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Baruzza translated by Brian Henry and the author

Tomaz Salamun

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Baruzza

Vendramin! Sharpen it! I tell you
to sharpen it but not so ardently
that you break it again.

You cleaned your shoes with your shawl,
what is this, Vendramin, the mediation
between Verdurin and the Misses Nardelli?

Both nailed dogs onto placards.
Take an eraser, a lamp and a huge
hammer, they barely lifted it.

The nailing was done by servants.
The lifting was done by servants, too.
And in the time when there were no

big billboards yet, they observed
the clear sea bed at Silba.
There, where Azra coated you

with tar. Opened your throat,
spread it toward the sun,
as Isis to me, Anubis.

*Translated from the Slovenian by Brian Henry and the author
from Gozd in kelihi (Woods and Chalices); Harcourt, 2008 (70–71)*