The Badger on Trial

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Petar Kočić

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About the Author

Petar Kočić (1877–1916) was a Bosnian-Herzegovinian writer, dramatist, and politician, one of the most distinctive voices of Bosnian realism and satirical literature. He was born in Stričići near Banja Luka and attended primary school at the Gomionica Monastery, where his father was a monk. Because of his "Serbian nationalist activities," he was expelled from the Sarajevo Gymnasium and continued his education in Belgrade. He studied philosophy in Vienna, where he became politically active, advocating for agrarian reforms, freedom of the press, and the right to assembly, all of which were restricted by Austria-Hungary.

Kočić was extremely sensitive to social injustice and sharply criticized the Austro-Hungarian authorities. Due to his political articles and the organization of protests, he was imprisoned several times, mostly in solitary confinement, which severely affected his mental health. As a member of the Bosnian Parliament, he defended the rights of peasants and fought against feudal remnants and national oppression.

As a writer, he created works that became foundational to Bosnian literature: "Sa planine i ispod planine", "Jauci sa Zmijanja", and the famous satirical plays "Jazavac pred sudom" and "Sudanija". His style is marked by conciseness, vivid and picturesque language, and a deep understanding of the life of Krajina peasants.

He died in 1916 in a psychiatric hospital in Belgrade. Today he is regarded as one of the key authors and national tribunes whose work influenced later writers, including Ivo Andrić.