


Despair is the Enemy of Humankind

Love is the Way To God



*Everyone on earth is a guest, no one lives forever after all
We will leave everything behind at the departure of the soul
Only our good deeds go up with us to heaven nothing more
We have to help each other and clearly define our goals
We should work together and support justice and peace
As both are like Siamese twins, living together side by side
Greet Pope Francis for asking all to open hearts and doors
And greet everyone supporting victims of terror and war*

Walid Keilani



Biography

Walid, a US citizen, is a poet in Arabic and English. He was born in Nablus Palestine in 1938. His education and experience is in the field of economics and finance . He has a master's degree in economics from Utah State University in 1968, has worked at various institutions and organizations including the World Bank in Washington DC., the Arab Fund and Alshall Economic Consultants in Kuwait. He moved to Plano Texas in the US in 1990 and at present is the President of ASG Real Estate Co. His Poetry hobby led him to write seven books including two books in Arabic for children which are educational in nature, one about the forest covering the environment and the animals and the other the story of Cinderella. He wrote a poetry book about his home town Nablus. Also he is a song writer having written about 40 songs in Arabic. He has attended several poetry events and received several awards. Most of his poems are about freedom, values, human rights, justice and peace.

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Comments

*Walid Keilani's eloquent voice
and profoundly positive spirit are
beacons in the darkness. Listen to
his wise compassionate perceptions
to regain your own hope in
humanity.*

*Naomi Shihab Nye,
Poet, song writer and novelist
San Antonio Texas*

Introduction

The poem covers the tragedy that the Arab world is experiencing. The text analyzes several topics: The present condition and the effect of war on children as well as adults. The miserable situation of the displaced millions of refugees within or outside their countries, and the high number of victims that are killed on daily basis. The poem suggests solutions and remedies for the situation; we must unite and not despair, as despair is the enemy of humankind.

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Walid Keilani

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Our Situation

*How miserable it is, our situation
So much loss and grief
throughout our Arab nation
With conflicts and violence, one after another
As if we are not meant to live in peace together*

*Fragile children, pursued by death
Live with no water, no food, in poor health
They cry sorrowful tears from pain and anger
Under the watch of
the helpless father and mother*

*Arab youth, homeless and hungry everywhere,
The earth is their bed, they suffer summer heat
And severe winter cold air
They see no end to their misery,
no trace of light
As death creeps from all directions
day and night
Remains of the dead all around them scattered
Dirt molded with the blood of the slaughtered
Corpses of Cains and Abels left
after a brutal fight
While swaths of hovering ravens dive for a bite*

*Air pungent with the scent of death spreads despair
Fires erupt everywhere and roar with a mighty flare
People trapped in hell cannot flee anywhere*

*If they sleep, Arab children dream
of ghosts coming alive,*

*Of the buzz of fighter planes, bombs,
soldiers, and strife*

*They see shattered homes,
people under rubble losing lives
and when death takes a break
they hear mourning and cries*

*Their hearts scarred with wounds, their tears dried
They wish for death to find rest and peace of mind
Hoping it might unite them with friends and family*

*And save them from humiliation,
homelessness, and worry*

*Help them escape the cruelty
and brutality of their enemies*

*Arab children are like the living dead,
no one tends to their needs*

*Terrorists harvest heads of innocents
and boast of their deeds*

*These are crimes against humanity
and the teachings of the Qur'an*

A nasty war against civilization waged by Satan

Death Boats

Refugees in despair flee their homes
in death boats

That often capsize in the sea
with corpses surfacing afloat

Some sink and become food
for wild fish in the deep seas

While others, carried by the tidal waves,
wash ashore

But the lucky ones
who reach the coast and survive
Might be detained, consumed by
exhaustion when caught

After being chased by the guards
and their fierce dogs

And caught up in razor wire fences
blocking the road

Their wounds leave blood stains everywhere

Pieces of their clothes hang
on fences like sticky notes

Drained, helpless, desperate,
declaring in broken voices

“We are not criminals, but are accidental victims of war
Lost our homes, families, friends and dreams, lost all
Please help us, open your hearts and open your doors”

