

The Rainbow Beyond the Soul: Reflecting the Diplomat's Profession and Personality

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ABSTRACT

This article is dedicated to an analysis of the novel of diplomacy, titled "The Rainbow Beyond the Soul", written by Milan Jazbec, from a diplomatic point of view. The main protagonist of the novel is a Slovenian ambassador, who, in addition to a successful career in diplomacy, turns out to be equally successful in literature, thus being author of six novels. The analysis of the novel begins with the specification of the key characteristics of the profession of diplomacy and diplomatic protocol. Secondly, the ambassador's personality is described, as an attempt to better understand the importance and challenges of working at the United Nations, the way how careful a diplomat should be in communication, but also another issue that has an impact on the diplomat's profession, which is the marital status. In the end, it is explained how the ambassador reaches the grand stages of the Nobel Prize, but not for peace, but for literature, thanks to his novel "The Face Without Mirror", whose successes had exceeded his expectations.

KEYWORDS: novel, ambassador, diplomacy, personality, literature, the Nobel Prize

POVZETEK

Članek se ukvarja z diplomatsko analizo romana o diplomaciji "Mavrica izza duše", avtorja Milana Jazbega. Glavni protagonist zgodbe je slovenski veleposlanik, ki je zraven uspešne kariere v diplomaciji dosegel enak uspeh tudi v literaturi, saj je avtor šestih romanov. Analiza obravnavanega romana se prične z analizo posebnosti oz. tipičnih značilnosti diplomacije in samega poklica diplomata kako tudi diplomatskega protokola. V nadaljevanju sledi predstavitev osebnosti veleposlanika kot poskus boljšega razumevanja pomena in izzivov, ki jih prinaša delo v Združenih narodih, ter načina, kako morajo biti diplomati previdni v komuniciranje, pa tudi drugih vplivov na diplomatski poklic, kot je zakonski stan. In na koncu sledi še predstavitev, kako je veleposlanik prišel do velikega meta, tj. do Nobelove nagrade, vendar ne za mir, temveč za literaturo, in sicer za svoj roman "Obraz brez zrcala", katerega uspeh je presegel njegova pričakovanja.

KLJUČNE BESEDE: roman, veleposlanik, diplomacija, osebnost, literatura, Nobelova nagrada

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INTRODUCTION

The novel “The Rainbow Beyond the Soul” by the author Milan Jazbec, is the first novel of diplomacy, which reflects the individual, intellectual and professional aspects of the diplomat. If we take a look at the career of the author of this novel, who has excelled in the journalistic, diplomatic, academic, political, and even literature fields, it is not surprising that this novel combines brilliantly the above mentioned aspects, thus making all diplomatic representatives find themselves within the pages of the novel. In addition to the life of the Slovenian diplomat as the main protagonist, the characteristic of this novel is also the mention of the Nobel Prize. Initially, the impression can be created that it is about the Nobel Peace Prize. This would make sense because diplomats are known for their negotiation skills that can successfully contribute to the resolution of international disputes, or even to the end of any armed conflict. But no, the ambassador of this novel, in addition to his diplomatic career, is also known for his writing skills, who wrote a novel that enabled him to be among the nominees for the Nobel Literature Prize. The main purpose of this article is to present a general elaboration of this highly recommended novel to read. In addition to the abstract, introduction, conclusion and references, this article consists of three separate chapters, within which the novel is analyzed in three ways.

Since “The Rainbow Beyond the Soul” is the first novel of diplomacy, the key points of this profession must be specified. The first chapter provides basic information about diplomacy, starting from its definition, how it is divided based on the reports of the subjects of international law, as well as what are ambassadors and what are the criteria required to serve in diplomacy. The main protagonist of the novel is engaged in multilateral diplomacy, respectively he works in the United Nations (UN), so this chapter also explains what international organization it is and what institutional and functional basis it has. A basic issue in the diplomat’s profession, which may cause stress and pressure, but which must be respected, is the protocol. The basic protocol rules of diplomats are mentioned within this chapter, in order to understand and justify the behavior, attitudes and reactions of the ambassador of the novel.

In the second chapter of this article, the personality of the ambassador of the novel is analyzed. He is a career diplomat, with the main attri-

butes that a worthy representative of a country in the international arena should have. He can be considered very lucky to have had the opportunity to work in bilateral diplomacy, but also in multilateral diplomacy, where he has met various political personalities, some of whom have stuck in his head for specific reasons. Presiding the Security Council, he will face the complications of not supporting a certain resolution by a permanent member of the Council. In such situations, it is of great importance for a diplomat how he communicates, how he handles issues, how he reacts and what gestures and facial expressions he makes. However, in addition to the mentioned points, this chapter also addresses an important issue not only for the ambassador in the novel, but also for all diplomats, which is their marital status.

