Dagaal sokeeye, dal shisheeya iyo dareenkeyga

Civil War, the Land of Strangers, and My Feelings

Adan Omar Mohamed

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Hibashadii Afrikaa

Illayn dunidu waa hawl halgan loogu jiro oo harraad kama dhammaatee Alla yayna haga oo hirka noo horseedoo higsada inna yadhiyey?

Hawraar horaa tidhi hurdo habar ma korisoo hilbo kaama saartee halgan loo midoobaa hankah lagu yidhaahdaa ama lagu hodomaa e Alla yayna haga oo hirka noo horseedoo higsada inna yadhiyey?

Hurdaayoow war iga hoo hoheey wayda iga qabo meel laga hayaamaad ubad u hadhinaysaa hoosaasinaysaa ragna wuu hiraabtoo haadduu la duulaa halgan buu ku noolyahay

Longing for Africa

Surely the world is nothing but hard work, a continuous struggle and never-ending thirst, but I believe that we can be guided and aspire to a better future.

An old saying says that sleep cannot make an old person young and strong again. It is only a unified struggle that can yield success and bring about a happy end.

Oh you who are sleeping, let me tell you, take in these words of mine, you are leading the young ones to a forsaken place and deceiving them! Other men have left early in the morning,
hoheey inu horuu mare
Alla yaa ku haga oo
hurdo kuuma taalee
haahaabo kugu yidhi!

with the early birds!
Their whole life is a struggle
to make progress.
I believe that we can be guided.
You are not in a position to sleep
and
must have higher aspirations!

Hoheey hiil la’aantay!
cidi iguma heerroo
hawraansan ima tidhi
anna hiif ma daayoo
hilbahaygan kala qalan
wadhnahayga hurayee
oday heego joogiyo
inta wiil halyey jira
habar iyo hadhaagaba
anigaan hareeraha
midna hebel ku odhanayn
midna haan ku sheegeyn
Afrikaygu hibatee
hiil maw gelaysaan.
Inta hiif ku noolee
imho hililiqdaahay
inta loo heshiiyee
hug madow habeennimo
hilbahoodii lagu guray
Afrikaygu hibatee
hiil maw gelaysaan?!?

How unsupported I feel!
There is no one around here
who takes my advice,
and I keep lamenting
my tortured body
and my burning heart.
You, elders, male and female, and
strong young men,
without me having to look around
and calling anyone by name
or mentioning who is related and
who is not,
Africa is in need!
Will you come to its aid?
How many are those
whose lives are full of hardship and
tears
or whose bodies were thrown into
deep holes
by conspirators, in the dead of night.
Africa is in need!
Will you come to its aid?

Inta halac u dhimaney
intay haaddu hiigey
inta wiil haggastee
hoy iyo guri hayn
Afrikaygu hibatee
hiil maw gelaysaan?!?

How many are those on whose flesh
birds of prey have fed
or who have died of hardship,
boys who went malnourished,
without hearth or home!
Africa is in need!
Will you come to its aid?

Inta hanad la huurshee
meel lagu hadhuudhshiyoo
haadaamo loo qoday
hooyooyinkoodiyo

Countless are the heroes
who were suffocated,
silenced, and trapped,
whose mothers and sisters
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Hablighi la sharaftiray.  
Eheladan la hiife.  
Handadaada lagu diley.  
Hiil maw geleysaan?!

Hadal haan ma buuxshoo.  
Hankah laguma yidhi ee.  
Heeryada ma tuurnaa.  
Maysu habar wacanna?

Hantideenan haadka cunay.  
Hadaf maw samaynnaa?

Hawraarsan weeyoo.  
Hiilkeed ninkii lihi.  
Hareertayda joogoo.  
Haa-dayda haayoo.

Loo kala hadhaynin.  
Iyadoon huruuf jirin.  
Innaa qo qo mheeyay.  
Midaan haybad siinayn.

Midaan habar u eegayn.  
Midaan habar u yeeleyn.  
Midaan haan ku sheegeyn.  
Hadaafkaan mideyniyo.

Hal maysku noqonnaa?

