

## Maxo Vanka – St. Nicholas 1941

Written by Dr. Charles McColleston in celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1941 Murals by Maxo Vanka.

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### **Justice**

Balance is the key.  
Walk on two legs; be even-handed.  
When the angel of God contemplates  
The affairs and conflicts of mankind,  
She finds the balance-point,  
The truth of all sides.  
Malice toward none, the radical center,  
The flame of wisdom on her forehead,  
With charity for all.

### **Injustice**

There she stands, the modern horror:  
Toxic gas, the bloody sword,  
Bloody hands and bloodshot eyes.  
Gold outweighs bread.  
The tipped scale, the ancient imbalance,  
Feeds gut-hungry desperation.  
Bellows of fear stoke the flames of war,  
The cold poisoned breath  
Of violence and death.

### **Prudence**

The angel cautions silence, discretion.  
Some took the gesture to heart.  
Work hard, be smart, speak little.  
Your accent betrays you.  
They don't know you,  
Croats, Serbs, Slovaks, Poles, Rusyns,  
Branded "Hunkies" all. Stay steady.  
Their ignorance of you  
Will help your children rise.

### **Mati – Mother 1941**

The death's-head legions  
Of goose-stepping violence,  
Hard calculations of oil and steel.  
An insatiable hunger for victims,  
But it's the woman who pays.  
No soldier's glory or medals for her.  
Rape, submission, crucifixion.  
Mother of our native land,  
Weeping in this valley of tears.