The third chapter of this article clarifies the value of the Nobel Prize for Literature. That diplomats are rewarded with Nobel Peace Prizes has happened in some cases thanks to their contribution to specific events throughout history. Well, the ambassador of the novel is a poet who managed to publish a melodrama, which was so successful that allowed him to enter in the list of nominees for the Nobel Literature Prize. The chapter describes the nomination procedure for this award, what is melodrama, as well as the totality of common points that poetry and diplomacy have, so as to understand how a successful diplomat can also be a successful poet.

THE KEY POINTS OF THE PROFESSION OF DIPLOMACY

Foreign policy is an activity of the state, through which it realizes its goals and interests in the international environment, while the tool for its realization is called diplomacy. There are three different ways of writing the latter, that also illustrate three different ways in which it is perceived today, as follows:

- *“diplomacy”, written in lower-case letters, reflects our daily experience. At home, at work, and on the street, we deal with conflicts through negotiations, engagement, and ultimately, compromise. In addition, we represent our family, our communities, and our companies. We often speak on behalf of others. This is what diplomacy is about. Most people would not use the term ‘diplomacy’ to describe these activities. Yet, these activities are at the core of diplomacy;*
- *“Diplomacy”, with a capital ‘D’ is a profession and a system of representation for states. This is how diplomacy is seen in the*

news. It is about negotiations and international treaties, among other elements. Traditionally, Diplomacy is performed by diplomats and international officials working in embassies, ministries of foreign affairs, and international organizations;

- *“**DIPLOMACY**”, fully written in upper-case letters, is how diplomacy is often perceived by the general public. This is the diplomacy of flags, receptions, black limousines, and protocol. Diplomacy looks glamorous and aristocratic. This perception can be traced back to the history of diplomacy, when it was a profession reserved for aristocrats (Kurbalija, 2016).*

Diplomacy, as a method for the peaceful resolution of conflicts, is as old as humanity itself. However, as a bureaucratic machine it is relatively new, created during the last five centuries. To understand diplomacy as a profession, first of all, the diplomatic functions should be known, which are like below:

- ***Presentation** of the sending state to the receiving state;*
- ***Protection** of the interests of the sending state and its citizens in the receiving state within the boundaries defined by international law;*
- ***Negotiation** with the government of the receiving state;*
- ***Observing** the reports and their development in the receiving state with all the allowed means, as well as reporting on this to the government of the sending state;*
- ***Development** of friendly relations between the sending state and the receiving state, as well as the realization of their economic, cultural and scientific relations (Jazbec, 2010, p.14).*

Diplomacy includes the regulation of relations between the bearers of rights and duties in international relations, respectively the subjects of international law, which, in addition to states, also include international governmental and non-governmental organizations, political movements with an international character, multinational corporations, religious objects and movements, various international professional organizations, nations, groups of people, but also humans in some situations (Vukadinović, 2009, p.124). The division of diplomacy into bilateral and multilateral is based on the reports of the aforementioned subjects. Bilateral diplomacy is the relationship established and maintained between two states, the sending state and the receiving state. Whereas, multilateral diplomacy is the relationship between a state and several states, which takes place in international congresses

or conferences, or in international organizations (Gruda, 2009, p.21). As part of the government of a country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is directly charged with issues from the field of international relations, as long as it is led by the minister of foreign affairs, who represents the most important individual body of the state for foreign affairs. However, diplomatic representatives are also of great importance, who are sent with authorizations to represent the country abroad and are divided into three classes:

- *Ambassadors or nuncios accredited to heads of state and other heads of missions of equivalent rank;*
- *Envoys, ministers, and internuncios accredited to heads of state;*
- *Chargés d'affaires² accredited to ministers of foreign affairs* (Gruda, 2013, p.252).

The head of the mission is considered as having taken up his functions in the receiving state either when he has presented his credentials or when he has notified his arrival and a true copy of his credentials has been presented to the MFA of the receiving state, or such other ministry as may be agreed, in accordance with the practice prevailing in the receiving state which shall be applied in a uniform manner (United Nations, 2005).

Diplomacy has constantly been exposed to major changes, which have resulted from the change in the structure of the international community and its dynamics. In the postmodern period, that is from 1989 until today, there is a natural conflict between tradition and innovation. Some ceremonial aspects of diplomacy are necessary, but some of them are considered inappropriate for the current period, even useless. People who have spent more than two decades working as diplomats have preferred the traditional aspect of diplomacy and appreciated it, regardless of the benefits it offered. Many traditions in diplomacy made sense for the time when letters were delivered under a wax seal because that was how formal diplomatic communications were carried out (Sandre, 2015, pp.4-5). But, diplomacy has undergone many changes, even its pace is much faster compared to what it used to be, as a result of advances in digital technologies.

