





Mounira Al Solh

I strongly believe in our right to be frivolous

2013-ongoing, mixed media drawing on legal paper
28,6 x 21 cm; 29,7 x 21 cm

The texts in this booklet are translated from Arabic to English
by Hala Hdeib, and reviewed and corrected by the artist.
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I strongly believe in our right to be frivolous

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Marres
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Culture



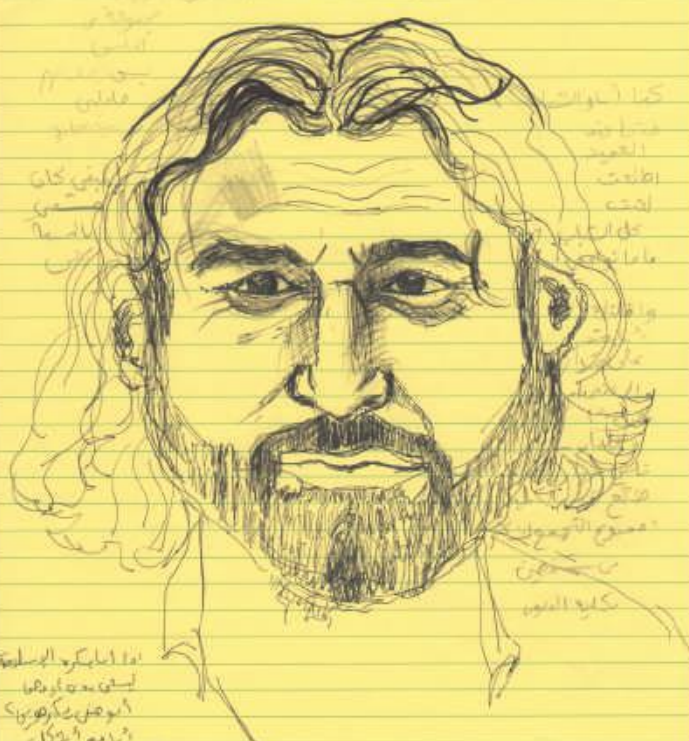
محمد عبد الله - 10

The Netherlands, The Hague, 2015





الراعي الطائفي والمتمرد لاكسر



إذا لم يذكر الرسالة
ليس من يدعي أنها
أموال من كركورين
في ربيع الشكك
وعد فقط
العلماء مع أتباعه
فإن يقتل المسلم
و لا مع الرومان بل مع
المسيحية

مجدد الطائفة من فتولا منه
وسبق فيه
مذكور، العالم لا دم يكفينا أوجنا من ناظرين

شام عويدي شامر

I am for (with) co-habitation and respect of the other(s).

Once as we were at the University (in Damascus) and I wanted to make like a strike. All my colleagues were there with me, but suddenly last minute, no one joined me, so I had to enter all alone to the office of our director there (the only person who joined me was my girlfriend), and as soon as I got in his office, it was so stupid that I had to apologize for that “strike”, since we were left alone, it wasn’t relevant anymore.

Next day they announced that it’s not allowed for more than two people to hang out together at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus!

(...) The University’s building looked like a hospital to me.

(...) If I hate Islamists, why would I refuse that they hate me? I am for each one to take his rights, I am not an Atatürk who kills Islamists. And I am not with Erdogan who forbids drinking alcohol.

Here the conversation is cut in pieces:

(...) About this officer who opened someone’s mouth and spit in it...

(...) He says: - “People have to thank us because we haven’t become Orthodox”,

(...) (By poet Tammam Houneidy)



حياة بلادي

كلية

شرواب

وقو تفان

كل ساعة

البرهون

(نظرة تحيا)

بعين اسعدنا ان امتري

سعدنا ان يدكم تدفعوا ملوسا لثقلوا عن انكم

بعين صبور ولما ، انو فني - انو استوا ادمعوا - سر قولنا لا

زوجه من تغفل بالقطار - كل حي نسرق

شاكما من اقصى للعالم - مني وفتح ٣٠ متر

بعين بطل حي حتى عليت ولد عموهات لولد - ولد بي

ولد لوباء

مشينا كلنا - طلعبا من لبنان - طالعنا سامي بقوة كان ميرافطني

كان - 2019 مشورتي - رومي و زمان على بيروت و راج على

الاصحوة - كل على مصر و اصحابهم باليميمون - كانوا لا سمعوا ما يرتهم

و انو يفتسرو و ربيع ٢٠٢٠ - نوفر مثل مشروفا بعد سنة

Suddenly in 2012, in Aleppo, our work couldn't continue. We were in the Yaramoun region. We then heard that our factory got burned down. They passed us the message: if you want to save your factory machinery, you will have to buy it from us, they said.

