

Poetry

Taken in With Void
Saeed Ateeq Al Qubaisi

Translation: **Zalfa Rihani**

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Like a child

Like an orphan grew in the void

Like the closeness of void

The need of this void for time

To recall

The need of this void for hope

To hold

I love you

Like the shroud of void

You are in my mind

So do

Make me full of your warmth

And soon after that

Your being

In the void pour

Where longings disquiet

To the pulse of void

Like void

As always

I am desolate

So author my birth in words

Maybe

Life

When it pours

Will sprout from soil

Surging with memories

A smile

Like the pledge of void

Forgot he was

All waiting for nothing

But

Void

Here comes void

For promises of mouths

Brimmed with life

Not so

To prevail there was void

Like void

Everlasting

I yearn for him
And yearns for me
In a time
Deeming hearts
Urging to each other
In veil
Stifling every void
Innocent
And those partings
Among the minutes
Swindling every meaning of life
Crippling void
From visions in the dream
Until
It has come to be bits of misery
Wandering without hope for
Eternal space
A roaming echo in the void
Floating
I love you

Saeed Ateeq Al Qubaisi is an Emirati poet and writer born in Abu Dhabi. He grew up in a home known for its interest in literature and culture. He wrote poetry at an early age and participated in several poetry contests and recitals, such as the First Poetry Forum of the Gulf for Students (2004), The Emir of Poets Show (2009), and The Hall of Poetry Recital (2010), Sharjah Forum for Arabic Poetry (2011). His first collection of poetry entitled “Taken in With Void” was published in 2011. Currently, Mr. Al Qubaisi works for the Kalima Project, an initiative of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, while continuing his graduate studies.

Zalfa Rihani is a Fulbright scholar from Aleppo, Syria. She has a PhD in English from the University of Toledo and as post-doctoral degree in translation from the University of Arkansas,

where she won the 2002 Lily Peter Translation Award for her translation of Nizar Qabbani' s poetry into English. She worked as assistant professor in the Translation Studies Department at United Arab Emirates University in 2007. Then she joined Translation Bureau, Public Works and Government Services Canada as senior translator and language advisor. Dr. Rihani rejoined UAEU in 2013 as a visiting professor in Translation Studies Department and later as assistant professor in the same department.