The typical example of multilateral diplomacy is the UN, based in New York, organization which was founded on October 24, 1945, as a replacement of the League of Nations that was dissolved on April 18,

2 A chargé d'affaires is a person appointed to act as head of a diplomatic mission in a foreign country while the ambassador is away.

1946 (Lamb, Robertson-Snape, 2017, p.214). The Charter of the UN is its founding document, while its main bodies are: the General Assembly; the Security Council; the Economic and Social Council; the Trusteeship Council; the International Court of Justice; and the UN Secretariat. The main principles of the UN are: the principle of sovereign equality; peaceful resolution of international disputes; prohibition of the use of force or the threat of force; prohibition of interference in the internal affairs of states; the principle of cooperation; the principle of equality and self-determination; and the principle of fulfillment of obligations (Gruda, 2013, pp.372-373). Membership in the organization, in accordance with the Charter of the UN, “is open to all peace-loving states that accept the obligations contained in the UN Charter and, in the judgment of the organization, are able to carry out these obligations”. States are admitted to membership in the UN by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. The UN has 193 member states, which are divided into two categories: the founding members that are 51 states; and members that joined the UN later (United Nations, n.d.).

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. All 193 member states of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation. The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members). Each member has one vote and under the Charter, all member states are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The Economic and Social Council is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals. The Trusteeship Council was established in 1945 by the UN Charter, under Chapter XIII, to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of seven member states, and ensure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government and independence. The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the UN and its seat is at the Peace Palace in the Hague (Netherlands). The Secretariat comprises the Secretary-General and tens of thousands of international UN staff members who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization’s other principal

bodies. The Secretary-General is Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term (United Nations, n.d.).

The permanent members of the Security Council are: the United Kingdom, the United States, France, China and the Russian Federation. The 10 non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly for two years, of which 3 seats belong to African states, 2 seats to Asian states, 2 seats to Latin American and Caribbean states, 2 seats to Western European states and 1 seat to Eastern European states. Periodic meetings of the Security Council called for in Article 28 (2)³ of the Charter shall be held twice a year, at such times as the Security Council may decide. The Security Council is constituted as a small body, made up of representatives of major countries, which makes it possible to take more effective decisions for quick action. Under the UN Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN;
- To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- To recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- To formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- To determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- To call on members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- To take military action against an aggressor;
- To recommend the admission of new members;
- To exercise the trusteeship functions of the UN in "strategic areas";
- To recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

Decisions in the Security Council are made by majority vote, but although each member has one representative and one vote, not all

3 Article 28 (2) of the UN Charter states: The Security Council shall hold periodic meetings at which each of its members may, if it so desires, be represented by a member of the government or by some other specially designated representative.

members' votes are equal. Example, for procedural issues, a majority of 9 votes is sufficient. However, for other issues, such as those related to the peaceful settlement of disputes, or restrictive measures, a majority of nine votes is required, but the votes of the permanent members must be secured. The negative vote of a permanent member of the Security Council makes it impossible to take any kind of decision. It should also be emphasized that the abstention of one or more permanent members from voting does not prevent the decision being taken, so it is not taken as a negative vote (Gruda, 2013, pp.384-386).

Diplomatic protocol is defined as part of etiquette that deals exclusively with the regulation of all aspects of official and diplomatic appearance and behavior. In the composition of the protocol, the formal criteria of action and institutional organization are organically combined with individual courtesy. It is impossible to orient yourself in the state pyramid, to solve the political, diplomatic and administrative problems that arise, as well as to communicate correctly within the system, if you don't have a thorough knowledge of formal etiquette. The protocol also serves as a tool of communication through which certain messages of attitude, behavior and ways of thinking are transmitted in accordance with the requirements. It is strongly based on the legal structure of the state, from the constitution to the various codes, from which it derives its own rules for regulating official life, it relies on international legislation and conventions to draft the diplomatic protocol, it consults ethics and from there it concludes about rules of etiquette in any situation, without talking about military regulations and other specific aspects.