*Everyone on earth is a guest,
no one lives forever after all
We will leave everything behind
at the departure of the soul
Only our good deeds
go up with us to heaven,
nothing more
We have to help each other
and define clearly our goals
We should work together
and support justice and peace
As both are like Siamese twins,
living together side by side
Greet Pope Francis for
asking all to open hearts and doors
And greet everyone who is supporting
victims of terror and war*

Suicide Belts

*Suicide belts lead to hell,
not to paradise
Killing one soul is like killing all mankind,
saving one like saving all lives
No man should judge who is a believer
and who is otherwise
God, the judge, knows what's in the hearts;
He created the earth and skies
No one visited heaven or hell
and returned to advise
There are several religions on Earth;
we should cooperate and compromise
God created us as nations and tribes
to know each other and fraternize
Most honored to Him are the righteous,
not those who kill or terrorize
Those who understand
Islam know it is a religion of
forgiveness and liberty
A religion of tolerance respects all others,
supports all humans to be free*

Islam and Archaeology

*Islam respects the archaeology of nations,
making them witness to history
Amr Ibn Al-As conquered Egypt,
ruled with mercy and dignity
He did not consider the pyramids as idols,
keeping their heritage for humanity*

*Napoleon smashed the Sphinx nose
with his cannon,
a sign of humiliation
To avenge Egypt's resistance,
which fought his imperialist occupation
Archaeology illuminates
the mysteries of old times
Demolition of statues is barbaric,
a historic crime*

Freedom of Religion

*Umar Ibn Al-Khattab rode to Jerusalem
and brought justice and peace
He saw statues and paintings of faces and bodies
on ceilings and walls
He prohibited their defacement and destruction,
preserving their legacy for all
And ordered his army
to be kind to animals and people,
not to demolish homes or burn trees
He assured the Jerusalemites
of security and religious freedom
And made a treaty with Sophronius,
Patriarch of Jerusalem
Witnessed by four of the Prophet's companions
and signed by Umar and them
The treaty provided guidance
for every faithful Muslim*

The Mised and Culture Cleansing

Could the misled terrorists ever conceive
Islam better than the Caliph
and the Sahaba with him?

They must be ignorant or
after money, power, and fame
If they seek paradise by killing,
they must reexamine their aim
Murder points the path to hell,
and hell and paradise aren't the same

The misinformed regard
those murderers as honorable heroes

But the majority view them
as gangsters, depraved criminals
They tarnish the name of Islam,
promote enmity and hatred

The suppression of freedom
helped ISIS to grow
To recruit the narrow minded criminals
who have no clue

Tightening pressure caused
the Arab world to burst
Many innocent people are
victims of suffering and of hurt

*Life is becoming too hard;
the world is full of corruption
People have become cruel,
hatred is in fast production
Misery is everywhere,
no one offering help or protection
We are becoming cold-hearted,
our brains move in one direction
Increasing arms sales lead to wars
and destruction
Politicians care only for their interests
and elections
While arms brokers care for
sales and commissions
All countries waste resources on arms
and ammunition*

*Poor countries pay for the arms,
others get the dough
Politicians encourage sectarian violence
each day
Terrorists are dragging us towards
ignorance and dismay
ISIS emerged from the same den
where Al-Qaeda came
They are an extension of each other,
playing the same game*

*To promote terrorism
and make Islam receive the blame*

*The terrorists beheaded poet
Al-Ma'arri's statue, in Maarriat Al- Nu'man
He was born and buried in that beautiful,
peaceful Syrian town
A famous poet and philosopher
following the Sufi way
He was blind, but his enlightened mind knew
how to think and what to say
Yes, he was blind, but he had a vision
the terrorists could never have
They indicted him for his poetry,
which they could never understand
As the smart and the dumb are not equal,
neither are the good and the bad
But no matter how they defaced his statue,
his poetry for justice will always stand
Cultural cleansing behind the scene,
no other reason behind*

*We have often been used to fuel conflicts,
we have a short memory
Conflicts in which we had no interest,
but their burden remains ours to carry*

*The arms we buy continue
to drain funds from the treasury
Bought for celebrations
or against peaceful demonstrations
Dictators have always
suppressed their populations
They fight each other over trivial
matters and sour relations
They take care of themselves,
but never their nations*

*People lose when they are divided
But they are winners
when they stand united
One day after this long,
gloomy night
The Arab nation will wake up
to witness the day's light*

Contribution to Science and civilization

*Islam urged believers to seek knowledge
from cradle to grave
Legendary Arab scholars gained good fame*

*They made many contributions
for which they received acclaim
In medicine, astronomy, algebra,
and chemistry they earned a name*

*In Andalusia,
the Arabs had great reputation
In art, literature, philosophy, law,
and business administration
All religions were treated equally,
with respect, without discrimination
Governments cared for the people
and women had important consideration*

*This was a great time for all religions,
a grand era for civilization*

Lessons of History

*Later they became divided into
several emirates from one nation*

*Conflict spread between them,
spurring hatred and separation*

*They became bitter enemies which led
to their destruction*

*They all lost due to selfishness
and lack of vision*

*At present, the Arab countries
are sadly behaving like the Andalusians
War machines are spreading everywhere,
warlords are the winners*

*Countries waste resources warring,
destroying each other*

*Neighbors without a reason fight
one another and suffer*

*Deceptive media fuels conflicts
at a disturbing pace*

*Countries are competing with each other
in a stupid arms race*

*Like an ostrich, head in the sand,
believing it is safe if it covers its face*

*Those who lost their homes
will always remember their birthplace
Their children will not forget
their homeland and their parents' roots
Injustice and force cannot bring peace
and a lost country no one can replace
Love of homeland is carved in the heart;
it is a love no one can erase*

*We blame others for our misfortunes,
deny our share in the game
We must learn the lessons of history,
we have spoiled our name
We need to wake up and work
hard to change our miserable situation
We must shoulder our responsibilities
and help our countries as best as we can
People are the real wealth,
a country is more important than a ruling sultan
Force does not bring security,
but destroys countries
Killing justice is like killing a human,
unforgivable crime
Only we can protect ourselves,
no one respects the powerless
And if we do not unite we will
continue to be helpless*

Looking into the future

*But in spite of all we face
we must have faith and hope
We need to be loyal to our countries
and work as a group
We should not make skyscrapers
our priority investment
We need to invest in people
for our countries' development
And to promote competent professionals
and hard-working scientists
To support bright leaders,
writers, scholars, and poets
We want craftsmen, inventors in all fields,
as well as artists
An unbiased media that educates,
informs, and enhances awareness
We need men and women of all ages
and fields to make progress
We must enhance children's morals
and give them a modern education
And concentrate on righteous deeds,
avoid evil, contribute to civilization
We should avoid discrimination for it
brings destruction and humiliation
Freedom, a gift from God at birth,
is necessary for the progress of any nation*

*We should consult others and treat them
with respect and consideration
We need to have good intentions,
leaders unafraid of tough decisions
We must accept each other, eliminate obstacles,
and overcome limitations*

*We need to embrace human rights
and religious freedom to be respected
To support the righteous,
to be strong and united
We did not meet our responsibilities,
huge mistakes were committed
We need to resolve this muddled situation,
bear the heavy burden, and remain devoted
Conflicts and wars are like fires,
easy to start but hard to end*

*Let us remember: We are the children of
Adam and Eve
We have inherited the Earth,
the great gift from God, in whom we believe
He ordered us to be fair and just,
not to discriminate or divide
Like fruit-bearing trees,
good deeds continue to grow and provide
We need to purify our hearts and open the doors
for love to reside*

*As love is the way to God
We need Justice and peace
to have safety and rebuild our home land
We must have faith in our future,
move forward and work hard
As Despair is the enemy of humankind*