They sent us pictures of our factory to show us how it got all emptied, because we haven't paid them what they asked for. So they stole our factory.

My husband works in cotton, everything got stolen.

We had one of the smallest factories there. Our factory was like 300 meters only. Later I couldn't even find milk or pampers for the children, and there was no more water or electricity.

So we all left, we left to Lebanon, we escaped in a bus at a time they were kidnapping people even. That was in February 2012.

My husband took me (and the kids) to Beirut, and went to Cairo.

All those who had lost their factories in Yaramoun (put their money together) and went to Egypt to open a factory together there. A year later our project failed. We lost again.

14 December
2015

المغرب - الرباط

Bana Nourallah

بانتة (مستورة) جودت بنات

شرف - بانة

انا وروحي در حال دراسة

بمدرسة STALE - الرباط

وهدية بالاشرف من STALE عام بانة وروحي
هي عذبة ليعلم ان الرباط (الرباط) STALE
(STALE)

هي عذبة ليعلم ان الرباط (الرباط) STALE

ترومب عمري STALE عذبة عذبة STALE

بانتة عذبة عذبة

انا وروحي در حال دراسة بانة STALE - عذبة عذبة عذبة عذبة

عذبة عذبة عذبة

انا وروحي در حال دراسة (انا وروحي) عذبة عذبة عذبة عذبة

عذبة عذبة عذبة (عذبة عذبة) عذبة عذبة عذبة عذبة

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انا وروحي در حال دراسة عذبة عذبة عذبة عذبة عذبة

عذبة عذبة عذبة عذبة عذبة

انا وروحي در حال دراسة عذبة عذبة عذبة عذبة عذبة

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انا وروحي در حال دراسة عذبة عذبة عذبة عذبة عذبة

Morocco- Ribat

My name is Bana, and Bana is a tree that is famous in Arabic as “the branch of “al Ban” * I have studied at S-mode. My husband and I studied there, two years in Aleppo. Then it got closed down. So we continued at S-mode in Damascus, at Bab Mousalli, it’s a school for fashion. I studied to become a “stylist”.

It was brought by Adnan al Assad to Syria. I married at the age of 28, and got my daughter Hayma...

My husband and I met at S-mode and we married in 2002.

I am originally from Aleppo, and also originally we are from Jableh, but we grew up in Aleppo. My father was starting a project to make a windmill in Aleppo to make flour, but he had to stop it recently. He is 76, and he is also here with me in Morocco now.

My mother passed away in 2012. I had my youngest daughter at the beginning of the crisis in Syria. But we were still working. I was designing clothes in a company, we used to design clothes in the style of Benetton, but cheaper. I used to be responsible for the children clothes design section...

* It is a Moringa tree, in Arabic, it is famous as a tree of love, and it is chanted in poetry. Women are compared to the branch of “Al Ban” when they are thin and tall.

الطفل المعطل



The spoiled kid (that's my nickname)



أنا امرأة بديعة ابتكرت كل شيء بالمرء
 وكان في الصويرة والموبيد
 طنجيرة تولى...

ما لفتني الصبح على
 طنجيرة بلحا
 بار 2013 م
 كلها بيضاء بيضاء - ما لفتني الصبح

منذ صغار عمار اول مرة اتلجبت

- Yesterday where Ammar is staying it snowed for the first time.
- Haven't you seen the snow in Damascus in 2013? It became all white, it looked really great!
- Last time I remember snow it was when I was at the center, (in Yarmouk camp), and there was a Sobia*, where beans in a big pot were being cooked.