As an essential part of the culture, etiquette is also being globalized. At this point, wherever they are, people can get exposed to other cultures outside of their environment. The seemingly distant Etiquette culture is no longer foreign at all, gaining growing acceptance from the public. The diversification of etiquette is not contradictory to its globalization. Behind the two changes is a dynamic process marked by difference and integration, as well as by mutual respect and learning. The "differences" and "similarities" of etiquette coexist with each other. Thus, any plot to deny globalization with diversity or deny diversity with globalization has no future (Zhou, Zhang, 2022, p.76). It is today much more common to travel abroad far from our own borders to other, distinct cultures. Being a guest in a foreign country means first having respect for the manner in which guests are treated in the host

country. This of course varies between all countries and cultures, personal space and distance between people also varies between cultures. The importance of showing respect for one another's culture cannot be overstated. A lack of knowledge inhibits proper communication, which is essential when dealing with other cultures, both within our own society and outside it. Not showing interest or acknowledging cultural differences in another country can sometimes do more harm than good, causing the loss of important international agreements or orders (Froideville, Verheul, 2021, p.24).

THE PERSONALITY OF THE AMBASSADOR

The main protagonist of the novel is an ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia who, apart from a successful diplomatic career, also reveals his writing skills through his book "The Face Without a Mirror", a lyrical melodrama which enables him to be nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature. The ambassador lacks the description of his physical appearance, but all his spiritual features are revealed. He is a person with high intellectual values and extremely accurate intuition, but at the same time he is also a very sensitive person with strong emotions. Being a diplomat even today gives you a special feeling and you can consider yourself an aristocrat, since diplomacy is still one of the most respected professions. As the ambassador says in the novel: "I have written hundreds of dispatches, read thousands of them, given countless pieces of foreign policy, as well as simply friendly, advice to ministers, prime ministers, and presidents. I went to countless receptions, cocktail parties, dinners, luncheons, played golf so many times that I do not remember, jogged with ministers, presidents, mostly because I wanted all that, I wanted it because I liked it, because I later on enjoyed it, I achieved things because I decided to achieve them, like a project, I planned it, consciously" (Jazbec, 2019, p.25). Certain age, good family origin, honesty, education, studies, knowledge of diplomatic languages, knowledge from different fields such as art, literature, etc., continue to be basic criteria for diplomatic representatives. However, the profession of a diplomat requires a lot of responsibility because he must constantly have information about global events, processes and phenomena. Diplomats often find themselves in complicated situations, in which their mastery of solving the appropriate techniques can lead to adequate solutions. Then, the diplomats are under constant pressure as they have to respect the strict protocol rules to the maximum. They are more than aware that the violation of diplomatic proto-

col not only endangers their careers, but also risks damaging the image of the state they represent.

An ambassador is the highest-ranking diplomatic officer, designated by the government as its resident representative in a foreign state or before an international organization. The primary duties of ambassadors are to maintain diplomatic relations with the receiving state and promote foreign policy strategies through international organizations (Cornell Law School, 2021). Diplomacy exists in shades and in the detection and selection thereof, in recognizing and sorting them out. Its power and purpose lie in shades, it would be impossible without them (Jazbec, 2019, p.31). When the ambassador represents his state in another state, he has maximum responsibility for the bilateral relations between the two countries, be they political, economic, cultural, etc. Then, it should be emphasized a very interesting characteristic of the embassy of the sending state in the receiving state, which is mentioned in the novel. The submarine effect, so well known in diplomatic practice, always appeared after a time, as individuals had a hard time putting up with one another. The majority of countries cannot keep up embassies with more than fifteen or twenty employees, especially diplomats, and with the exception of a few locations, that is the perfect environment for this syndrome to appear. Such a crisis lasts some time, and after that the feeling of claustrophobia and difficulty tolerating certain co-workers jumps from one employee to another. Circumstances in small embassies are sometimes similar to those on submarines when people must put up with each other because there is no way out, nowhere to go. Apart from that, there is always plenty of work, there is no lack of stressful situations and sometimes you have no idea what to do when psychosis and paranoia kick in. And that is why it is better to work in bigger teams, even though in such cases the boss needs more concentration to manage and coordinate the processes (Jazbec, 2019, p.58).

However, when an ambassador represents his country among many countries in international organizations, his responsibility is extremely high because the fate of his country's image in the global arena depends on him, and he can advance, even jeopardize the bilateral relations of his country, for which his colleagues have worked for years. Serving in multilateral diplomacy is a great privilege for a diplomat, the peak of his career, and this is also reflected by the author of the novel, who puts the key protagonist to work in the most powerful in-

ternational political organization on the planet, in the UN. Working at the latter offers the ambassador the opportunity to meet various political personalities, to recognize the professionalism of the persons who have been put in charge of major tasks, such as that of the Secretary General. To serve as Secretary-General at the UN means to be a symbol of the UN's ideals, and an advocate for all the world's peoples, especially the poor and vulnerable. The person who is put in charge of this task possesses the ability to offer solutions in difficult situations with courtesy, to show gentleness, wisdom, nobility, education, care and ethics. But, he also knows when to engage, when to act, when to withdraw, and finally when he reaches retirement age to be known for his diplomatic skills, as was the Secretary-General in the novel. The ambassador liked that the Secretary was reserved, but not introverted, humble and not divorced from reality. Humbleness is not a sign of weakness, on the contrary, it is a sign of high spirituality, intellectual strength and potential that shows itself when it is needed (Jazbec, 2019, p.31).

