

Nizar qabbani essay sample



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Qabbani as a youth.

Nizar Qabbani was born in the Syrian capital of Damascus to a middle class merchant family.[1] Qabbani was raised in Mi'thnah Al-Shahm, one of the neighborhoods of Old Damascus. Qabbani studied at the national Scientific College School in Damascus between 1930 and 1941.[2] The school was owned and run by his father's friend, Ahmad Munif al-Aidi. He later studied law at the Damascus University, which was called Syrian University until 1958. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in law in 1945.[2] While a student in college he wrote his first collection of poems entitled *The Brunette Told Me*. It was a collection of romantic verses that made several startling references to a woman's body, sending shock waves throughout the conservative society in Damascus.[2] To make it more acceptable, Qabbani showed it to Munir al-Ajlani, the minister of education who was also a friend of his father and a leading nationalist leader in Syria. Ajlani liked the poems and endorsed them by writing the preface for Nizar's first book.

Qabbani as a law student in Damascus, 1944.

Diplomatic career

After graduating from law school, Qabbani worked for the Syrian Foreign Ministry, serving as Consul or cultural attaché in several capital cities, including Beirut, Cairo, Istanbul, Madrid, and London. In 1959, when the United Arab Republic was formed, Qabbani was appointed Vice-Secretary of the UAR for its embassies in China. He wrote extensively during these years and his poems from China were some of his finest. He continued to work in the diplomatic field until he tendered his resignation in 1966. By that time, he had established a publishing house in Beirut, which carried his name.

Poetic influences

When Qabbani was 15, his sister, who was 25 at the time, committed suicide because she refused to marry a man she did not love.[3] During her funeral he decided to fight the social conditions he saw as causing her death. When asked whether he was a revolutionary, the poet answered: “ Love in the Arab world is like a prisoner, and I want to set (it) free. I want to free the Arab soul, sense and body with my poetry. The relationships between men and women in our society are not healthy.” He is known as one of the most feminist and progressive intellectuals of his time.[3] The city of Damascus remained a powerful muse in his poetry, most notably in the Jasmine Scent of Damascus.[3] The 1967 Arab defeat also influenced his poetry and his lament for the Arab cause.[3][4] The defeat marked a qualitative shift in Qabbani’s work – from erotic love poems to poems with overt political themes of rejectionism and resistance.[3] For instance, his poem Marginal Notes on the Book of Defeat, a stinging self-criticism of Arab inferiority, drew anger from both the right and left sides of the Arab political dialogue.

Personal life

Qabbani with his family, his parents and brothers.

Family

Nizar Qabbani had two sisters, Wisal and Haifa; he also had three brothers: Mu’taz, Rashid, and Sabah. The latter, Sabah Qabbani, was the most famous after Nizar, becoming director of Syrian radio and TV in 1960 and Syria’s ambassador to the United States in the 1980s. Nizar Qabbani’s father, Tawfiq Qabbani, was Syrian while his mother was of Turkish descent. His father had a chocolate factory; he also helped support fighters resisting the French

mandate of Syria and was imprisoned many times for his views, greatly affecting the upbringing of Nizar into a revolutionary in his own right.

Qabbani's great uncle, Abu Khalil Qabbani, was one of the leading innovators in Arab dramatic literature. [edit]Marriages

Nizar Qabbani was married twice in his life. His first wife was his cousin Zahra Aqbiq; together they had a daughter, Hadba, and a son, Tawfiq. Tawfiq died due to a heart attack when he was 22 years old when he was in London. Qabbani eulogized his son in the famous poem To the Legendary Damascene, Prince Tawfiq Qabbani. Zahra Aqbiq died in 2007. His daughter [Hadba][1], born in 1947, was married twice, and lived in London until her death in April 2009.[5] His second marriage was to an Iraqi woman named Balqis al-Rawi, a schoolteacher whom he met at a poetry recital in Baghdad; she was killed in a bomb attack by guerrillas on the [Iraqi embassy] in Beirut during the Lebanese civil war on 15 December 1981.[2][3] Her death had a severe psychological effect on Qabbani; he expressed his grief in his famous poem Balqis, blaming the entire Arab world for her death. Together they had a son, Omar, and a daughter, Zainab. After the death of Balqis, Qabbani did not marry again.

