literary and advertising work both in his own country and abroad.

Pavol Janik's literary works have been published not only in Slovakia, but also in Albania, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kosovo, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Nepal, Pakistan, Poland, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, the United States of America and Venezuela.

A BIG CLEAR OUT

Towels are the things
which will survive us.

Shirts will remind us.

Suits and coats
will remain after us.

So many things,
to which will be added
just the dust
into which we change.

THE THEATER OF LIFE

Life which means only the theater –
such life we always wish to play.
If just now you've got a funny thought
change into your clown's suit.
Life sways with us like a pendulum –
it runs from mud into a puddle.
It never is as it used to be
is a truth well-tried from age to age.

Time is like a glass filled to the brim
again and again it runs over.
It ourselves that step on our heels
and we wish to find the person inside us.

There are patches on curtain and the soul...
At the end death gives checkmate.
Yet it's still worth playing the game,
you should be glad that at least you've existed.

Life has found a mirror on the stage –
it comes alive in it every night.
If something has lured into the theater
let's move into ancient times.

Settle into your empty seat.
learn life by heart.
If you yawn during life
then ask for your entrance fee back.

WISER FOR YOUR DEATH *(for Miroslav Valek)*

Roots grow into the earth like coffins,
Opera singers
sound-painterly gargle on the stage,
a storm drives waves to the shores of a puddle.

All at the first moment
of the forgetting of the discovery of America.

At the bottom of their souls
everybody repairs their own Titanic.

The night sky spills itself on the ground
like sparkling snow.

And the dead remain with us
dumb as reproaches.