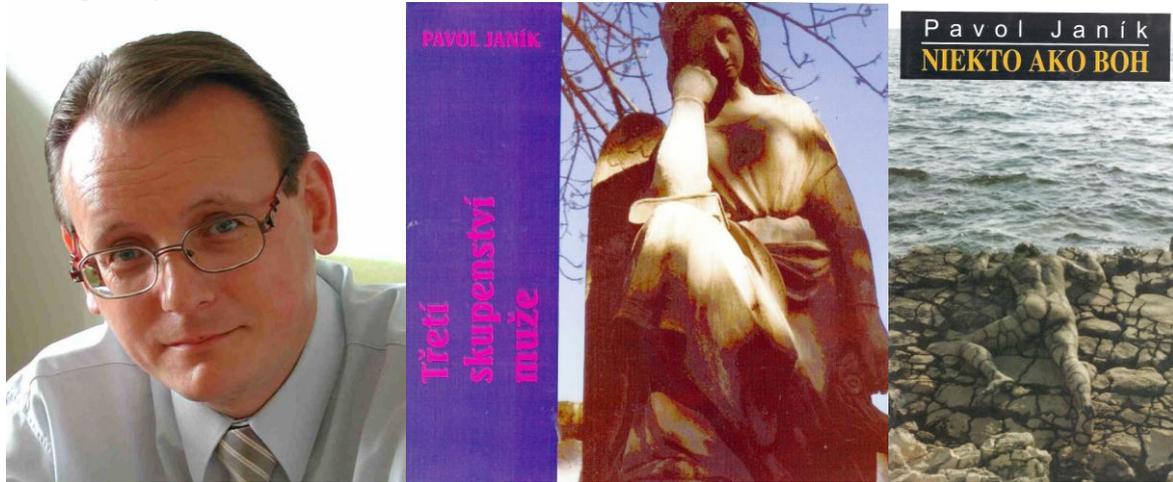


## POET PAVOL JANIK IN SOUTH AFRICA (PART II)

Written, selected and edited by Mabule Mogale Zachariah Rapola (SOUTH AFRICA)

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Abridged by Pavol Janik



Pavol Janik, a multi-discipline and multi-award winning poet, television writer, stage writer and fiction writer is a Slovak national.

This, a second sampling of 5 poems from the highly critical anthology, DICTIONARY OF FOREIGN DREAMS – that presents in English translation a selection of over 50 finely selected poetry spanning more than 45 years of Dr. Janik’s writing career.

As in Part I, Part II also presents a mix of poetic verse and themes that takes the reader on a wondrous and enthralling reading experience only a meticulous and nuanced poet can each time his pen takes to interpreting dreams on paper.

Poetry expresses itself in speaks languages, and this series sets out to acknowledge and celebrate that irrespective of whether we can access that language of not. We open with a poem in the poet’s native tongue.

**POSLEDNÉ ŠTYRI TAKTY TICHÁ (1991):**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3N-EH05B4ug>

**THE LAST FOUR BARS OF SILENCE (1991)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2XtAq-fWWk>

(Translated into English by James Sutherland Smith)

**KOSOVO (2002):**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMIVqwraS6g>

(Translated into English by James Sutherland Smith)

**DAYBREAK (1984)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYycMINZ9T8>

(Translated into English by James and Viera Sutherland Smith)

**A SHOT (1981)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VEmUgD00Ys>

(Translated into English by James and Viera Sutherland Smith)

The peace advocate and disarmament activist in Janik steps forward to wake us from our slumber. He writes: "Peace doesn't dwell in words..." It resides somewhere else. And, please do tell, dear poet where it dwells? "Peace doesn't dwell in words..." Janik takes us in his confidence by spelling out the dire consequences for not finding out where it dwells. Then the ominous warning: "Do you want peace?" "It will come to you in a few seconds... Permanent and strongest peace-..."

He proceeds to lay out his version of peace – it looks bleak and dire. A permanent and apocalyptic peace delivered via nuclear warheads. Tone is gentle, tender and casual – disconcerting – disorientating, with overt deception The ominousness of it all lingers on, then hinted in the line:

"Peace is waiting for its opportunity..."

Matter of factly mellow language here. No jarring syllables. The eyes stretches itself in anticipation for more calming words - no room for goosebumps or sweating. Then, nestled in the middle of it all the denouement is served. The poet reminds us not to forget the world sits on colossal dynamite sticks, thousands of them to be precise, that can go ka-boom! any time. And wrap all of us in its "permanent and strongest..." embrace.

Perhaps a time to pause and wonder - why so many nuclear weapons? And for what purpose? To what end?

### **PAX MILITARIS (1985)**

Peace is not female emotionalism.  
Peace is a battle.

Peace doesn't dwell in words.  
Peace is waiting for its opportunity  
hidden in rockets heads.  
Fastest peace.  
Spreading at supersonic speed.

Do you want peace?  
Have it.  
It will come to you  
in a few seconds.

Permanent and strongest peace-  
-weighs 350 000 trinitrotoluenes.

(Translated into English by Smiljana Piksiades)

NOTE OF THANKS to poet for availing his poetry.

Pavol Janik – compressed bio:

Pavol Janik is a poet, dramatist, prose writer, translator, publicist and copywriter. A film and television dramaturgy and scriptwriting graduate from the Drama Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts (VSMU). He earned a PHD in arts and philosophy. He has worked in both the public and private sectors that includes stints at the Ministry of Culture (1983–1987), media and advertising.

Creative and professional positions and affiliations includes: President of the Slovak Writers' Society (2003–2007), Secretary-General of the SWS (1998–2003, 2007–2013), Editor-in-Chief of the literary weekly of the SWS Literarny tyzdenik (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).

A recipient of numerous national and international awards for his literary and advertising work, Janik has his literary works published in dozens of countries from around the world.