

# Dagaal sokeeye, dal shisheeya iyo dareenkeyga

## Civil War, the Land of Strangers, and My Feelings

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### Hibashadii Afrikaa

Illayn dunidu waa hawl  
halgan loogu jiro oo  
harraad kama dhammaatee  
Alla ayayna haga oo  
hirka noo horseedoo  
higsada inna yadhiyeey?

Hawraar horaa tidhi  
hurdo habar ma korisoo  
hilbo kaama saartee  
halgan loo midoobaa  
hankah lagu yidhaahdaa  
ama lagu hodomaa e  
Alla ayayna haga oo  
hirka noo horseedoo  
higsada inna yadhiyeey?

Hurdaayoow war iga hoo  
hoheey wayda iga qabo  
meel laga hayaamaad  
ubad u hadhinaysaa  
hoosaasinaysaa  
ragna wuu hiraabtoo  
haadduu la duulaa  
halgan buu ku noolyahay

### Longing for Africa

Surely the world is nothing but hard  
work,  
a continuous struggle and never-  
ending thirst,  
but I believe that we can be guided  
and aspire to a better future.

An old saying says  
that sleep cannot make  
an old person young and strong  
again.

It is only a unified struggle  
that can yield success  
and bring about a happy end.

Oh you who are sleeping,  
let me tell you,  
take in these words of mine,  
you are leading the young ones to a  
forsaken place  
and deceiving them!  
Other men have left  
early in the morning,

hoheey inu horuu mare  
Alla yaa ku haga oo  
hurdo kuuma taalee  
haahaabo kugu yidhi!

Hoheey hiil la'aantay!  
cidi iguma heeroo  
hawraansan ima tidhi  
anna hiif ma daayoo  
hilibahaygan kala qalan  
wadhnahayga hurayee  
oday heego joogiyo  
inta wiil halyey jira  
habar iyo hadhaagaba  
anigaan hareeraha  
midna hebel ku odhanayn  
midna haan ku sheegeyn  
Afrikaygu hibatee  
hiil maw gelaysaan.  
Inta hiif ku noolee  
ilmo hililiqdaahay  
inta loo heshiyyee  
hog madow habeennimo  
hilibahoodii lagu guray  
Afrikaygu hibatee  
hiil maw gelaysaan?!

Inta halac u dhimaney  
intay haaddu hiigey  
inta wiil haggaasteen  
hoy iyo guri hayn  
Afrikaygu hibatee  
hiil maw gelaysaan?!

Inta hanad la huurshee  
meel lagu hadhuudhshiyo  
haadaamo loo qoday  
hooyooyinkoodiyo

with the early birds!  
Their whole life is a struggle  
to make progress.  
I believe that we can be guided.  
You are not in a position to sleep  
and  
must have higher aspirations!

How unsupported I feel!  
There is no one around here  
who takes my advice,  
and I keep lamenting  
my tortured body  
and my burning heart.  
You, elders, male and female, and  
strong young men,  
without me having to look around  
and calling anyone by name  
or mentioning who is related and  
who is not,  
Africa is in need!  
Will you come to its aid?  
How many are those  
whose lives are full of hardship and  
tears  
or whose bodies were thrown into  
deep holes  
by conspirators, in the dead of night.  
Africa is in need!  
Will you come to its aid?

How many are those on whose flesh  
birds of prey have fed  
or who have died of hardship,  
boys who went malnourished,  
without hearth or home!  
Africa is in need!  
Will you come to its aid?

Countless are the heroes  
who were suffocated,  
silenced, and trapped,  
whose mothers and sisters

hablihii la sharaftiray  
eheladan la hiifee  
handadaada lagu diley  
hiil maw geleysaan?!

Hadal haan ma buuxshoo  
hankah laguma yidhi ee  
heeryada ma tuurnaa  
maysu habar wacanna?  
hantideenan haadda cunay  
hadaf maw samaynaa?  
hawraarsan weeyoo  
hiilkeed ninkii lihi  
hareertayda joogoo  
haa-dayda haayoo  
loo kala hadhaynine  
iyadoon huruuf jirin  
innagoon is hiifayn  
midna haybad siinayn  
midna hoos u eegayn  
midna habar u yeeleyn  
midna haan ku sheegeyn  
hadafkaan mideyniyo  
hal maysku noqonnaa?

