



**Neoplanta,  
avagy  
az Igéret Földje**  
Városhely

Végel



## László Végel: Neoplanta, or the Promised Land

305 pages

In 1748, Germans, Serbians, Hungarians, Jews, Armenians, and the rest of the nationalities living here joined forces, scraped together their saved money, took out a bank loan and with the countless banknotes they travelled to Vienna to buy the title of royal free city from Empress Maria Theresa. The Empress asked what the name of their city was and the founding fathers repentantly confessed that it had not any yet. They invited Her Majesty to be the godmother of their city. The Empress took out her golden quill and wrote the following onto the Latin written deed of foundation with flawless handwriting: The city shall be named Neoplanta and shall be called by every nation in their own language. Its people shall live in peace, love each other; this city of multiple nations shall stand as an example of peaceful coexistence of different nationalities. More than 250 years have passed. The people of Neoplanta – Újvidék – have been killing each other ever since. Lazo Pavletić, a Serbian cabman tells the story to the Hungarian author.