بینات علی تذکرة مسجون

Details on a Prisoner's Ticket

Name: Sabir الاسم : صابر

Charge: Egyptian التهمة : مصري

Age: Youngest age of my time

despite the white locks which fall in tresses رغم انسدال الشيب ضفاير ضفاير

from my head to my waist من شوشتی لما تحت خصری

Occupation: Inheritor from my long-ago ancestors المهنة : وارث عن جدودي الزمان

of the making of culture, administration, and loyalty صنع الحضارة والنضارة والامان

Complexion: wheat-colored البشرة : قمحي

Stature: like a spear

Hair: rougher than dried clover الشعر: أخشن م الدريس

Eye-color: deep black لون العيون: اسود غطيس

Nose: protruding like a horse الأنف: نافر كالحصان

Mouth: Stayed put in place الفم: ثابت في المكان

when I went to move it from its place, what happened happened

Place of birth: in any darkened room جهة الميلاد: في أي اوضه مضلمة

under the sky....on the ground of Egypt تحت السما ... على ارض مصر

in any house in the middle of the palm-trees

where the Nile runs مطرح ما يجري النيل

as long as it's not a palace مدام مایکونش قصر

Sentence: The sentence is for 7,000 years الحكم من سبعتلاف سنة

to lie imprisoned وانا راقد سجين

wearing down the stone on my teeth اطحن على ضراسي الحجر

out of boredom, and spend the night sad

: Note ملحوظة

? سألنى سائل حبستك طالت وليه ؟ The questioner asked me: Your imprisonment has lasted long, why?

--Because I'm good, a real joker, and what not

There is no crime I have committed against the law

Because I am afraid and the law is a sword in his hand لأنبى خايف والقانون سيفه ف ايديه

Ask the secret police about me any time

You'll hear & understand my story, from A to Z:

The name: Sabir (patient) with misfortune, Job, an ass

carrying loads is my fate and expectation شيل الحمول من قسمتي والانتظار

I drown in rivers of sweat all day long اغرق ف انهار العرق طول النهار

and roll up my care in the evening and sleep on it والم همي في المسا وارقد عليه

?عرفت ليه؟ Have you understood yet

Talk is Bitter

مُر الكلام

Poem: Ahmad Fu'ad Nagm

Music: Sheikh Imam

Talk is bitter, like a sword

it cuts where it passes

As for flattery, it's easy and comfortable

Submissive but harmful

The word is a debt without hands

except in fulfillment to the free

(which only engages those who are free)