

In honour, support and solidarity of the persecuted Palestinian people I want to highlight one of its great poets and writers, namely *Mahmoud Darwish*.

Many people feel very powerless in this situation seeing the unimaginable suffering taking place in Gaza right now, and the increasing difficult situation in the occupied West Bank. I urge everyone to do something; sign petitions, donate and support a human rights organization such as Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors without Borders, talk about it, demonstrate etc. Everybody can do something!

Mahmoud Darwish lived from 1941 to 2008 and was regarded the Palestinian national poet. He was born in Al-Birwe, Palestine in 1941 and had to flee with his family when the land was overtaken and then turned into the state of Israel in 1948.

In 1988 Darwish wrote the Palestinian Declaration of Independence, which was the formal declaration for the creation of a State of Palestine. He worked as an editor for newspapers, among them the Egyptian Al-Ahram and wrote numerous texts and poems.

Many of his poems are seemingly simple, but once you read them you can see the layers and feel the symbolism in them. One of my favourites is "I am Yousef" - presented here below both in English, Arabic and Swedish (Swedish translation from Arabic by me). I will also add a link to a clip where he reads the poem himself in Arabic but with English translation in the text.

The story of Yousef/Josef and his 11 brothers are part of both Islam, Judaism and Christianity and is the story Mahmoud Darwish alludes to in his poem "I am Yousef". It should be read with symbolic "glasses", though.

أنا يوسف يا أبي

"Oh my father, I am Yousef" - Mahmoud Darwish

Oh father, my brothers do not love me

They do not want me in their midst

They assault me, cast stones and words at me

They want me to die so they can praise me

They closed the door of your house and left me outside

They expelled me from the field

Oh father, they poisoned my grapes

And they destroyed my toys

When the gentle wind played with my hair, they were jealous

They raged against me and against you

What did I deprive them of, oh father?

Butterflies stopped on my shoulder

Wheat bowed towards me

Birds slept on my palms

What have I done, oh my father?

Why me?

You named me Yousef

They threw me into the well and accused the wolf

The wolf is more merciful than my brothers

Oh father! Did I wrong anyone when I said that:

I saw eleven stars and the sun and the moon, and

I saw them kneeling before me?

أنا يوسف يا أبي
محمود درويش – فلسطين

أنا يوسف يا أبي.
يا أبي، إخوتي لا يحبونني ،
لا يريدونني بينهم يا أبي.

يعتدون علي ويرموني بالحصى والكلام
يريدونني أن أموت لكي يمدحوني
وهم أوصدوا باب بيتك دوني
وهم طردوني من الحقل
هم سمموا عنبي يا أبي
وهم حطّموا لعبي يا أبي

حين مر النسيم ولاعب شعري غاروا
وثاروا علي وثاروا عليك،
فماذا صنعتُ لهم يا أبي؟
الفراشات حطّت علي كنتفي ،
ومالت علي السنابل ،
والطير نامت علي راحتي
فماذا فعلت أنا يا أبي ،
ولماذا أنا ؟

أنت سميتني يوسفًا ،
وهم أوقعوني في الجب ، واتهموا الذئب؛
والذئب أرحم من إخوتي. .
أبتي! هل جنيت علي أحد عندما قلت إني:
رأيت أحد عشر كوكبًا، والشَّمس والقمر، رأيتهم لي ساجدين ؟

Jag är Yousef, o min Fader

Av Mahmoud Darwish, Palestina

Jag är Yousef, o min Fader.

O Fader, mina bröder älskar mig inte,
de vill inte ha mig ibland sig.

De överfaller mig och kastar stenar och ord på mig

De vill att jag ska dö så att de kan lovprisa mig
och de stängde dörren till ditt hem utan mig och
de förvisade mig från fältet

De förgiftade mina druvor, o min Fader
och de förstörde mina leksaker, o Fader

När den svaga brisen lekte i mitt hår,
var de avundsjuka och flammade av vrede mot mig, och mot dig,
så vad förvägrade jag dem, o min Fader?

Fjärilarna landade på min axel
och vetet bugade sig för mig
och fåglarna sov i mina handflator
så vad var det jag hade gjort, o Fader
och varför jag?

Du kallade mig Yousef,
och de slängde ner mig i brunnen och anklagade vargen
när vargen är mer barmhärtig än mina bröder (är)..
O min Fader! Gjorde jag fel mot någon när jag sa att
jag såg elva planeter, solen och månen,
(och att) jag såg dem knäböja inför mig?