

## **CORRIERE DELLA SERA**

### **Nonino Prize 2018, the revenge of the rural civilization**

Delivered yesterday at the Nonino Distilleries in Ronchi di Percoto (Udine) the acknowledgements to Kadare, Agamben and the seven young people of the sustainable project P(our)

by Marisa Fumagalli

The most beautiful compliment to the Nonino Prize, and the style of a man: «Though prejudiced against prizes, I was glad to accept this because in the statute it is written that it was born for giving value to the rural civilization ».

These are the words of Giorgio Agamben, philosopher, who was awarded the prize «Master of our time », one of the three sections of the «Nonino». It is the essence of a «country» prize, now at its 43<sup>rd</sup> edition, with a high cultural value not only for the importance of the prizewinners selected by the jury presided by V. S. Naipaul (Nobel Laureate in Literature), but —Agamben outlined this very well in his address — because the rural civilization recalls the art of doing, of being active.

«A civilization quickly destroyed after five thousand years — the philosopher says —. And after the peasant, here comes the worker, an epochal figure. Even this destroyed. Wasted patrimonies. What will tomorrow reserve us?». The analysis recalls writers such as Ernst Jünger, Carlo Levi and Primo Levi, to document the parable of the myths of the Twentieth century society.

The guests of the Nonino Prize look up at the stage and listen. In the place where, yesterday morning, the ceremony took place, Agamben's «lesson » takes shape. Here, in the Distilleries, among the scents of grappa, among the stills, there is the action. Outside, a view of a sunny rural landscape that survives time. It is 120 years since the Nonino family, in Ronchi di Percoto (Udine), has devoted itself to the art of distillation. Certainly, the new generations have been able to innovate, but without betraying the spirit of the company. This is how the Nonino Prize was born and grew. Originally it was the «Risit d'Aur-Gold vine shoot»: the 2018 winner is P(our), a project of sustainable solidarity embodied by seven young people that convey enthusiasm.

The Prize, later, became three. About Giorgio Agamben, «Master of our time», we have already said. Whereas the International Prize this year was awarded to the great Albanian writer Ismail Kadare. La nave di Teseo has just published his short story, a story of war *The Provocation*. On the stage there isn't Claudio Magris to introduce him, his absence is justified by an accident. (Also the president of the jury is not present). His address, however, arrives as a recording, on the screen.

And Kadare picks among his memories, telling how in Albania Dante, the «great poet», is known and studied, surviving the fascist occupation and Hoxha's dictatorship.

## Centoventi anni della Famiglia Nonino