

# BOSNIA IS ETERNAL

2010

Vedran Eminovic

In the heart of Europe  
Lives a thousand year old land  
That country is my love and insomnia  
Its sacred name is that of Bosnia

I am a proud Bosnian  
To Bosnia I pledge allegiance  
Land of four great faiths  
United in honour, forever free and safe

FOREVER, BOSNIA LIVES  
ANCIENT HOMELAND OF HEROES  
BEAUTIFUL, DEFIANT, AND FREE  
I AM BOSNIAN, SHE IS HOLY TO ME

Slavic blood mixed with Illyrian  
Thus the Bosnians were born  
Mountains of Balkan made their home  
Under shadow of Byzantium and Rome

Between Una Sava Drina, the Sea  
Bosnia was born, defiant and free  
Kotromanic Lilies were the Bosnian crest  
And love for it burns within my breast

FOREVER BOSNIA LIVES  
SINCE KULIN BAN UNTIL TODAY  
BOSNIAN KINGDOM STOOD IN 1389  
WITH BALKAN DEFENDED EUROPE'S WAY

With Vlatko Vukovic at their helm  
Bosnians defended their Balkan realm  
With Balkan brothers, at Kosovo fought  
Ottoman armies, eternal glory brought

To preserve independence Bosnia failed  
Europe bargained all of Balkan for sale  
Five centuries of oppression made us insane  
Violence, blood, devshirme, and pain

FOREVER BOSNIA LIVES  
ORTHODOX, CATHOLIC, JUDAISM, ISLAM  
CHURCHES, MOSQUES, SYNANGOGUES  
CO-EXIST IN EUROPE'S JERUSALEM

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Rebellion explodes in our blood  
And it flows like waters of spring flood  
Neither Ottomans, nor Austro-Hungarians  
Managed to forever enslave Bosnians.

We are sons of the dragon Gradiscevic  
Loyalty, honour, freedom are our vow  
We know no fear of death or suffering  
For Bosnia we stand strong and unwavering

FOREVER BOSNIA LIVES  
BUILT ON THE BLOOD OF HER HEROES  
FOR HER FREEDOM, DRAGONS WILL FLY  
HER MIGHTY SPIRIT NEVER WILL DIE

Together with other Slavs and non-Slavs  
We fought for freedom, from fascist evil  
Nazism we hammer like iron on an anvil  
Brought freedom to Bosnia and Balkan people

In the name of Tito, I declare solemnly  
Bosnia belongs to Bosnians only  
The Greatest Son showed me the way  
That I am Bosnian, forever I will say

FOREVER BOSNIA LIVES  
IN YUGOSLAVIA SHE WAS REBORN  
JOSIP BROZ TITO, THE GREAT MAN  
MADE THE BOSNIAN HIS PARTIZAN

The Great Man died, with him Yugoslavia  
Bosnia, her child, was ravished by beasts  
To divide her attempted brothers of Slavia  
But she survived despite the bloody feast

Tempests of history shook Balkan again  
In rivers flowed blood of the innocent  
Neighbors, brothers gave us misery, pain  
Past and future died in inferno of present

FOREVER BOSNIA LIVES  
SHE WAS DESTROYED BUT NEVER DIED  
DIVIDED IN THREE, BOSNIA SUFFERED  
STUMBLED, TO PULL TOGETHER SHE TRIED

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Bosnians bled, died, and fought  
Great injustice endured with stoicism  
Unjust peace world to this land brought  
Divided by the poison of nationalism

May 1992 never repeat again  
Bosnia, my love, may you find peace  
May tears never again flow like spring rain  
Let trauma of genocide forever erase

FOREVER BOSNIA LIVES  
YOUTH WILL DEFEND HER WITH BLOOD  
IF AGAIN RISE THE EVIL AND THE MAD  
LET OUR FURY UNLEASH LIKE A FLOOD

I pledge my allegiance, my motherland  
I will never forget, I shall never betray  
Your dragons stand strong, loyal, & grand  
Without fear of death, we'll go into fray

And if we should die, mother do not weep  
Grow golden lilies where we lay  
For your freedom we shall go into hell deep  
For your freedom even Satan we shall slay

FOREVER BOSNIA LIVES  
FOR HER I WILL FIGHT, FOR HER I WILL DIE  
FOR FREEDOM WE WILL FIGHT HELL'S INFERNO  
OUR VOW IS THIS, BOSNIA IS ETERNAL!

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## Explanations:

**Una, Sava, Drina rivers** - western, northern, and eastern Bosnian borders

**4 great faiths** - Orthodoxy, Islam, Catholicism, Judaism

**Byzantium** - Constantinople (Istanbul). Refers to the Byzantine Empire. (Eastern Roman Empire).

**Kotromanic Lilies** - the Kotromanic dynasty ruled the Bosnian kingdom in the middle ages. Their coat of arms, a blue shield with a white sword across it and 6 yellow Bosnian Lilies is the ancient and true symbol of Bosnia.

**Kulin Ban** - the first king of Bosnia. Made Bosnia independent from Hungarian, Croatian, and Serbian control. The father of the Bosnian nation. Crowned king in 1179.

**Vlatko Vukovic** - supreme commander (vojvoda) of the medieval royal Bosnian army who led the Bosnians to the Kosovo Field as part of the Balkan alliance to stop the Ottomans at the Battle of Kosovo, on June 28, 1389.

**"Dragon" Gradiscevic** - Husein Gradiscevic, General and Supreme Commander of rebel Bosnia in 1831. When Ottoman Empire granted Serbia autonomy, it gave Serbia the Sanjak region which was ALWAYS Bosnian and where to this day people say they're Bosnian and speak our dialect. So Husein Gradiscevic led the Bosnian rebellion to gain Bosnia's independence from the Ottoman Empire. Because of his great military genius, fanatical courage and patriotism, and fury in battle, the Ottomans named him "Dragon of Bosnia". This is why the dragon is the symbol of the Bosnian National Soccer Team.

**The Greatest Son** - Tito. We called him "The Greatest Son of our Nations and Peoples". (Meaning nations and peoples of Yugoslavia).

**The Great Man** - Josip Broz Tito

**Devshirme** - Ottoman word for "Blood Tax". Every 7 years the Ottomans would ride around and forcefully take away our male children forever to Istanbul, to turn them into Janissary soldiers, elite fighters, who they would raise and send back to us to fight us.

**Brothers of Slavia** - our South (Jugo) Slavic brothers, far-right wing, ultra-nationalists who advocate "Greater Serbia" and "Greater Croatia" through the policy of violent annexation of Bosnia and the destruction of her unique culture.