The presidency of the Security Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the member states names. The diplomats who chair this position serve to coordinate actions of the Council, decide policy disputes, and sometimes functions as an intermediary between conflicting groups. The main protagonist of the novel had such an honor, which gave him the opportunity to sit next to the Secretary General, based on the rules of the UN protocol. But, the ambassador who chairs the Security Council in the novel is in a very difficult position, which is faced by almost all diplomats who preside this primary body of the UN. When discussing issues related to disagreements or conflicts that occur in different parts of the world, normally the five permanent members of the Security Council will vote according to their interests. Perhaps a resolution proposed to offer strict measures to a state that with its actions may have endangered world peace or violated the rules of international law affects the bilateral agreements of any of the five permanent member states and the negative vote of that state prevents its approval. It is almost impossible to oppose the positions of diplomats from these five countries and their veto is more powerful than many efforts of all UN members. In the novel, the author gives important advice to diplomats who find themselves in these circumstances: "You must have a lot of general knowledge and additionally you must have a particular sense for detail. Yet both will not help much if you are not capable of

recognizing changes immediately and put them instantly into the right framework. Namely, to listen, to hear, to understand, and to use. Your advantage lies in how fast you understand that and use it against other participants in the discussion, by joining in the discussion and forming decisions concerning the agenda” (Jazbec, 2019, p.34).

It is interesting how many differences, as well as common ground, one can find among a large number of diplomats, who are basically trained the same way and work in more or less the same environment. And you never can tell who will come close to whom (Jazbec, 2019, p.58). Therefore, in addition to diplomatic knowledge, the way the diplomat communicates is also very important. There are several points of communication, such as eye contact, shaking hands, but also the way how certain issues are presented and addressed. A career diplomat is more than aware that his courtesy is above his intelligence, regardless of how high the latter may or may not be. Intelligence quota plus education make 15%, but the education quota and the social quota make 85%. It can be assumed that verbal communication means everything, but in reality it does not, because it comprises 45% of communication, of which 38% refers to the tone of voice and 7% to the content. The diplomat tends to hide deep within himself feelings such as anxiety, stress, sadness, worry, guilt, shame, anger and envy because they add uncertainty during his work. Well, these feelings can be revealed through non-verbal communication. Although diplomats do not prioritize this type of communication compared to the verbal one, it should be clarified that non-verbal communication, or body language, which includes facial expressions, eye contact, posture and movements, positioning in groups, the clothes worn, but also silence, represents 55% of communication. While verbal communication can be controlled, non-verbal communication is very difficult to control. What the ambassador does not want to say in words, he expresses with facial expressions and gestures.

Diplomats are people who wish to serve their country and advance its interests internationally. They are people with a sense of adventure because diplomacy is a job that requires people to move and live away from their home countries. However, the work of being a diplomat, as brave as it is, is also stressful, imposes an isolation or distance from the individual’s social circle and many personal sacrifices are required. The question arises, is the diplomat really happy with his life? Within the novel, an opinion of the ambassador is expressed about how

he perceives happiness: "Oh, happiness! Obtained through pain, yet still happiness. Fleeting, but so strong that despite its short duration it makes a permanent impression on eternal spirit and pale memory. For just a drop of happiness you need to slave, it takes a lot of pain. Happiness. Ours, our friend's, no matter whose. Happiness, in any case. And once you feel it, you can just go ahead and say, look, it does appear that I am truly happy, though it may not last, one cannot endure such happiness for long, I am sure of it. And one does not have to, what is important is that I know from my experience that happiness does exist" (Jazbec, 2019, p.64).

The novel "The Rainbow Beyond the Spirit" makes us address another issue that affects the diplomat's work anyway, the marital status. Diplomats who serve in the world can be single, in a relationship, engaged, married, divorced or widowed. Love is so inexplicable that all people, including diplomats here, need the help of science to explain it, with special emphasis that of psychologists. According to the latter, during romantic love there are many changes that both men and women experience. The first step in the process of falling in love is the initial attraction. It's the powerful moment when we meet another person and feel energized and are immediately aware of our heart pounding. Falling in love is associated with increased energy, narrowing of mental focus, light-headedness, racing heart, and a lot of positive feelings. A person newly in love sees the world through the lens of love and most everything is tolerable and everything their partner does is delightful. To have a healthy relationship, regular communication is required. These are some of the theses of psychologists regarding the feeling of falling in love (South University, 2016).

