

CORRIERE DELLA SERA

«A Bard fond of Albania»

The Nonino 2018 to Ismail Kadare

Giorgio Agamben is awarded the prize to a «Master of our time». The Risit d’Aur to the P(our) project that supports a community in Amazonia which produces a symbol sauce

by MARISA FUMAGALLI

Besides the Albanian novelist-poet Ismail Kadare and the Venetian philosopher Giorgio Agamben, we find a «thousand year old sauce » produced by the native tribes of the Amazon rain forest, relaunched now by the action of the people in charge of the international charity project P(our), in the group of the three acknowledgements awarded this year by the Nonino Prize.

Also for 2018 (43^a edition), thanks to the sagacity of the prestigious Jury presided by V. S. Naipaul (Nobel Laureate in Literature 2001), the selection enters the world scene confirming the originality of the choices.

The symbol sauce to save and support is called Ajè Negro (fermented, it is based on bitter manioc) and today it is produced in Peru and in Venezuela by the community belonging to the Bora native tribe. P(our), the union of the words *our* and *pure*, highlights the mission of the group (based in London) composed by seven young *bartender* who «have undertaken the difficult enterprise – the motivation of the Jury says - of relaunching the founding values of each society, the same that are at the basis of the Nonino Prize».

P(our), therefore is awarded the Risit d’Aur – Gold Vine Shoot 2018, the acknowledgement that is the origin of the Prize, conceived in 1975 by the firm and farsighted family of Friulian distillers, with the aim of giving value to the rural civilization. Through the project coordinated by Despensa Amazonica, P(our) means to guarantee an economic support to the 44 families of the Bora community that lives in the Pucuarquillo village (in the Loreto region of Peru).

Over time the Nonino has multiplied in three sections, bringing to prominence significant personalities of culture without boundaries. Besides P(our), for 2018 on the podium there are Ismail Kadare, awarded the International Nonino Prize, and Giorgio Agamben who instead is awarded the Nonino Prize to a Master of our time.

Kadare (born in 1936), a prize-winning writer (in 2005 he receives the Man Booker International Prize) who divides himself between Paris where he has been living since 1990 (the year when he found political asylum in France) and Albania, which he saw again in 1992, after the fall of the regime. He spends his holidays in his house in Durrës, but his hometown is Gjirokastër, the same hometown of

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the Albanian dictator Enver Hoxha. Ismail Kadare's debut is in the field of poetry; however he gains international reputation with narrative. Among his most important novels: *The General of the Dead Army*, *Chronicle in Stone* and *The Palace of Dreams*. Recently the publishing company La Nave di Teseo has purchased the rights for the translation both of his latest work and of his complete catalogue. At the end of January the short story *The Provocation* will be published. «A Bard fond and critical of his people — the Jury writes — between historical realities and legends, which recall grandeur and tragedies of the Balkan and Ottoman past, Kadare has created great narrations ».

The philosopher Giorgio Agamben (born in 1942), a versatile and surprising scholar (he played the part of the apostle Philip in Pasolini's *The Gospel according to St. Matthew*), has a long university curriculum. About this, an episode: in 2003, appointed *Distinguished professor* at the New York University, he leaves the position as a gesture of protest against the control devices imposed to foreign citizens by the American Government (finger prints; booking). He is a prolific essayist, starting from the Nineties his interests are addressed to political philosophy and to the concept of biopolitics. The Jury observes: «Agamben builds biopolitics following Michel Foucault's example, from his ideas and intuitions, and creates the concept of *Homo Sacer*».

The delivery of the prizes will take place on Saturday 27th January at the Nonino Distilleries in Ronchi di Percoto (Udine).

- The Nonino Prize (above, the logo) was born in 1975 with an initiative of the homonymous family of Friulian distillers.
- Currently it is divided in three sections: the Nonino Prize that this year will be awarded to the Albanian poet and novelist Ismail Kadare, the Nonino to a Master of our time (the prizewinner 2018 is the philosopher Giorgio Agamben, in the picture above) and the Nonino Risit d'Aur – Gold Vine Shoot, awarded to the P(our) international project established in 2016, committed in supporting 44 families of the Bora Amazon community

The "Risit d'Aur" is awarded to P(our), the project aimed to help the natives that produce the symbol sauce Ajè Negro.

The family

Everything started with the still

The Nonino family has devoted itself to the art of distillation since 1897, when Orazio, the family founder, opened in Ronchi di Percoto (Udine) the distillery, until then an itinerant still assembled on wheels. The qualitative leap that ennobles grappa is due to Benito and Giannola Nonino. With them their daughters Cristina, Antonella and Elisabetta. (ma. b.)