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Arab Writers in Foreign Languages (2)



# A Poem in a Bottle

Haiku and Senryū Poems

Mahmoud Al-Rajabi

**Arab Writers in Foreign Languages Series (2)**

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## PREFACE

For me, meaning is the most important thing I strive for preserving in Haiku writing.

I believe that Haiku must have meaning, and this meaning must be a formative material at the hands of the Haikist.

I believe that Haiku depends on image, but Haiku is not an image or drawing without meaning. It must contain meaning that comes out of the image. Meaning must be a product of mixing the following components of the Haiku: simplicity, feeling, tune, subject, theme, and intention, moral.

Haiku consists of describing a scene that everyone sees every day, but in an amazing way that they have not even thought of.

Haiku relates to the vision and insight, not to the mere sense of sight. It is about an event, and not about who is able to make an event. It is represented in what is hidden behind-the-scenes and in the scene.

No one else has the same eyes as yours, the same thoughts you have, the same feelings you experience and the same reactions as you respond with. You are different by just being yourself.

Close your mind. Close your eyes.  
See with your heart to feel what others  
can only see.

Praying that the eyes of your heart  
would be enlightened

**Mahmoud Al-Rajabi**

## **Blind**

**Alone like a desert tree**

**I'm just too blind to see**

**The inner light in me!!**

## **Darkness**

**I'll wear the darkness**

**No stars to lead into me**

**Before the madness!!**

## **Death**

**Heat burns the dead meat**

**On a fire of war and sadness**

**Death comes to eat!!**

## **Green**

**Green eyes**

**Of the lady in red**

**Lightning struck my head!!**

## **The soul**

**By the knife of time**

**The soul parts lie motionless**

**Facing the current of life!!**

## **Tree**

**Time after time**

**My heart is a lonely tree**

**Waiting for a love's bee!!**

## **Two**

**Two faces in the dark**

**Body, soul and the net**

**Have they ever met?!**

**Nothing new**

**An old sadness is dying**

**The wings of tears will be flying**

**Nothing new, thinking of you!!**

## **Lovebirds**

**The bird of sadness**

**Left the nest of my heart**

**For two lovebirds to start!!**

## **Moonlight**

**Summer moonlight-**

**The smell of jasmine fills the night**

**Changing the beats of my heart!!**

## **Words**

**Waves are words for me**

**Listen to the sound of the sea**

**It is time to be free!!**

## **Lonely**

**A lonely heart in the dark**

**A moon that left the night scene**

**And never came back!!**

## **Imagination**

**Like birds in the sky**

**Let's go mad and high**

**Imagination gives us wings!!**

## **Three**

**I'm the holy three**

**Spirit, Soul and Body**

**Who is truly me?!**

## Key

**I don't know me**

**I'm not sure what I'm**

**I don't have my soul key!!**

**A feather**

**Like a feather in the wind**

**The river of life**

**Is still running!!**

**The end**

**Hearts on the road**

**Eyes on the end**

**We lose everything!!**

## **Your eyes**

**I'll give you a surprise**

**I can see the hidden green birds**

**Don't close your eyes!!**

## **Free**

**We are here as one**

**Death is the way to be free**

**Soul, body and me!!**

## **Time**

**I'm not blind to see**

**The mountain has defeated time**

**Time will defeat me!!**

## **Ringtone**

**Waiting for the ringtone**

**No built-in missed call in death's phone**

**The only choice is to answer!!**

## **Goodbye**

**Two moons in the sky**

**One left your eyes**

**The other is waving goodbye!!**

## **Together**

**A butterfly is in my heart**

**A flower is in your heart**

**We must stick together!!**

## **Silence**

**Nature is speaking**

**Listen to the sound of silence**

**Death is the real silence!!**

## **Number**

**You are just a number**

**Time is just a number**

**In death's phonebook!!**

## **Mountain**

**Yellow face and blue hair**

**An old lady washes dirty mountain  
heads**

**With water and foam clouds!!**

## **Tomorrow**

**The lonely sparrow**

**Is singing all day long**

**As if there were no tomorrow!!**

## **The first**

**On winter mornings**

**Without any warnings**

**Sadness is the first arrival!!**

## **Home**

**Like a turtle**

**Carrying her only home**

**I'm the only home of sadness!!**

## **The Umbrella**

**Whenever I open my wardrobe**

**The umbrella feels dizzy and falls alone;**

**It is nostalgia for the rain!!**

## **A bird**

**A bird without a nest**

**Doesn't know how to love, he lands**

**Every day on a new tree!!**

## **Wars**

**In the wars of others,**

**We fight, while we forget**

**The endless war breaking inside us!!**

## **Tonight**

**The devil is busy tonight**

**Come, my love, before the morning light**

**And we will be alone!!**

## **Forecast**

**The weather forecast in my heart:**

**The temperature of sadness tends to rise,**

**Rainy clouds in the eyes!!**

## **Mirror**

**As we stand face to face**

**There's nothing uglier than us**

**In the mirror of our souls!!**

## **Culture**

**The night is still ahead**

**Making love is a civilized behavior**

**Let's learn (culture of bed)!!**

## **Painting**

**Let me draw you**

**The painting is nothing more than**

**Arresting a moment of you forever!!**

## **My life**

**No one can describe**

**The impossible, How can I**

**Describe my life without you?!**

## **Hate**

**I loved you as a whole woman,**

**But I'll hate you**

**Piece by piece!!**

## **Snowman**

**Snowman is like a tree**

**It will grow in the snow**

**On the white fields!!**

## **Mask**

**In the spring**

**The flower wears a face mask**

**!!Made of a butterfly's wing**

## **Snake**

**The blue snake is moving**

**Death is like a river**

**That keeps life running!!**

## **Rain**

**Winter's rain, birds' sound**

**And the silence of darkness**

**Are an invitation to sadness!!**

## **Wolf**

**The sky wears the darkness**

**The wolf is screaming inside me**

**Listen to the moon of silence!!**

## **Dreams**

**Birds sing for the trees**

**What they saw while sleeping**

**To interpret their dreams!!**

## **Bird**

**I'm like a bird,**

**I have a song to sing,**

**Don't cut my wings!!**

## **Insomnia**

**All night long on my bed**

**The sound of a water droplet**

**Hammers in my head!!**

## **Perfume**

**Flower shaped necklace**

**And your own flower perfume**

**Butterflies will land on you!!**

## Love

**Flowers between me and you**

**Which is the real flower of you?**

**All butterflies are confused!!**

## **Pretend**

**The easily breakable wheat spikes**

**Will bend down with their heads**

**To deceive the winds!!**

## About the Author

Mahmoud Al-Rajabi (1964-) is a contemporary Jordanian writer. He writes poetry, short fiction, epigrams, fragments, haiku, senryu, tanka, and haibun. He is the admin of many facebook groups concerned with contemporary Arabic literature. Since 1987, he has published more than 60 books in Arabic. He is also the author of four books published in this series. He is the editor of an Arabic journal devoted to haiku poetry, called Arabic Haiku Journal.

## **Books Published in this series**

**1- Khaled M.Kh.S Alnobani, *Tomorrow is Another Day*, Short Fiction. Ketabat Jadidah**

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**[http://www.mediafire.com/download/53hng4t6i553z5w/Khaled M.Kh.S Alnobani%2C Tomorrow is Another Day%2C Short Fiction%2C April 2016.pdf](http://www.mediafire.com/download/53hng4t6i553z5w/Khaled_M.Kh.S_Alnobani%2C_Tomorrow_is_Another_Day%2C_Short_Fiction%2C_April_2016.pdf)**

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