Late life and death

After the death of Balqis, Qabbani left Beirut. He was moving between Geneva and Paris, eventually settling in London, where he spent the last 15 years of his life.[3] Qabbani continued to write poems and raise controversies and arguments. Notable controversial poems from this period in his life include When Will They Announce the Death of Arabs? and Runners. In 1997, Nizar Qabbani suffered from poor health and briefly

recovered from his sickness in late 1997.[6] A few months later, at the age of 75, Nizar Qabbani died in London on April 30, 1998 of a heart attack.[1][4] In his will, which he wrote in his hospital bed in London, Nizar Qabbani wrote that he wished to be buried in Damascus, which he described in his will as “the womb that taught me poetry, taught me creativity and granted me the alphabet of Jasmine.”[7] Nizar Qabbani was buried in Damascus four days later in Bab Saghir.[7] Qabbani was mourned by Arabs all over the world, with news broadcasts highlighting his illustrious literary career.[7]

Bibliography

Poetry

Qabbani began writing poetry when he was 16 years old; at his own expense, Qabbani published his first book of poems, entitled *The Brunette Told Me* (قالت لي السمراء), while he was a law student at the University of Damascus in 1944. Over the course of a half-century, Qabbani wrote 34 other books of poetry, including: * *Childhood of a Breast* (1948) طفولة نهد

* *Samba* (1949) سامبا

* *You Are Mine* (1950) أنت لي

* *Poems* (1956) قصائد

* *My Beloved* (1961) حبيبتني

* *Drawing with Words* (1966) الرسم بالكلمات

* *Diary of an Indifferent Woman* (1968) يوميات امرأة لا مبالية

* *Savage Poems* (1970) قصائد متوحشة

* *Book of Love* (1970) كتاب الحب

- * 100 Love Letters (1970) مئة رسالة حب
- * Poems Against The Law (1972) أشعار خارجة على القانون
- * I Love You, and the Rest is to Come (1978) أحبك أحبك و البقية تأتي
- * To Beirut the Feminine, With My Love (1978) إلى بيروت الأنثى مع حبي
- * May You Be My Love For Another Year (1978) كل عام وأنت حبيبتي
- * I Testify That There Is No Woman But you (1979) أشهد أن لا امرأة إلا أنت
- * Secret Diaries of Baheyya the Egyptian (1979) اليوميات السرية لبهية المصرية
- * I Write the History of Woman Like So (1981) هكذا أكتب تاريخ النساء
- * The Lover's Dictionary (1981) قاموس العاشقين
- * A Poem For Balqis (1982) قصيدة بلقيس
- * Love Does Not Stop at Red Lights (1985) الحب لا يقف على الضوء الأحمر
- * Insane Poems (1985) أشعار مجنونة
- * Poems Inciting Anger (1986) قصائد مغضوب عليها
- * Love Shall Remain My Lord (1987) سيبقى الحب سيدي
- * The Trilogy of the Children of the Stones (1988) ثلاثية أطفال الحجارة
- * Secret Papers of a Karmathian Lover (1988) الأوراق السرية لعاشق قرمطي
- * Biography of an Arab Executioner (1988) السيرة الذاتية لسياف عربي
- * I Married You, Liberty! (1988) تزوجتك أيتها الحرية
- * A Match in My Hand , And Your Petty Paper Nations (1989) الكبريت في يدي ودويلاتكم من ورق
- * No Victor Other Than Love (1989) لا غالب إلا الحب
- * Do You Hear the Cry of My Sadness? (1991) هل تسمعين صهيل أحزاني ؟
- * Marginal Notes on the Book of Defeat (1991) هوامش على دفتر النكسة
- * I'm One Man and You are a Tribe of Women (1992) أنا رجل واحد وأنت قبيلة من النساء

* Fifty Years of Praising Women (1994) خمسون عاما في مدح النساء

* Nizarian Variations of Arabic Maqam of Love (1995) تنويعات نزارية على مقام

العشق

* Alphabet of Jasmine (1998) أبجدية الياسمين [edit]Other works

He also composed many works of prose, such as My Story with Poetry قصتي

الكلمات تعرف , What Poetry Is ما هو الشعر , مع الشعر

, On Poetry, Sex, and Revolution , Poetry is a

Green Lantern العصفير لا تطلب , الشعر فنديل أخضر

, Birds Don't Require a Visa لعبت بإتقان وها هي مفاتيحي , I Played Perfectly and Here are my Keys

, تأشيرة دخول , المرأة في شعري وفي حياتي , The Woman in My Poetry and My Life

, as well as one play named Republic of Madness Previously Lebanon جمهورية جنونستان

and lyrics of many famous songs of celebrated Arab singers,

including: * Mohammed Abdel Wahab

* Abdel Halim Hafez

* Fairuz

* Kathem Al Saher

* Khalid Al Shy'kh

* Umm Kulthum

* Latifa

* Majida El Roumi

* Asalah