* An old fashioned metal heater that used to function on wood, and later with fuel. (Kerosine)



I have been living for a year in the Netherlands, I speak Dutch pretty well by now. I originally speak Arabic, (Lebanese and Syrian), and I speak English. I like dancing a lot, like Dabké for instance and honestly, I don't like women. This fact helped me get my permit to stay in the Netherlands as a refugee more easily.

My mother is from Shiah, and my father is from a little village situated on the borders between Syria and Lebanon.





اس وقت صارت بالبواریل



نزلت صورت علی الفیس
فہ سے بیگینی

کہ بسا لہن
الامبا

پتھلیم
کم یوم

وہ سکلیم - ممکن ہے کہ یہ بھی میں اسم کثیر قولیا المور - اور یہ کہوں
سکرانہ سکوی میں سکلیم

میں حاصل صورتها مع صاحبها
ما صلا (جلیبها علی صورتها

هو کلا کہ بیگزیکرا وہی صورتها

مے میں جزء من هو ضربا

face book علی

My friend has made it to Brazil. She posted a picture on facebook in her bikini. And in the Samba outfit. Every day she puts up something, and then she removes them back. Maybe she realizes later that it's a bit too much, that her pictures are too strong. Or maybe she would be drunk a little when she posts them.

She has posted recently her picture with her boyfriend, her feet on his chest, as if he was having sexual intercourse with her while she made that picture, we could even see a part of her hips on facebook.



انا شو بتعني
حلب؟

ما بتعني شي .
صوه قلبك بالنسبة ليهين؟

قلت بتعني حارة العارز فريه
يلبي كنا نطلع ، نطبق بنات فبرها ، ونطلع كل الكافات
نبرها... وبتعني بيتي وبيت ستي. بيت ستي نباع
ما بقا يعني... غير هيلو حلب ما بتعني شي .
انا حاصلي بح نيا شي و مرفقة ..

What does Aleppo mean to me? Nothing.

What is Aleppo for me?

For instance I like the neighborhood and the street of al Azariyeh where we used to go out to hang out with and meet girls. We used to go to the cafés there.

What matters and means to me are my house, and the house of my grandmother. The house of my grandmother actually has been sold, so it doesn't mean anything to me anymore.

Other than this, Aleppo doesn't mean anything to me.

I am emotional, but there are (political) things that disgust me (from Syria)...

I believe Syria is for Assad, not for the people, so I stopped relating to it.



I used to be a midwife, meaning that half of Damascus's women gave birth "under my hand" (meaning, I helped them give birth).



My daughters are with me in Morocco, and I have two boys, they stayed with their mom in Baalbek, in Lebanon. I am trying to bring them all to Morocco, in this case I will have to arrange two houses: one for my Moroccan wife with our two daughters, and one for my Syrian wife, with our two boys.
Ali & his daughters in Morocco,
2015, near Casablanca



I have studied in Latakya



ساقول شقی
دما شمر
آرام امانت
کامیاب شوی
آرامی کامیاب
درستی به ناموریت
و بلوغ شوی لغاری

What we smoked first was “Hamra”*, during university days, we used to smoke in secret. These were the nicest days. I have studied in Daraa (the city), and our town is called Al Gharyeh.

* Cigarettes' brand



تو مل تقصیر بالمصری

بدي تجوز مرة فوارة

بي ودة سوية كذا لكاتب

أول يوم امت، صفة

كنا بي يوم امت

كنا لكاتب على صفا

ما هو ودية

قال ليها

لو عازا

تفهم علينا

هالشيء

فأكتبنا بترنا

مرفعت ما كنت بترنا

لمسرة العوام

مرفوعة ٢٠١١
تجوز

What is the relationship between the veiled (woman) and the liberated woman?

I want to marry a Dutch woman.

There was a Syrian woman with us in the camp, she came first day wearing a scarf, and next day she showed up without a scarf.

So the Dutch woman (a responsible in the camp) told her:

- "If tradition obliged us to do something, we won't quit it".

So the third day she came back to the camp wearing her scarf.

(Netherlands, July 2016)



جسد الورد
أولادها
الذليل
تتم لها
على مكان
ما عشت
اسمها
سبحها
تومى
بالحق
فانتم على
في ذاتها
وردي القم
وقد فداها
على بعد

I want my two children to know where my first son was buried.

After he passed away I don't dream of anything except that he gets buried properly, and that I would be able to visit him and take flowers to him.



