



from *If I must Worship a God*

(To *Fatima Roshan*)

... My grandmother's god is  
my god  
She who used to offer me  
a sweet pomegranate on a plate  
and ask me not to let a kernel  
fall to the floor  
because in every pomegranate God puts  
a kernel from the pomegranate of paradise.

... I told her :  
Do you know, Grandmother  
That two thirds of the human body  
is water ?  
She said:  
No, two thirds of it is tears

**Monzer Masri (b. 1949)**

*translated from the Arabic  
by Sinan Antoon*

من إن كان مُحْتَمًا عَلَيَّ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ إِلَهًا

(إلى فاطمة روشن)

... إِلَهُ جَدَّتِي هُوَ إِلَهِي  
مَنْ كَانَتْ تُقَدِّمُ لِي  
رَمَانَةً حُلْوَةً عَلَى طَبَقٍ  
وَتُوصِينِي أَلَّا أُتْرِكَ حَبَّةً مِنْهَا تَقَعُ عَلَى الْبَلَاطِ  
لَأَنَّ اللَّهَ يَضَعُ فِي كُلِّ رَمَانَةٍ  
حَبَّةً مِنْ رَمَانِ الْجَنَّةِ.

... قُلْتُ لَهَا : هَلْ تَعْلَمِينَ يَا جَدَّتِي  
أَنَّ ثُلُثِي جَسَدِ الْإِنْسَانِ  
مَاءٌ ؟  
قَالَتْ : لَا ... بَلْ ثُلُثَاهُ  
دُمُوعٌ ..

منذر مصري

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