“Words alone cannot fill a water vessel!”  
Or bring satisfaction.

To throw this burden off our shoulders,  
shall we form an alliance?

To protect this property of ours,  
on which birds of prey feed,  
shall we define our purpose?!

Let this be our agreement  
and let him who can help  
and is close to me  
and hears my poem  
do so without rancour  
or mutual antipathy.  
Special privileges for no one  
without contempt for anyone  
without imposing clan identity on anyone.

Can we establish common principles  
and be one?!

Dibjir

Dabci mahaan aqoon jirey.  
Degaan Duunyo iyo Dawyo waxaani.  
Derisadaydii uga imi.  
Duul i garanaa yaa oo aan.  
Debed la heeabaabtaa.  
Waa dagaal niciye.

Dugsi kuwaan la tegey oo.  
Da’yari door is garanayney.  
Dabci miduu walaakay ka dhiigay.  
Nin iyo Dookhiise.  
Waxaan Dahabo hooyo uga imi.  
Debecsanow aabe.

Oo aan debed la heeabaabayaa.

A Pauper

A region, wells, property.  
I have known from birth,  
Neighbors I left behind,  
people who knew me—

I am wandering about abroad  
because I hate war.

Why I left the people  
with whom I went to school  
and knew when I was little,  
who were like brothers to me

from the time I was born,  
each with his own idiosyncrasies;  
Why I left my mother Dahabo.
Waa dagaal niciye. and my kind-hearted father—
The reason I wander about abroad
is because I hate war.

Ma dugsadeen duleed duur cidla ah
laaygu dabajoogo,
Ma dugsadeen digniin lay daldalo
maydga derriskeeeya,
Ma dugsadeen degaan aan irabin
diigsi iyo liide,
Ma dugsadeen askari ii danla’ oo
dawga igu baad leh
Ma dugsadeen dedaalkaygi hore
daadi layyiriye,
Ma dugsadeen dantaa igu qasbiye
wax aana dooneyne,
Diiwaanka igu qora dibnuhu way
dardhanayane
Dibjir waxaan ku ahay daar cad iyo
dabaqyo dhaadheere.

I would not have taken refuge
in a deserted, Godforsaken place
with people chasing me.
I would not have taken refuge in a
place where
I live under constant threat and my
neighbors are being killed.
I would not have taken refuge in a
place that does not want me and debases
me.
I would not have taken refuge in a
place in which
policemen who do not have my
interest at heart
only want to harass me.
I would not have taken refuge in a
place where no one will acknowledge my
previous accomplishments.
I would not have taken refuge in a
place where necessity forces me to do
what I never wanted.
I write these verses
from lips quivering with anger.
I am a pauper,
living in a beautiful white house
with many stories!

Gacallaawe

Geyigaan ku noolahay
Gawaan laga geyoonaynba,
Gabadanadu waxay dishaa,
Geed nin kaan gelino
Gedgedoonka gacantuu fidshiyo,
Guux ku hadalkiisa,
Go’ii uu habeekii huwadey,

Single Life

The land on which we live
in a desolate space,
it is the shelterless
who perish,
restless and turning
from side to side,
he stretches the hands,
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Gees isaga tuurka
Gogoshiisa baa laga gartaa
Gacal la'aantiisa e
groaning,
he shoves aside
the night's sheet,
the condition of the bedcover
betrays
the absence of a loving companion.

Markii waagu uu galalac yidhi,
Goonyo dhugadkiisa,
Mergiyada ayuu garabka iyo,
Gacanta saaraayo
Indha godan guduutuu
Haddana giirka kiciyaaye
Gasiin subagle gogoshii dugsoon,
Gaari fidinayso,
Gacal uu la sheekaysto ma leh
Wuu gunuuniciye.

At daybreak
he surveys his surroundings
with an exhausted eye
and frowning face,
a nourishing meal and warm
bedding,
an able lover to arrange,
there is no intimate other here,
he is deeply sorrowful.