### *Dibjir*

Dabci mahaan aqoon jirey  
Degaan Duunyo iyo Dawyo waxaan  
Derisadaydii uga imi  
Duul i garanaaya oo aan  
Debed la heehaabayaa  
Waa dagaal niciye.

Dugsi kuwaan la tegey oo  
Da'yari door is garanayney  
Dabaci miduu walaalkay ka dhigay  
Nin iyo Dookhiise  
Waxaan Dahabo hooyo uga imi  
Debecsanow aabe  
oo aan debed la heehaabayaa

were dishonoured.  
Will you come to the aid  
of these kin who are humiliated and  
intimidated.

“Words alone cannot fill a water  
vessel!”  
or bring satisfaction.  
To throw this burden off our  
shoulders,  
shall we form an alliance?  
To protect this property of ours,  
on which birds of prey feed,  
shall we define our purpose?!

Let this be our agreement  
and let him who can help  
and is close to me  
and hears my poem  
do so without rancour  
or mutual antipathy.  
Special privileges for no one  
without contempt for anyone  
without imposing clan identity on  
anyone.

Can we establish common principles  
and be one?!

### *A Pauper*

A region, wells, property  
I have known from birth,  
Neighbors I left behind,  
people who knew me—  
I am wandering about abroad  
because I hate war.

Why I left the people  
with whom I went to school  
and knew when I was little,  
who were like brothers to me  
from the time I was born,  
each with his own idiosyncracies;  
Why I left my mother *Dahabo*

Waa dagaal niciye.

Ma dugsadeen duleed duur cidla ah  
laaygu dabajoogo,  
Ma dugsadeen digniin lay daldalo  
maydga derriskeeyga,  
Ma dugsadeen degaan aan irabin  
diigsi iyo liide,  
Ma dugsadeen askari ii danla' oo  
dawga igu baad leh  
Ma dugsadeen dedaalkaygi hore  
daadi layyiriye,  
Ma dugsadeen dantaa igu qasbiye  
wax aana dooneyne,  
Diiwaanka igu qora dibnuhu way  
dardhanayane  
Dibjir waxaan ku ahay daar cad iyo  
dabaqyo dhaadheere.

and my kind-hearted father—  
The reason I wander about abroad  
is because I hate war.

I would not have taken refuge  
in a deserted, Godforsaken place  
with people chasing me.  
I would not have taken refuge in a  
place where  
I live under constant threat and my  
neighbors are being killed.  
I would not have taken refuge in a  
place  
that does not want me and debases  
me.  
I would not have taken refuge in a  
place in which  
policemen who do not have my  
interest at heart  
only want to harass me.  
I would not have taken refuge in a  
place  
where no one will acknowledge my  
previous accomplishments.  
I would not have taken refuge in a  
place  
where necessity forces me to do  
what I never wanted.  
I write these verses  
from lips quivering with anger.  
I am a pauper,  
living in a beautiful white house  
with many stories!

### *Gacallaawe*

Geyigaan ku noolahay  
Gawaan laga geyoonaynba,  
Gabadanadu waxay dishaa,  
Geed nin kaan gelino  
Gedgedoonka gacantuu fidshiyo,  
Guux ku hadalkiisa,  
Go'ii uu habeenkii huwadey,

### **Single Life**

The land on which we live  
in a desolate space,  
it is the shelterless  
who perish,  
restless and turning  
from side to side,  
he stretches the hands,

Gees isaga tuurka  
Gogoshiisa baa laga gartaa  
Gacal la'aantiisa e

groaning,  
he shoves aside  
the night's sheet,  
the condition of the bedcover  
betrays  
the absence of a loving companion.

Markii waagu uu galalac yidhi,  
Goonyo dhugadkiisa,  
Mergiyada ayuu garabka iyo,  
Gacanta saaraayo  
Indha godan guduutuu  
Haddana giirka kiciyaaye  
Gasiin subagle gogoshii dugsoon,  
Gaari fidinayso,  
Gacal uu la sheekaysto ma leh  
Wuu gunuunciye.

At daybreak  
he surveys his surroundings  
with an exhausted eye  
and frowning face,  
a nourishing meal and warm  
bedding,  
an able lover to arrange,  
there is no intimate other here,  
he is deeply sorrowful.

Gabdho iyo rag waa wadda go'doon,  
Guur midkaan heline  
Gudcur dam ah gudoodiga habeen,  
Gooni socodkooda,  
Gujaa lagu wada qabaa,  
Gacal la'aan goonyo dhugadkoodo  
Gafuur gocondho yeeshiyo  
Gunnimo geeri yaa u halise  
Guulaan ka beegsaday  
In aan doob ku gaamiro dheh.

