

MENE ZOVU BODULO

Joso Špralja

THEY CALL ME 'BODULO'

trans. by Željka Zanchi

Mene zovu 'bodulo'
va pajizu, s onu stranu mora,
kad ja priden va braceri,
i nudim, od jutra do mraka:
"Ki će kupit uja i slakega vina?"

Niki ne zna za moj trud,
za bol i za muku
ča mi život satire.

Po zahoju,
kada tužan legnem ja na provu,
srce mi za škojen
zamire.

Mene zovu 'bodulo'.....

They call me 'bodulo'
on the mainland, yonder, across the sea,
whenever I come in my sailing boat,
and keep offering, from dawn till dusk:
"Who will buy oil and sweet wine?"

No one knows of my toil,
my pain, and the anguish
that torment my soul.

After sunset,
when, sorrowful,
I lie down on the bow,
my heart aches for my native island.

They call me 'bodulo'.....

Glosar

bodulo, bodul otočanin
pajiz kraj, zemlja, predio
zahoj zalaz sunca, suton
bracera tip obalnog jedrenjaka za prijevoz tereta,
osobito čest u Dalmaciji
prova pramac broda

Glossary

bodulo local name for an inhabitant of an island, islander
pajiz land, area, district
bracera type of a coastal cargo vessel, usually a sailing boat
designed to carry cargo, typical of Dalmatia
zahoj sunset
prova bow, the foremost front part of a vessel

On the author

Joso Špralja (1929-2017) was a man of numerous and diverse talents, extremely well-loved, in his lifetime becoming a legend of Zadar. A versatile artist, he was an acclaimed photographer, painter, and sculptor. Possessing a fine and opera-trained tenor voice, he performed in a number of operettas and concerts. Apart from being a recognised singer, he was also a song-writer, writing lyrics for and composing popular songs, inspired by his love for his native Dalmatia. He left an indelible mark on the Croatian culture, particularly Dalmatia and Zadar, his beloved home town.

'Mene zovu bodulo' is one of his most popular songs. We bring you two versions: one performed by the author himself, and the other by Intrade, a popular group of traditional Dalmatian a cappella singers from Zadar.