أعجاب الألفية
كانت مازية ثم قد
م. حروقة بحمالها
أوتجول شعر
وصلت عاقبها لبرابرة
وأبو الواسق كان صديق

عنان النافذة
عند ما صبحت أبا الواسق عالت
• مت، فقل شفتك فقد ذكرتك في الشعر
وغير الثواب ذيل في فنون

Inan al Natifiyyah was a “Jaryah” (a sort of a female slave, an Odalisque), she used to be famous for her beauty. Even Haroun el Rachid heard about her. And the famous poet Abu Nawwas was in love with her. When she wrote a satirical poetry piece to him she said:

-“Die whenever you want since I have mentioned you in my poetry and pull from pride the dresses of your tail “

بلو مہرور



A wasted country

انا اعد من
اول دفعات

مبدا دول
الشرية
2015

عيا املكو
مبتين
المن على
2015



هولندا
2015

I am counted with (as) one of the first groups of refugees who arrived, in the last two months, in 2015, more refugees have arrived than in all the year of 2014.
(Netherlands, 2015)



عبدالله
19/10/2019
الرجل - عيني
والجانب
جاءت من المراتح
أو جسم (الرجل)
عيني (الرجل) والرجل
الرجل والرجل

I studied to be a lawyer.

I left Yermouk camp since the beginning, otherwise I would have died from hunger, or poisoned (if I ate a cat to survive), they have made people suffer from hunger so much, while the camp is under siege.



Beirut, Sabra camp, January, 2016



الأستاذ
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الأستاذ
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الأستاذ
الأستاذ

ع. ت. ج. 11
Mamba 201

My accent (when I speak) is that of prisoners, because I spent 16 years in jails, I have learned a special language, or a special accent. IT does not belong to a certain region in Syria, but to the country of jails there.
(Istanbul 2016)

منا مينا بان لسان
 من شي سة
 قهرينا
 مفا مر بالصبارات
 مفا مر حيسا
 ودرور وكنيز لامباي
 منا كرم كنان هاتيا
 من نيرة لاديه هاتيا
 كلا شري



We came to Lebanon since a year, we are car traders, we have Mercedes, and Daewoo, we have many kinds of cars to rent out, we rent them out in Lebanon currently, and they have legal Lebanese numbers all of them. Everything is legal.

تعرني حلياً . بيمروني كتن صونال
في مسجدين ، في سين .

كنت أعلم نياي دالبي ، بعلات .
أنا أم نصال ، أنا وبناتي بيمرونا
كلنا .

أنا ماليج بالمغرب . بسس بقيا ابي
فلميا . ليينان . وفتنا كلنا تركناهم .

جوري من ميمروني .
هريتا من نينا ، بالجر على تركيا !
البيروني .

لنا بصيما على اليتامة بالمغرب
اشترينا شقة بالمغرب . وحالياً بالمغرب
الإقامة بالمغرب



- Do you know Halba? They all know me there in Halba, it has Christians, and Sunnis ... I used to take for them underwear, pajamas, I am a street vendor ...

My name is Um Nidal, and everyone knows us (my daughters and I) in Halba.

I am currently in Morocco, but my son had to stay in Halba in Lebanon.

We all left Homs (in Syria), my husband is from Hayy Baalabeh (the Baalbeh neighborhood)

We escaped Lebanon by sea to Turkey, then we took a plane to Jazira and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. Finally we stamped for "a refugee status" in Morocco. We bought a house here and now we are waiting for our papers.



أنا كنت صديق يوسف
سليم يديا و كنت راكع
بصالحه نصية
عن دبري بظلمة (مخاطبة)

حاليا أنا و مريتا و ولدني بالمغرب -
صاحبه بلدا الثاني مع بالمغرب
أولدي تسمى كان مدغم سيارا بالبروجيا .
المغرب للموسمية على شهر بظلمة التي و دهم . كان أنا مريضا

I used to have sheep, I used to be a shepherd at Deir Baalabeh.

We are currently (my wife, my children and I) in Morocco.

In Homs (Syria), my children used to rent out cars.

In Morocco, the council for refugees gives me a thousand Dirhams a month, but I am sick. (I need to buy medicine...)

