



## 2 Poems by Adel Khozam

### **Worship**

Winning a beautiful woman  
equals half of life  
and the other half  
is to win a beautiful homeland

It does not matter whether you are  
a polished businessman  
or a tractor driver in barren fields  
the sun will not distinguish between you  
and in the eye of the cloud  
both of you are fit to be swept away

In the eye of the wind  
trees are green hats

Tomorrow arrives now  
shakes hands with yesterday  
and they part

I stand where I am  
and my place is my time

I search for a woman  
who becomes the homeland  
not to worship her  
but to deny her through love  
for denial  
is the religion of rebellious hearts

### **Betrayals**

I know a woman  
who carries her axe at night  
searching for unfaithful men  
but she finds no one

The drunkards never leave the bars  
employees are servants of screens  
politicians are in the swimming pool with the minister  
and poets are mummified



in the solitude that precedes  
the death of the poem

Betrayal once  
was to look at your neighbor's wife

Today  
betrayal is to hate yourself  
to be cruel to others  
and withdraw from them

to welcome death  
and make peace with it  
unconcerned with what is called hope  
and not waiting  
for the moment of your ascent  
on the bus of days  
that no longer moves

## Bio



**Adel Khozam** is a poet from Dubai, UAE, and a member of the generation of modernists who pioneered the Arabic prose poem in the 1980s. He has published more than 22 books spanning poetry, philosophy, fiction, and literary studies, and his works have been translated into several languages. In 2020, he launched the *World Poetry Tree*, an anthology featuring 406 poets from around the globe, published as part of Expo Dubai's cultural program. He has received prestigious international honors, including Italy's Tulliola Poetry Award (2020) and the Medal for Best International Poet from China (2021).

In the Arab world, Adonis described his book *The Naked Spring* (2019) as the most significant poetic work in the first quarter of the 21st century. In 2024, he was awarded the Gold Medal from the World Writers Organization for his book *The Philosopher's Mail*. His most recent project, *Manseerah*, is a cosmic poetic epic created in collaboration with 86 poets from around the world, for which he received the Golden Medal from Great poetry movement in China.