What happens if a young diplomat, on the brink of living their dream and about to embark on their first posting, falls for someone who is kicking goals in their own nascent career? How exactly does the conversation go about how the diplomat's nascent career is more important than theirs? Does the other person quit their job and follow? Could they get leave from their job? Can they work remotely from the city in which they're being posted? Does their visa allow them to work in the country they're going? If not, what do they do for several years? What if they feel that the relationship isn't to the point where they could confidently follow? Do they split up? How often will they get to see each other? Every three months? Six months? Annually? A diplomatic posting places great stress on relationships. Once the excitement of the move, saying goodbye to people at home, meeting new people at

post and moving into a new house has passed, relationships need to be strong in order to survive, much less grow. During first few weeks, the diplomat can work long hours and/or travel frequently. This can leave the accompanying spouse alone with or without children. Often times in a country in which another language is spoken. The accompanying partner may wish to work, but the terms of the diplomatic visa may or may not allow the accompanying spouse to work. If they can work, there may be language issues that make finding work difficult. Before long, resentment can build over the career that the accompanying spouse has left behind. Indeed, many accompanying spouses have left their careers behind and become financially dependent on their spouse. As a result, relationships can become so complicated that requests for divorce can also follow (The Lonely Diplomat, n.d.).

What happens when a diplomat meets and falls in love with someone while on their posting? Postings have fixed terms and present much the same artificial timelines as those couples who meet prior to the start of a posting. These imposed deadlines mean that couples are confronted with a series of questions almost from the time that things get serious. Where do the couple want to live? Does the diplomat seek leave or quit from their job and stay in their partner's country? Do they return to the diplomat's home country? If yes, how do they apply for a visa? Can they work on that visa? How long does it take to get that visa? What if the diplomat's partner wants to stay in their own country? Do they split, saying it's all too hard? For diplomats, the overlay of additional requirements and deadlines and the knowledge that loving a diplomat can mean adventure but certainly means moving internationally makes it all the more complex (The Lonely Diplomat, n.d.). Undoubtedly, the greatest love of a diplomat remains the love for the country he represents and the feelings of love for his partner, even the marital relationship, are often sacrificed to advance the interests of his country in the global arena. It can be concluded that very lucky diplomats are those with partners who have understood the challenges of the diplomatic profession and decided to support them, despite the sacrifices they had to make and the difficulties they faced.

THE VALUE OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

On November 27, 1895, Alfred Nobel signed his last will and testament, giving the largest share of his fortune to a series of prizes in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace, the Nobel

Prizes. Since 1901, the Nobel Prize has been awarded in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace (The Nobel Prize, n.d.). For every person, regardless the profession that may belong to the natural or social sciences, winning the Nobel Prize is a great honor. If we take a look at the Nobel Prizes, a diplomat would have the most chances to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, since the essence of a diplomat's work is related to ensuring peace. A nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize is considered valid if it is submitted by a person who falls within one of the following categories:

- *Members of national assemblies and national governments (cabinet members/ministers) of sovereign states as well as current heads of state;*
- *Members of The International Court of Justice in The Hague and The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague;*
- *Members of l'Institut de Droit International⁴;*
- *Members of the International Board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom;*
- *University professors, professors emeriti and associate professors of history, social sciences, law, philosophy, theology, and religion, university rectors and university directors (or their equivalents); directors of peace research institutes and foreign policy institutes;*
- *Persons who have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize;*
- *Members of the main board of directors or its equivalent of organizations that have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize;*
- *Current and former members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee;*
- *Former advisers to the Norwegian Nobel Committee (The Nobel Prize, n.d.).*

Can anybody be nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature? Theoretically anyone can be nominated, anyone who writes excellent, outstanding literature, and there is no other demand, just quality in the work. But, what criteria are required for the Nobel Literature Prize? It's all about literary quality. The winner needs to be someone who writes excellent literature, someone who you feel when you read that there's some kind of a power, a development that lasts through books, all of their books. But the world is full of very good, excellent writers, and is needed something more to be a laureate. It's very difficult to ex-

⁴ The Institute of International Law is an organization founded on September 8, 1873 in Ghent, Belgium, and devoted to the study and development of international law, whose membership comprises the world's leading public international lawyers.

plain what that is, it's something you're born with, and the romantics would call it a divine spark. A talent that gives that extra dimension to that particular writer's work. Does a person's personality influence the decision when a Nobel Prize is awarded? No, absolutely not, a person's personal life is never seen, this is completely irrelevant. What is wanted is always great literature; it is literary merit, that's the only thing that matters. How does the nomination process work? The Nobel Committee for Literature sends invitation letters to persons who are qualified to nominate for the Nobel Prize in Literature. The right to submit proposals for the award of a Nobel Literature Prize shall, by statute, be enjoyed by:

- Members of the Swedish Academy and of other academies, institutions and societies which are similar to it in construction and purpose;
- Professors of literature and of linguistics at universities and university colleges;
- Previous Nobel Prize laureates in literature;
- Presidents of those societies of authors that are representative of the literary production in their respective countries.

