



EXISTENCE ECHO

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I ask the stone beneath my wandering feet,
what it remembers of being still.

And it answers with silence,
older than language.

I ask the wind:
why does it refuse to remain?

It laughs,
and becomes another direction.

I ask the sea:
why does it never learn the shore?

It writes its question again,
in erased foam.

I ask my body:
why does it insist on becoming me?

It trembles,
as if identity were a borrowed coat.

I ask time:
why does it never pause to explain itself?

It folds me
into its unanswered sentence.

I ask the stars
if they are distant, or just patient.

They blink,
like thoughts too large for speech.

I ask death:
why does it follow without announcement?

It does not reply,
but I hear it in every heartbeat.

I ask love:
why does it survive contradiction?

It answers
by breaking every definition.

I ask existence itself:
why did it begin without consent?

And it looks at me
as if I were the question—
not the answer.

Bionote:



Taghrid Bou Merhi is a Lebanese-Brazilian poet, writer, translator, and journalist based in Brazil, with law and political science degrees. She writes across poetry, prose, children's stories and criticism, and translates between Arabic, Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese and English. She heads translation departments at over a dozen Arabic and international magazines and holds advisory and ambassadorial roles with several global literary organizations, including CIESART–Lebanon, which she presides over.

She has authored 23 books and translated 54 more, with work appearing in over 580 anthologies and translated into 49 languages. Her honors include the Naji Naaman Literary Award (2023), the International Poet Zhengxin Award (2022, 2023), and recognition among the 50 Women in Asia with a significant impact on modern literature.