Gabdho iyo rag waa wadda go'doon,
Guur midkaan heline
Gudcur dam ah gudoodiga haveen,
Gooni socodkaada,
Guuq lagu wada qaba,
Gacal la'aan goonyo dhugadkoodo
Gafuur gocondho yeeshiyo
Gunimo geeri yaa u halise
Guulaan ka beegsaday
In aan doob ku gaamiro dheh.

Women and men stranded,
one who fails to marry,
complete darkness in the midst of
night,
walking alone
a common condition,
no loving and isolation,
mouth bedevilled by poison ivy,
damnation invites death,
I search the alternative
to hardened bachelorhood.

Magan Eebbe

Ca'da gabaygu leeyahay
Cisada calan walayntiisa
Taariikhda caankoo cashada
Lagu calaamayo,
Cimritegay wixii jirey
Ayaad ka citiraftaa e.

The Alpha and rythmn of poetry,
its celebration,
famous history
when displayed,
a bygone epoch
is identified by its legacy.

Mid kaloo la cansaaray oo
Caawa aan dhalanin
Iyo caado dhici doonta
Iyo cusob ka sheekaynta

A history born
or tradition made
or present mulled over,
each has its marks
Waxuu caan ku yahay baa jiroo Ciddina diidayn e.

Anigana caloolyowga
Iyo ciilka igu biiray
Caku calanka boodhaysteyee
Lagu cayaraayo
Ee curadallii uu lahaa
Laysku cidhibgooyey
Cod in aan ka dhiibtaan rabaa
Ciidda gubanayso.

Inta coofle caawada
Cariga ciil la hoganaysa
Ee cuud wixii uu dhaqdiyo
Ubad ka caydhooobeey
Dumar tuu ka caashaqay
Cimrigi Eebbe ku cadsiiyey
Caweys lagu hor ceebaystay
Oon cidi ka ooyeynin
Cadradaha la calafgooyey
Ee haadku ku cashayey
Caqli nimaan lahayn baa is yidhi
Waa ciddaa kale, e
Ka calaacaloo ceebta daya
Cidhib danbeedkeeda
Caarkeeni weeyaan
Waxaa cudud ku cartameysaane.

Inta habar cajuusowdey
Iyo curad agoomowdey
Cagaag lagu maquunshoo
Cawada ciirsi li’i taagan
Ama caraar ku soo dooftay
Ee caydh u hoganaysa
Casho lagu cashuuriyo

Cis li’i ciidda ka lihiba
Carri aanay garanayn
Cidlii eeeshki mahad moodyey
Caqali nimaan lahayn baa is yadhi
Waa ciddaa kale, e
Ka calacaloo ceebta daya

And I in my disconsolation, the rising anger the byproduct of a trashed flag, which is a joke, while its offspring were set to eliminate each other, my intention is to express a view of a land on fire.

Tonight there are many unkempt and wailing, deprived of all of their assets. The women and children they loved, who God created as part of them, were molested before their eyes! While no one cried to support them! Innocents violated, they are reduced to victims for the birds of prey. The mindless says: They belong to the other clan. O people, in opposition to these, Let your voices be heard, witness its shameful consequences. You are gambling away our dignity.

Countless elderly and orphans were forcefully dispossessed. Today, there are helpless others made to flee. On social welfare, they survive, blessed gift, they thought, but the people of the new land despise the practice. The mindless says: They belong to the other clan. O people, against such raise your voices, see its shameful consequences. It is our dignity.
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Cidhib danbeedkeeda
Caarkeeni weeyaan waxaad.
Cudud ku maasheene.

Iyagaan caruus yeelanoo
Cidi u maadeynin
Cishriin ma gaadhaan
Kunkaa loo caloolgalaye
Gidigood “cawaalay” sidaan
Ciilaan hadhiihayn e
Ceebtaa ninkii geysteyow
Sebin colaadeed dheh.

Akhirona ciqaab Eebbahay
Car iyo hoogaaga
Cidi kuuma joogtee ogow
Ehel ku caanshaa e.

Balse malak ciqaab iyo ba’aa
Loo carbiyey huudhin
Cadho Eebbahay camal xumaan
Cadow ku hiigaaya
Oo aan cadaabtuna karayn
Ciriqna kuu dhaafin
Ku calaaqayaa badanin
Oo boqol calaamoodle.

