

*“I have completed my task. There are swastikas on the spires of all the churches in the world.”*

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MAGVETŐ



**László Imre Horváth**

**There Was Evening and There Was Morning**

Fiction, 292 pages, Magvető Publishing, 2014

Before the Stalingrad campaign General Paulus has a car accident, so everything turns out differently: Germany wins the Second World War, in this grim, shocking dystopia, whose protagonist is Klaus Arme, a leading Nazi ideologist: the book consists of excerpts from his diary, written between 1942 and 2013. At the first entry he is eighteen; at the last one he is eighty-nine.

In the book of Genesis ‘there was evening and there was morning’ designates the period between the days of creation, when according to Arme’s Nazi ideology God is sleeping or dead, or perhaps suspends his existence, and thus also the norms of morality and ethics. For civilization to attain a new level, such a state is always necessary, and this absolves the Reich and its soldiers from all their crimes, since they are committing them in the name of development, to perfect creation. Klaus Arme’s entire life is his family’s unrelenting shadow-struggle for power, and is spent in the service of the Reich, which is slowly devouring the whole of human civilization. His archenemy is Christianity, present even during the continuous apocalypse; it crops up over and again in the faces of his victims, who have been born that with their weakness they might humiliate the strong.

Will the whole world become the Nazis’ Lebensraum, or is the new Übermensch not omnipotent after all?

**László Imre Horváth**



Poet, prose writer. He was born in 1981. This is his first novel published by Magvető.

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