

Tishuash

by Badi

(roughly 'nostalgia', but perhaps more correctly, 'the pleasure of remembering things that are past.')

All that has been has gone,
(how great the living and everlasting God!)
but how beautiful this scene is!

I see it sometimes –
no particular place –
just there with the goats,
like those nights I spent
at the mouth of a well,
making the wet sand my bed.
Enchanted by night's music:
the howl of wild dogs
and insects' whine.

Or in the watering season,
when the wheat is still to produce its seed,
I am there in the midst of the life of the camp,
doing some little thing about which you do not need to ask.

Or there we are
travelling in the dark before dawn,
from one stopping place to the next,
the only sound the swishing of camels' tails
before the sun has risen to our eye line;
walking on to those first lucid hours of the day
when the desert's features are clearest,
knowing both rocky valley
and the smooth.

And there again is the taste of tea,
flavoured with *da'i*,
in water sourced from the valley floor after the rains
or scooped from pools on concave rocks
where a river had run before;
when we were moving our camp from a dried-up well,
where the only firewood left was no better than kindling;
and I can smell that animal hide next to the spit
and see the clean bones beside that hide.

How come, my brother, you do not remember this;
the sweet life full of living?

It is no longer with us,
and if tishuash could bring it back
it would add tishuash
to the tishuash
of my tishuash.

Tishuash
Badi

التيشواش
بادي

الدايم ما غلى منو زي
حاضر ما حاضر فيه اواش
بل ثراه ماسيه فراش
بهانيس و حس الخشاش
زرعو ما فات طللس لعراش
ثاني ما عينك فالتنباش
تفاق مراكييو تتناش
العين المعالم فراش
منها فملاس و لا فحراش
من تورطة وللا من ماش
ماه قليل و حطبو قشقاش
و اعظام حذا ذاك افراش
هذا من شي لذيد نعاش

مات الماضي سبحان الحي
عييت نشوفو ما هو فاي
كيف نبات على فم حسي
فالليل ينهول عنك عي
و الله ياللاك دهر اري
لفرقان الحية و شوي
فسرية من حي الى حي
قبل ظهور الشمس على ري
ينظرها ما خافيه ودي
و اتاي على ما فيه الطي
قيق بعيد اهلو من لحفي
و افراش حذا بلد الشي
عنك ما تتفق يا حي