

ka Samadoon

Afartaas dalaynta leh murtida, Dararo meelaynta
Iyo Doorran Tiirron Mudhbaxan, Deercad dhaleygiis ah
Dahab tayah, ah shaalooy dunlooy, Malabkii doocaan ah
Iyo tii Rabbay Daayin ahe, Deeqliis igu raacday
Iyo taanan deyn karin iyadoon, Laygu dihin iilka
Iyo doonnanaystaye dabuub, Duugleh hadhitaanka
Iyo seben dawaaddeed khad taan, Qun ula daaweystey
Nudantayaan dacfaray saabintiyo, Dabaqyo seesaasha

Cabdulqaadir Xaaji Cali Xaaji Axmed (1962-2001)

from Samadoon

...These lines in 'd' wisdom swelling
The poem with milk
Chosen Outstanding Support born of the finest camel colour
my gilded words a shawl of fine thread
honey from Yemen this poem of God everlasting
whose generosity has placed it in me
that I cannot forget until I lie in the grave
my poetic engagement the verse long lasting
that will remain whose ink I befriended
I mastered plaiting it as a wicker basket
with its lid and holder.....

*translated from Somali
by Martin Orwin.*

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