

## **I feel your soul** <sup>(1)</sup>

O Father!

Your soul in heaven engulfs me with faith  
And my spirit is nourished  
With love and compassion.

I cried every night with memories of  
You and my brother  
Enduring those many years of migration

Since you crossed the valley of shadows.  
Those days return to my mind  
And take me to the shores of my memory.

Back then, I was a lass  
And your warmth bestowed me  
With hope and strength.

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<sup>1</sup> This poem was written on the anniversary of the death of my father Yaackub Youssef Abdo, who passed away in 1995. I also wish to remember my brother Yousef, who passed away in 2005.

You sowed the seed of love within us  
And sang that songs in virtue,  
I will remember forever.

Oh Father!  
You sacrificed your life for our happiness,  
And you never held back.  
Much heartbreak melted upon your lips  
As you were held back  
The secret of your suffering  
And you did not converse.

Let us convey the essence of our story.  
From its beginning  
And the alienation.

You were my constant companion  
And support guide  
You suffered in silence  
And did us proud.

I feel your soul embracing me,  
And we commune.

It is your right to be informed  
That your grandchildren have grown  
And scattered across the land of God.

Oh Father!  
Where is the home that once  
Brought us together,  
And where are the evening talks  
As we listened to you in silence and respect?

And you, my brother Youssef,  
Sharing my father's journey!  
I still bear in my mind  
Your warmth and longing,  
And call upon God that He may bless you  
With his abundant compassion  
Since you have departed from this life  
Into God's land!

Your gentleness will be remembered  
And remain alive in my soul.  
You are anchored in the harbour of my memories  
And I pray to God that you and our father  
Are with Him in His paradise.

Oh Father!  
And my brother!  
To all the grandchildren  
You will always remain  
The symbol of love  
And the shining example,  
And you do us proud.

## **I am a woman**

I am a woman,  
My body was vilely etched  
By evil deeds of the past.

I wondered why you disrupted my loneliness  
And read the alphabet of my life,  
And the enigma of my sadness  
With erratic eyes!  
You took pleasure in my sufferings  
And decades of deprivation!

No, my love  
Pack your belongings and go on  
To the place of pleasure,  
For the sadness has infused my body.

I am weary,  
I am overwhelmed,  
I am a woman,  
And evil people pencilled

The date of my death on my body  
Before I was even born!

I was chosen by God  
To carry the sufferings of my ancestors.

Set out on your way...  
Your name is etched in my memory,  
And you will remain my only love  
And refuge in my euphoria.

It does not matter  
Whether we meet or not,  
For you will always be my knight,  
And my only love.

From the dawn of our loneliness  
I will wait for your return,  
Or I will write to you  
A lover's poem, and go on in peace  
Amid the valleys of your love  
And the realms of my life.

## Whispers

We built many mansions  
And wrote many tales  
Under the moonlight  
As the dawn came to light.

As the birds in the early morning  
Echoed the groans of our yearnings  
As we practiced all rites  
While Zeus was trembling.

Into your arms I would melt,  
Caressed by your love,  
The warmth of your breath,  
And the elation of our whispers!

## **You fail to remember!**

If you fail to remember  
And take me into your vastness.  
I wish you had not told me  
And had kept it a secret in time.

I wish you would fail to keep me in mind  
And let me remain a poem  
I wish you loved me  
And gone astray for a lifetime!

I wish you would let me  
Travel through the winds  
To reduce the living time.

Isn't it enough for you!  
What time has stolen  
Would you rather see it?  
In poem or in prose?