The candidates eligible for the literature prize are those nominated by qualified persons who have received an invitation from the Nobel Committee to submit names for consideration. Other persons who are qualified to nominate but have not received invitations may also submit nominations. No one can nominate himself or herself (The Nobel Prize, n.d.). The person who nominated the ambassador for the Nobel Literature Prize had been a professor of comparative literature and literary theory for decades, had written countless critiques for some respectable and important publications, and so had made a name for himself, he had become distinguished. Never had he suggested someone for the Nobel Prize and he had never nominated someone. The main reason the professor nominated the ambassador was simple, a book, for which he had just submitted a review to the publishing house Jamie & Jamie, had captivated him. The mere title of the novel was enticing, mysterious and seductive. He immediately felt there was something special about it, and even as a critic, he was drawn to the book (Jazbec, 2019, p.15). He stated his own arguments why precisely this particular candidate is being nominated: "The refined style of the book and unearthly message, a decisive and solid contribution to understanding man's soul in its troubled times, and his deep passion and capability for finding a way out of any sit-

uation, regardless of how impossible it is". The professor had read the book several times, he knew that the book was good, and that the author deserved the nomination. But, he had decided that he would call no one, lobby no one, simply, leave the nomination up to its fate (Jazbec, 2019, p.18).

The ambassador's novel, titled "The Face Without a Mirror", earned him a nomination for the Nobel Prize in Literature, but what was special about this novel? It was a lyrical, gentle melodrama, soft and brittle. It spoke of the relationship between two youths. This relationship came to be as relationships as a rule do: with a fleeting, coincidental meeting, when sparks fly and a particular breeze flows through the air and can only be felt by those destined to feel it. All relationships come to be like this, but each and every one has their own form, each their own moment, different, special, various, unique. And if they do begin in a basically identical way, then they develop each into countless stories, stories so numerous that a person could read and study them until the end of eternity, and still not see them all. It came to be like this, and it was promising, as again all relationships are. But, due to coincidence, due to a mood swing of fate, is that not a false characterization, can something like fate really be moody, could it really work intentionally towards some goal, even when speaking of uncomfortable, tragic, dreadful events? This one story among countless others took a very particular course, a course that hurt both of them deeply, scarred them, and definitely marked them out. They were blown elsewhere, thrown into a dreadful test, incomprehensible and unacceptable, neither wanted nor desired by either of them. After that first physical encounter, they never met, or saw one another, ever again (Jazbec, 2019, p.10).

Melodrama is a literary or dramatic genre in which standard tropes and elements are exaggerated to elicit emotional responses from audiences or readers. Usually, in melodramas, characters exhibit overly emotional behaviours, and events are extremely sensationalised, creating a kind of outlandish and unrealistic tone. Melodramas are most recognisable in theatre, and in modern times, on television and in films. However, some do appear as novels, short stories and even poems. Melodramas can be easily classified by identifying these main common elements:

- ***A simple plot:*** *Melodramas tend to be straightforward stories, relying instead on exaggerated actions and events unfolding to*

convey powerful but somewhat basic themes like good, evil, freedom, oppression and betrayal;

- **Stock characters:** *Characters in melodramas are usually stereotypical, with one-dimensional personalities that rely heavily on one magnified trait;*
- **Dramatic dialogue:** *Action tends to unfold largely through dialogue, which uses flowery language in grand proclamations and sweeping declarations. Narration is sometimes used to further embellish scenes with more exaggerated wording and pronouncements;*
- **Private settings:** *Domestic environments, like characters' homes, tend to be used to magnify personal struggles, creating an intimacy that magnifies emotional reactions from audiences (StudySmarter, n.d.).*

The novel “The Face Without a Mirror” has become a true success, three sold out Slovene editions in less than two years since publishing, two re-prints in English, as well as translations into Spanish and German. The author of this novel, who had worked as an ambassador in Berlin and had a long and successful diplomatic career, was representing Republic of Slovenia at the UN, thus being its sixth permanent representative since independence in 1991. The novel in question was not his first novel, but the sixth in a row, which also gave him the Nobel Literature Prize.

