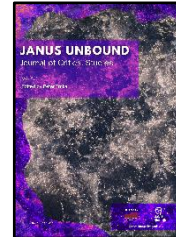


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هل نلتقي

هل نلتقي لو أن هذي الحرب يوماً تنتهي؟
هل نلتقي في شارع المختار، في حي الرمال أو الكرامة
هل نلتقي، في دهشة الكورنيش نرشف شاينا والفسق الحلي
يروى ما تبقى من قشيب للغيم شوقاً لليامة

هل نلتقي لو تنتهي
هذي الحروبُ بذلك المقهى العتيق
نطل نحو كنيسة ألفت على (كاتب ولاية)
دهشة الدمع الأنيق؟
ونعود نحمل كل أسرار البنفسج للمخيم
إننا عدنا
كأنا لم نغادر لحظة
هل نلتقي؟
أم أننا سنموث مثل الياسمين بحارة النسيان

هل نلتقي؟
وإذا التقينا هل نلاقي ذكريات الروح في وجع المكان
هل نلتقي؟
أم أن لقينا خيال الماء في وجع

Shall we meet?

Shall we meet
if ever this war were to end?
Shall we meet on Al-Mukhtar Street,
in the alleys of Remal or Karama?
Shall we meet, astonished, along the corniche,
sipping our tea
as the Damascene pistachio
tells the last soft tales of cloud,
and its yearning for the dove?
Shall we meet
if these wars at last subside,
within that weathered café
that gazes gently toward a church
which once bestowed upon
a scribbler of exile
the astonishment of noble tears?
Shall we return,
bearing all the violet's secrets
to the camp,
saying, We are home,
as if we had never left,
not even for a breath of time?
Shall we meet?
Or shall we, like the jasmine,
perish in the alleys of forgetting?
Shall we meet?
And if we do,
shall we still find the soul's memories
in the ache of place?
Shall we meet?
Or is our meeting
a mirage,
like water
shimmering in the pain of light?

Shall we meet?

Biography

Maryam Qawash is a Palestinian poet born in the Nuseirat Refugee Camp in Gaza on October 29, 1988. She earned her PhD in the Philosophy of Literature from Tanta University in Egypt. Qawash has published several poetry collections, including *Seven Lean Years* (2017), *As the Quail Walks* (2019), and *Letters to the Orange* (2021). Her works have received many awards, such as the Palestine International Poetry Prize (2021) and the Mediterranean International Poetry Award in Rome (2022).

Bilal Hamamra has a PhD in Early Modern Drama from the University of Lancaster, UK and is currently an associate professor of English literature in the Department of English Language and Literature, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine. His research interests are in Early Modern Drama, Shakespeare, Palestinian literature, women's writings and gender and trauma studies.