Women and men stranded,  
one who fails to marry,  
complete darkness in the midst of  
night,  
walking alone  
a common condition,  
no loving and isolation,  
mouth bedevilled by poison ivy,  
damnation invites death,  
I search the alternative  
to hardened bachelorhood.

### *Magan Eebbe*

Ca'da gabaygu leeyahay  
Cisada calan walayntiisa  
Taariikhda caankoo cashada  
Lagu calaamayo,  
Cimritegay wixii jirey  
Ayaad ka citiraaftaa e.

Mid kaloo la cansaaray oo  
Caawa aan dhalanin  
Iyo caado dhici doonta  
Iyo cusob ka sheekaynta

### **God's Protection**

The Alpha and rhythm of poetry,  
its celebration,  
famous history  
when displayed,  
a bygone epoch  
is identified by its legacy.

A history born  
or tradition made  
or present mulled over,  
each has its marks

Waxuu caan ku yahay baa jiroo  
Ciddina diidayn e.

none can deny.

Anigana caloolyowga  
Iyo ciilka igu biiray  
Caku calanka boodhaysteyee  
Lagu cayaraayo  
Ee curadadii uu lahaa  
Laysku cidhibgooyey  
Cod in aan ka dhiibtaan rabaa  
Ciidda gubanayso.

And I in my disconsolation,  
the rising anger  
the byproduct of a trashed flag,  
which is a joke,  
while its offspring  
were set to eliminate each other,  
my intention is to express a view  
of a land on fire.

Inta coofle caawada  
Cariga ciil la hoganaysa  
Ee cuud wixii uu dhaqdiyo  
Ubad ka caydhoobey  
Dumar tuu ka caashaqay  
Cimrigi Eebbe ku cadsiiyey  
Caweys lagu hor ceebaystay  
Oon cidi ka ooeynin  
Cadrada la calafgooyey  
Ee haadku ku cashayey  
Caqli nimaan lahayn baa is yidhi  
Waa cidada kale, e  
Ka calaaloo ceebta daya  
Cidhib danbeedkeeda  
Caarkeeni weeyaan  
Waxaa cudud ku cartameysaane.

Tonight there are many  
unkempt and wailing,  
deprived of all of their assets.  
The women and children they loved,  
who God created as part of them,  
were molested before their eyes!  
While no one cried to support them!  
Innocents violated,  
they are reduced to victims  
for the birds of prey.  
The mindless says:  
They belong to the other clan.  
O people, in opposition to these,  
Let your voices be heard,  
witness its shameful consequences.  
You are gambling away our dignity.

Inta habar cajuusowdey  
Iyo curad agoomowdey  
Cagaag lagu maqunshoo  
Cawada ciirsi li'i taagan  
Ama caraar ku soo dhooftay  
Ee caydh u hoganaysa  
Casho lagu cashuuriyo

Countless elderly and orphans  
were forcefully dispossessed.  
Today, there are helpless  
others made to flee.  
On social welfare, they survive,  
blessed gift, they thought,  
but the people of the new land  
despise the practice.

Cis li'i ciidda ka lihiba  
Carri aanay garanayn  
Cidlii ceeshki mahad moodey  
Caqli nimaan lahayn baa is yadhi  
Waa cidada kale, e  
Ka calaaloo ceebta daya

The mindless says:  
They belong to the other clan.  
O people, against such  
raise your voices,  
see its shameful consequences.  
It is our dignity

Cidhib danbeedkeeda  
Caarkeeni weeyaan waxaad.  
Cudud ku maasheene.

which you infringed upon  
or offered to an enemy's soldier.

Iyagaan caruus yeelanoo  
Cidi u maadeynin  
Cishriin ma gaadhaan  
Kunkaa loo caloolgalaye  
Gidigood "cawaalay" sidaan  
Ciilaan hadhihayn e  
Ceebtaa ninkii geysteyow  
Sebin colaadeed dheh.

Without the bond of marriage  
and proper festivities,  
young girls are  
impregnated by the thousands.  
All carry a child,  
a lasting shame!  
Say to those who caused the scandal  
This is a time of war.

Akhirona ciqaab Eebbahay  
Car iyo hoogaaga  
Cidi kuuma joogtee ogow  
Ehel ku caanshaa e.

