



## ka Jacayl Dhiig Ma Lagu Qoray

Ma dhalaalay waagii  
dhag ma tidhi cadceeddii  
intay soo dhaqaaqeen  
iyagoon ka dheeraan  
dhaqankiyo xishoodkii  
dhaymana u jeel qaba  
iyadoo dhexdoodii  
dhulka suxul bannaan yahay  
dhibta maysla taageen  
wax intaa ka sii dhow  
ma ku dhiirran waayeen  
dhayal laysu taabtiyo  
dhallinyaro habkeedii  
ma ka dhega adaygeen  
dhadhansiga miliilica  
isha mayska dhawreen.  
Dhabbaday is taageen  
qofba dhaabaddiisii  
sara joog dhankiisii  
kun habeen ma dhererraa.

Maxamed Ibraahim Warsame  
'Hadraawi' (b. 1943)

## from Has love been blood-written

....did the dawn then glow  
and the sun call out  
approaching each other  
not crossing the boundary  
of mores and modesty  
longing for a balm  
with a mere forearm  
between them did they stand  
bodies held straight  
opposite each other  
avoiding the step  
of moving closer  
resisting the play-touch  
the youthful way  
the taste glimpsed  
in the distance  
did they just behold each other  
through their eyes  
they stood on the spot  
each one gazing  
standing upright  
did it last a thousand nights...

*translated from the Somali by Martin Orwin. From "Modern Poetry in Translation", no. 17, edited by Daniel Weissbort and Stephen Watts, published by King's College London 2001. Reprinted by permission*

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