

## from Exile

....All this,  
As if we're still in Mafraq or Salt  
In Kerak or Ramtha  
As if we never crossed northern borders  
To the big cities  
And the coastlines  
Where war rages  
The sea surges  
And the strangers grab each other  
By the collar,  
Or fire their guns  
From balconies  
Into the clotheslines.

*Beruit 29.1.82*

**Amjad Nasser** (b. 1955)

*translated from Arabic  
by Ibrahim Muhawi.*

## من "منفى"

(...) كُلُّ ذَلِكَ،  
كأننا ما نزالُ في المفرقِ أو السلطِ،  
في الكركِ أو الرمثا.  
كأننا ما اجتزنا حدودَ الشمالِ  
إلى المدنِ الكبرى والسواحلِ.  
حيثُ تهْدُرُ حَرْبٌ  
ويهدُرُ بحرٌ  
ويمسكُ الغرباءُ بعضهم بعضاً من الياقاتِ  
أو يطلقونَ الرصاصَ  
من شرفاتهم  
على حبالِ الغسيلِ.

بيروت 1982/1/29

أمجد ناصر

*From "Modern Poetry in Translation", number 17, edited by Daniel Weissbort and Stephen Watts, published by King's College London 2001. Reprinted by permission.*

Poems for...one world

[www.poemsfor.org](http://www.poemsfor.org)

**NHS**

This project is  
supported  
by the  
Baring Foundation

ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND