

Today I began *Tales of old Sarajevo* by Isak Samokovlija.

"Isak Samokovlija was a descendant of the Sephardic Jews who, expelled from Spain at the end of the fifteenth century, found refuge in the Ottoman Empire. His great-grandfather moved to Bosnia as a salesman from the small Bulgarian town of Samokov." Pg 169.

Here are excerpts from *The Kaddish*. Notice how the main characters are eating Turkish candies and Turkish hazelnuts. The last paragraph of *The Kaddish* is the third excerpt, describing the smells of flowers and the view while walking through the city.

"And she would take out a cube of Turkish delight or a lollipop or some fruit, and Miko would stop to eat it, to lick it, his tongue darting out at the candied stick, now and then repeating wildly, as if in a dream: 'Into the street....the street...'" Pg 9.

"She took him home; on the way she got him some Turkish hazelnuts and when they reached the stairs she sat him down on the bottom step..." Pg 11.

"Gently sprouting from the dried-up stalk of rue in the cracked flowerpot on the window sill was a new serrated leaf. Passing by Sarucha's big house, people with a discerning sense of smell knew from its scent that spring had arrived." Pg 16.

Tales of old Sarajevo. Isak Samokovlija. 1997. Published in London.

Introduction by Ivo Andric.

The Kaddish (1928)

From Spring to Spring (1928)

Gabriel Gaon (1936)

The Blond Jewess (1929)

Hanka (1929)

Samuel, the Porter (1940)

Davoka's Tale of the Living Truth (1950)

Zdenko Lesic: Isak Samokovlija, Life and Work