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## THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



PAVOL JANÍK

**SHORT BIO: PAVOL JANÍK** Mgr. art. Pavol Janík, PhD., (*magister artis et philosophiae doctor*) was born in 1956 in Bratislava, where he also studied film and television dramaturgy and script writing at the Drama Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts (VSMU). He 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 SWS (1998–2003, 2007–2013), Editor-in-Chief of the literary weekly of the SWS *Literárny týždenník* (2010–2013). Honorary Member of the Union of Czech Writers (from 2000), Member of the Editorial Board of the weekly UCW *Obrys-Kmen* (2004–2014), Member of the Editorial Board of the weekly UCW *Literatúra – Umění – 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 (Organización 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.

This virtuoso of Slovak literature, Pavol Janík, is a poet, dramatist, prose writer, translator, publicist, and copywriter. His literary activities focus mainly on poetry. Even his first book of poems *Unconfirmed Reports* (1981) attracted the attention of the leading authorities in Slovak literary circles. He presented himself as a plain-spoken poet with a spontaneous manner of poetic expression and an inclination for irony directed not only at others, but also at himself. This style has become typical of all his work, which in spite of its critical character has also acquired a humorous, even bizarre dimension. His manner of expression is becoming terse to the point of being aphoristic. It is thus perfectly natural that Pavol Janík's literary interests should come to embrace aphorisms founded on a shift of meaning in the form of puns. In his work he is gradually raising some very disturbing questions and pointing to serious problems concerning the further development of humankind, while all the time widening his range of themes and styles. Literary experts liken Janík's poetic virtuosity to that in the work of Miroslav Valek, while in the opinion of the Russian poet, translator, and literary critic, Natalia Shvedova, Valek is more profound and Janík more inventive. He has translated in poetic form several collections of poetry and written works of drama with elements of the style of the Theatre of the Absurd.

Pavol Janík'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, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Nepal, Pakistan, Poland, the People's Republic of China, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, and Vietnam.





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### *I AM CRYING YOU, MORNING*

Behind the horizon the light is spraying.  
The sky trembles like a tear.  
The winged summer wilts.  
Through the algae's a lonesome dew slides.

Trees hold empty nests in their hands.  
I quietly sing birds psalms.  
In the empty night, empty star is falling.  
Empty gaze of water is still cloudy.

I read an exclamation of silence  
and drink the morning blood stream aloud.  
The morning is taking deep breaths.

With its soft palms of the hands,  
the haze crumbles poems.  
Heart's beating is not quieter.  
Unbelievable sobs, like as if it were dead.

(1975)

Translated from the Slovak language by Smiljana Piksiades



Dania Fleites – Instrumento maternal, 2009

