

Vol. 8, No. 1: CLRI February 2021 | p 265-268

Raad Kareem Abd-Aun

The Necessary Enemy

a bully is only a bully because he is weak
a one who knows his strengths never preys
on the weak because a bully is insecure
always attacking to defend itself whether
girl or boy a bully is a great equalizer
all the weak and vulnerable are his targets
So if the US and Iran are cool and Iran is no longer
a threat where can the US find a country
so close and intimidating and such
a strategic position to coerce the gulf
to submit?

25th October

bridges are magnificent the apex of human achievement
from Arkadico Bridge in Greece to the Hong Kong-
Zhuhai-Macau bridge

in China these structures defy description you can only
gaze like stout Cortez with eagle eyes staring at the
Pacific

London Tower Golden Gate Millau Rialto Si-o-se Pol
Stari Most Sydney Harbor Akashi Kaikyo Bridge of Sighs
Coronado Bridge Pont du Gard Ponte Vecchio
Chesapeake Bay Bridge
and Crane's most tragic too early song Brooklyn Bridge

in Baghdad there are bridges I remember crossing many
times

Bridge of the 14th July tragic Al-Aimma Bridge Al-
Sarafiya

Muthanna Shuhada Ahrar Sinak Bab Al-Moatham
and Aljournhouria Bridge where brave young men and
women

dare death every day facing all odds and all enemies
domestic and foreign

a bridge that looks to me from afar to link paradise to
inferno

Away from Nothome

Thoughts on Involuntary Self-Exile

"Home is where the heart is." – proverb

We packed our bags: the best clothes we have,
Favourite books, important documents,
Laptop, tablet, external hard drives, family photo album,
Our savings in a bank account:
We need to be light to have a quick flight:
Time is upon us. Here, in our not home, we are as good
as dead
If we stay few more days. We are leaving, never to look
back again.
We are exiles in this place. No safety, no security, no
rights, no hope.
We stand in the shuttle only minutes away from flight
and "safety":
Is it worth it to replace one nothome with another?

Raad Kareem Abd-Aun

Raad Kareem Abd-Aun, born in Babylon, Iraq, in 1976, holds a PhD in English Literature. He writes poetry since 1995 and considers it, second to his family, the food of his spirit. Some of his poems were published in print and electronic journals. He currently works at the University of Babylon dividing his time between teaching English Literature, academic, and creative writing.



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