But on the Day of Judgment  
there will be God's accounting  
in the burning fire.  
Remember,  
you can expect no one  
to come to your aid.

Balse malak ciqaab iyo ba'aa  
Loo carbiyey huudhin  
Cadho Eebahay camal xumaan  
Cadow ku hiigaaya  
Oo aan cadaabtuna karayn  
Ciriqna kuu dhaafin  
Ku calaajiyaa badanin  
Oo boqol calaamoodle.

An angel programmed to punish  
knows no mercy and fatigue,  
never disobeys God's instructions,  
implements God's anger  
to destroy evil,  
spares no part of the body.  
An expert on crushing,  
he comes in hundreds of guises.

Cabsi baan la diidee cadaab  
Cawdu ka Billaahi  
Camal ii dhoweyana caku e  
Cawdu ka Billaahi.  
Calaf eebbahay aanu qorin  
Waa cad aan jirin, e  
Carshi in aan ku loolamo  
Intaan caamada hubayo  
Oo dhiig calaacalaha daro  
Caadil mamnoocay  
Ciidayda dhaawoco caku e  
Cawdu ka Billaahi

I seek God's protection  
from a deed  
leading to such Hell fire.  
No fate is realized  
without God's design.  
I ask God to spare me  
from fighting for a chair,  
through arming the ignorant  
or shedding innocent blood  
— which is forbidden by God —  
or damaging my land.

Cirka eebbayygii unkee  
Ciidda gogol yeelay  
Innagana cadaan iyo madow  
Qoloba cayn yeelay  
Calaf nooma waayin,e  
Wuxuu qolo u caydheyay  
Ha is caawinsadeen weeya oo  
Cudud ha yeesheen e  
Casrigaan ku noolahay  
Cabsiis cago-juglayntiisa  
Cimlaaqyadu ka ceeshaan  
Cakuye cawdu ka Billaahi.

God, the Creator of the skies,  
laid the whole earth  
black and white,  
gave each a particularity.  
Omnipotent,  
He made some poor,  
others disabled,  
in order for us to build solidarity,  
the basis for a viable community.  
I seek God's protection  
from the time in which we live,  
where the strong threatens  
and eats alone.

### *Deyoow*

Nin deyoobay doorsamay caqligu  
dawgi ka habaabay  
Diiftiisa garanayn halkay doogtu  
kaga taalo

Duulkii nadaadihi yidhaa wey ka  
darayaane

Nin dagaal darwiish lagu yidhoo  
dabici shaydaan leh  
Abidkii dirgiigixin denbiga derejo  
moodaaya  
Duulkii na daadihi yidhaa wey ka  
darayaane

Nin dilaala doodduu yidhiyo  
duubka kor u saaran  
Oo daroogo diyo loogu daray laba  
isdooxaaya  
Duulkii nadaadihi yidhaa wey ka  
darayaane

### **Treachery**

A confused and mindless man  
loses his way,  
knows neither his misery  
nor the cause.

People who say to him "Lead us"  
will surely worsen their condition.

He is someone who is glorified in  
war  
but has evil intentions,  
who confuses virtue  
with the application of cruelty  
and bad faith.  
People who say to him "Lead us"  
will surely worsen their condition.

He is someone whose opinions are  
for sale  
yet wears a pious turban high on his  
head,  
the one who benefits from social  
poison  
and mutual predation,  
People who say to him "Lead us"  
will surely worsen their condition.



Nin daliil aan jirin diinta yidhi dago  
ku soo dhiiba  
Oo ducufal iimaanka yidhi nebigi  
bay i doortay  
Duulkii na daadihi yidhaa wey ka  
darayaane

He is someone who calls upon false  
testimony  
and demands gifts  
through religion  
and claims  
that the prophet deputized him,  
People who say to him "Lead us"  
will surely worsen their condition.

Afartaa da'leyda ah haddana diiqay  
nolosheena  
Nin walow intaad dabada gelin digo  
ku naaxaaga  
Dalku in uu hagaaga ma rabee waan  
damirayaa dheh

Those who undermined our  
existence,  
let those who protect them,  
who enrich themselves  
through mischief,  
admit they are against development  
in the land,  
admit that they are destroyers.

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#### Notes

1. Lidwien Kapteijns and Ahmed I. Samatar contributed to the translations. Part two of Aden Omar Mohamed's poetic compositions will appear in a future volume of *Bildhaan*.