



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 أن أَعْبُدَ إِلَهًا
(إلى فاطمة روشن)

... إِلَهٌ 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.

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

منذر مصري

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