

from Exile

....All this,
As if we're still in Mafraq or Salt
In Kerak or Ramtha
As if we never crossed northern borders
To the big cities
And the coastlines
Where war rages
The sea surges
And the strangers grab each other
By the collar,
Or fire their guns
From balconies
Into the clotheslines.

Beruit 29.1.82

Amjad Nasser (b. 1955)
*translated from Arabic
by Ibrahim Muhawi.*

من "منفى"

(...) كل ذلك،
كأننا ما نزال في المفرق أو السلط،
في الكرك أو الرمثا.
كأننا ما اجتزنا حدود الشمال
إلى المدن الكبرى والسواحل.
حيث تُهدرُ حُرَبٌ
ويهدرُ بحرٌ
ويمسكُ الغرباءُ بعضهم بعضاً من الياقات
أو يطلقون الرصاصَ
من شرفاتهم
على حبال الغسيل.

بيروت 1982/1/29

أمجد ناصر

From "Modern Poetry in Translation", number 17, edited by Daniel Weissbort and Stephen Watts, published by King's College London 2001. Reprinted by permission.

Poems for...one world

<https://poemsforthewall.org>



This project is
supported
by the
Baring Foundation