In the novel “The Rainbow Beyond the Soul”, we have a diplomat with exceptional diplomatic skills, but also admirable writing skills. The question arises, can a diplomat with a successful career really be a poet? Is it possible to write, to truly write, in such a profession? The work of diplomat is probably very dynamic, tense, exciting, and surely, at times boring. In any case, you spend a lot of time among people, in different situations, constantly in action, and that must already be quite enough encouragement for writing (Jazbec, 2019, p.20). Why was the ambassador writing? Probably, he did it to relax himself, to get away from all the papers at work, because he felt trapped and tense, because he was fleeing, he wanted to go somewhere else, even if he himself did not know why he would want to go somewhere else. And, of course, he also wrote because he was good at it. His head was always full of ideas, they lived inside him, developed and just happened, as if he were sitting in a multi-screen cinema, experiencing everything at once, and of course, when he sat down behind his desk, he wrote and

wrote and could not stop. He enjoyed doing it, enjoyed immensely, even though he always had the feeling that he was working. Slaving away, actually. But that did not diminish his pleasure of writing. And the more he wrote, the more he enjoyed himself (Jazbec, 2019, p.62).

Italian authors Stefano Baldi and Pasquale Baldocci said that “Diplomats are born with a pen in hand”, which means that the main tool of a diplomat is the written language. Then, the author Milan Jazbec also has an interesting quote: “Words are like miracles, only you must be careful with them, skillful and tender.” In fact, diplomacy and poetry are two different fields of human activity, because the first is in the service of the state, while the second is in the service of creativity. It seems as if there are no common points between them, but in fact there are. A diplomat only has words at his disposal. Nothing, but words. With words, he presents, he explains, transmits, reports, asks, apologizes, forgives, defends, with words he does everything he must, everything he can, and everything he is allowed to do. He never possesses any other tool, any other thing, he only has words. But with words, one can create miracles, you can convince the unconvinced and change the minds of those convinced of other things, which is a real skill. You can convert the convinced, you teach those who do not know, you influence the self-confident and the haughty ones, in particular, it is easy to influence the latter since they think they are the most important, you can help those in dispute and you encourage the insecure, you excite the reserved and you can calm those who are restless (Jazbec, 2019, p.142). Traditionally, diplomacy uses calculated, logical and rational words, and its language is emotionless and not always clear and easy to understand. On the other hand, poetry uses words full of emotions, excitement and desires, highlighting the human heart and soul. The author of the novel, Prof. Milan Jazbec has made an empirical study on diplomacy and poetry, where he has learned two lessons as follows:

- *Words in diplomacy, when borrowed from the world of poetry, have specific power and magic. When they come from the resident ambassador in a host country, they increase diplomatic effect;*
- *Poetry can do without diplomacy, but diplomacy cannot do without poetry, without its language, style and approach. Culture bridges differences, increases understanding and deepens friendly relations (Jazbec, 2022).*

CONCLUSION

The novel "The Rainbow Beyond the Soul" by Milan Jazbec is a novel that will attract the attention of every diplomat who reads it because he/she will find himself/herself in the pages of this novel. It brilliantly combines the privileges and challenges of the ambassador's position with his personality traits. The way how individual feelings and emotions are managed is considered as important as diplomatic and protocol knowledge and experience. The key protagonist of the novel during his life was not only at the service of his state, but also at the service of his creativity. In addition to contributing to bilateral diplomacy by representing his country in Germany, he also contributed to multilateral diplomacy, in which case he had the honor to work at the UN. Chairing the Security Council was a proper test of his diplomatic skills, as it is for any diplomat who has the privilege of serving in this position.

This novel created space to analyze another issue, which is mentioned maybe a little in the literature of diplomacy and diplomatic protocol, but which has a very big role in the life of diplomats. It has to do with the marital status of diplomats. Can or cannot diplomats manage their feelings of love, do these feelings have an impact on their diplomatic activities, are they able to sacrifice their profession for their partners and vice versa, etc., issues that should be discussed when calculating the responsibilities of the diplomatic service.

While in diplomacy, the novel's ambassador calculates his actions logically and rationally, in novels he expresses all his feelings and emotions. His sensitivity along with his writing skills sends him to Stockholm, Sweden, but not for diplomacy. His novel "The Face Without a Mirror" turns out to be so successful that it places him among the nominees for the Nobel Prize for Literature. For a diplomat to be awarded the Nobel Prize is understood to be a great honor, but for a diplomat to be awarded this prize for literature and not for peace is another special characteristic of the novel "The Rainbow Beyond the Spirit". It can be concluded that it was the spiritual side that dominated over the diplomatic tactics and marked the highest achievement in the ambassador's career. Seems like in the literature, the main protagonist of the novel was completely freed from the pressure of hiding the stress, nervousness, anxiety and uncertainty caused by the profession of diplomacy, thus revealing his strong feelings and emotions without any obstacle.

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