Cabsi baan la diidee cadaab
Cawdu ka Billaahi
Camal ii dhoweyana caku e
Cawdu ka Billaahi.
Calaf eebbahay aanu qorin
Waa cad aan jirin, e
Carshi in aan ku loolamo
Intaan caamada hubayo
Oo dhiig calaacaalaha daro
Caadil mamnoocay
Ciidayda dhaawoco caku e
Cawdu ka Billaahi

which you infringed upon
or offered to an enemy’s soldier.

Without the bond of marriage
and proper festivities,
young girls are
impregnated by the thousands.
All carry a child,
a lasting shame!
Say to those who caused the scandal
This is a time of war.

But on the Day of Judgment
there will be God’s accounting
in the burning fire.
Remember,
you can expect no one
to come to your aid.

An angel programmed to punish
knows no mercy and fatigue,
ever disobeys God’s instructions,
implements God’s anger
to destroy evil,
spares no part of the body.
An expert on crushing,
he comes in hundreds of guises.

I seek God’s protection
from a deed
leading to such Hell fire.
No fate is realized
without God’s design.
I ask God to spare me
from fighting for a chair,
through arming the ignorant
or shedding innocent blood
—which is forbidden by God—
or damaging my land.
Cirka eebbayaygii unkee
Ciidda gogol yeelay
Innagana cadaan iyo madow
Qoloba cayn yeelay
Calaf nooma waayin,e
Wuxuu qolo u caydheyay
Ha is caawinsadeen weeya oo
cudud ha yeesheen e
Casrigaan ku noolahay
Cabsiis cago-juglayntiisa
Cimlaaqyadu ka ceeshaan
Cakuye cawdu ka Billaahi.

God, the Creator of the skies,
laid the whole earth
black and white,
gave each a particularity.
Omnipotent,
He made some poor,
others disabled,
in order for us to build solidarity,
the basis for a viable community.
I seek God’s protection
from the time in which we live,
where the strong threatens
and eats alone.

Deyoow

Nin deyoobay doorsamay caqligu
dawgi ka habaabay
Diiftiisa garanayn halkay doogtu
kaga taalo

Duulkii nadaaddihi yidhaa wey ka
darayaane

People who say to him “Lead us”
will surely worsen their condition.

Treachery

Nin dagaal darwiish lagu yidhoo
dabici shaydaan leh
Abidkii dirgiigixin denbiga derejo
moodaaya
Duulkii na daadihi yidhaa wey ka
darayaane

He is someone who is glorified in
war
but has evil intentions,
who confuses virtue
with the application of cruelty
and bad faith.
People who say to him “Lead us”
will surely worsen their condition.

Nin dilala doodduu yidhiyo
duubka kor u saaran
Oo daroogo diyo loogu daray laba
isdooxaaya

Duulkii nadaadihi yidhaa wey ka
darayaane

He is someone whose opinions are
for sale
yet wears a pious turban high on his
head,
the one who benefits from social
poison
and mutual predation,
People who say to him “Lead us”
will surely worsen their condition.
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Nin daliil aan jirin diinta yidhi dago
ku soo dhiiba
Oo ducufal iimaanka yidhi nebigi
bay i doortay
Duulkii na daadihi yidhaa wey ka
darayaane

He is someone who calls upon false
testimony
and demands gifts
through religion
and claims
that the prophet deputized him,
People who say to him “Lead us”
will surely worsen their condition.

Afartaa da’leyda ah haddana diiqay
nolosheena
Nin walow intaad dabada gelin digo
ku naaxaaga
Dalku in uu hagaaga ma rabee waan
damirayaa dhee

Those who undermined our
existence,
let those who protect them,
who enrich themselves
through mischief,
admit they are against development
in the land,
admit that they are destroyers.

Notes
1. Lidwien Kapteijns and Ahmed I. Samatar contributed to the translations. Part two of
Aden Omar Mohamed’s poetic compositions will appear in a future volume of Bildhaan.