

An important announcement

بيان هام

https://youtu.be/EMoJpyRc_Ok

بيان هام

هنا شقلبان

محطة اذاعة حلاوة زمان

من القاهرة ومن كردفان

وسائر بلاد العرب واليابان

ومن فنزويلا أيضا ايران

ومن اى دار

أو بلد مستباحه

بفعل السياحه مع الأمريكان

هنا شقلبان

محطة اذاعة حلاوة زمان

نقدم اليكم بكل اللغات

مراسح وسيما وجميع الفنون

صحافه ومنابر وتلفزيونات

وخطبا ف جوامع وجبته وزيتون
ونقزح ونركب جميع الموجات
ونبحث ونفهم فى كل الشئون
ودايما نلعلع فى كل الحالات
ولا حد سامع ولا يحزنون
وتسمع ما تسمع دا ما يهمناش
لأن احنا اصلا بناكل بلاش
فخليك فى نفسك وما تخليناش
نسلط عليك القلم واللسان
هنا شقليان
محطة اذاعة حلاوة زمان
يسر الذاعه ولا يسركوش
بهذى المناسبه ولا بند عيكوش
نقدم اليكم شحاته المعسل
وبدون الرتوش
شبندر سماسرة بلاد العمار
معمر جراسن للعب القمار
وخارب مزارع و تاجر خضار

وعقبال أملتك أمير الجيوش

ما تقدرش تنكر

تقول ما اعرفوش

ما تقدرش ايضا تفول ما أسمعوش

شحاته المعسل حبيب القلوب

يزيل البقع ولاهموم والكروب

يأنفس يأنفس يبلع حبوب

ويفضل يهلفظ ولا تفهموش

وتفهم ما تفهم دا ما يهمناش

لأن انت فاهم وعامل طناش

ح تنكر وتحلف ح اقول لك بلاش

ح تتعب دماغنا وتتعب كمان

هنا شقلبان

محطة اذاعة حلاوة زمان

لأن المخبي ظهر واستبان

وكل المسائل بدت للعيان

وظلعت حكاوى ونزلت كمان

عن التهريبه وعن كيت وكان

(وعن محسوبيه وعن ألعبان) بضم الالف

ظهر فى المدينه كأن الطوفان

وغرق مراكب وسوح غيطان

وبعض المراكب ح تغرق كمان

وأزمة مساكن وأزمة أمان

وعالم بياكل فى عالم جعان

وريحة مؤمره فى جو المكان

مخطط خيانه مع الأمريكان

لدبح العشيره وحرق المكان

وفيه ناس بترغى ولازم بيان

كما ابلغونا جميع الودان

لهذا وذاكا وتلكم كمان

نقدم اليكم عروسه وحصان

شحاته المعسل وهذا البيان

هنا شقلبان

محطة اذاعة حلاوة زمان

بسم الله

سلام عليكم وسلمون وموز

وأما المسائل فهنجف ولوز
فيا اخوتى ويا أخوات
اليكم بيانى كما هو آت
جميع المسائل تمام التمام
وكل الكلام دا مجرد كلام
فصبرا جميلا ولا تفلقوش
وشغل الضغائن أنا ما أقبلوش
ما فيش أى حاجه
على الطلاق والعقاق بالتلاته
ما فيه اى حاجه
وقدر كمان ان فيه أى حاجه
ما لوش أى لازمه الكلام واللجابه
وعيب ان عيل يسوق السماجه
ويعمل لى باللو ويعمل ديباجه
آنا بطبعى ضد السماسره الكبار
بحكم المنافسه وحكم الجوار
لكن مش فى طبعى
انى أعمل فضيحه

لواحد زميلي هبش كام صفيحه
ما كل الزمايل بتهبش صفايح
وكل اللي جاى مش زى اللي رايح
فيا ايها الشعب صهين تفلعص
مساء التنفس مساء الروايح
أخويا الامير بزرميط الايرانى
بعث لى السنه دى
عزمنى ودعانى وأنا قبلت طبعاً
ورحنا العزومه وكانت وليمه
ما تحصلش تانى دا أيه المحمر
وأيه المكمر وايه المشمر
وايه الصوانى
وانا دماغى تعبت ولفت صراحه
من الفخفخه والهنا الاصفهانى
هناك يعنى مثلاً اذا شربت طافيه
تمز بكوارع وبسطرمة ضانى
ما شفتش هناك
ناس بتحقد عليهم

ولا ناس بتشتتم فلان الفلانى
لأنه اشترى عزبتين من شطارته
وحكمة ادارته وطلع مبانى
وبعد الوليمه استلمنا الهدايا
مفضض ومدهب وقز وقيشانى
وطبعا أخويا الأمير قال لى حاجه
ح اقولهالكو طبعا اذا الوقت ناسب
ح يطلع لى عيل بدون اى حاجه
ويعمل لى فلحس ويقعد يحاسب
دا حقد اشتراكى أنا ما أقبلوش
ولو هو ابنى أنا ما اعتقوش
كلام عن سماسره كلام عن دعاره
حاجات مش صحيحه جمل مستعاره
وعايزين يخلوا البلد اردغانه
وعايزنى اسيب البلد من زمان
وأنا مش ح اسلم واسيب الأمان
ولا بالبوليس والنيابه كمان
فيا ايها الشعب كمل جميلك

وصبرا واذلم حتيجى المصارى
وتاكل وتشرب تبع ما يآتيك
وتغرق فى بحر العبيد والجوارى
وترسم حياتك حسب ما يرائيك
ونملا الحوارى فساقى وقصارى
تسبح بحمدك وتشكر جميلك
وفضل الزباله وطفح المجارى
ختاما سلاما وآخر كلاما

ضرورا

يسود الهدوء والوئام فماذا والا
ح طريقها واللا اهرب فلوسى
واسافر قواما سلام عليكم
وسلمون وموز بصفتى رئيسا
وابا وجوز

القاهرة / 1976

TRANSLATION:

Lyrics: Ahmed Fu'ad Negm

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Upsidedownistan here.
Your oldies but goodies station.
Coming to you from Cairo and Kordofan
From every Arab country and Japan
From Venezuela and even Iran
And any country open to the rule
Of tourism *à l'américaine*.
Tumblestan here.
Your good ole radio station.
We present to you, in every language
Plays and movies and all the arts
And press and speeches and televisionings
And mosque sermons, cheese and olives.
We show up in your home uninvited, riding on every airwave
Studying and grasping all issues
No matter the occasion, we're bright and loud
No one listens, and no one cares
Listen or not, it doesn't matter to us
You see, we're the types who get paid either way.
Keep to yourself and don't make us give you a pen
and tongue lashing.

Somersaultistan here.
The oldies but goodies station.
It pleases us (even if it doesn't please you)
On this occasion (to which you haven't been invited)
To bring to you—and don't be disgusted—
Sheḥḥāta al-Me'assal, totally unvarnished.
The Chief Broker of the Developeding World
Educator of Croupiers
Destroyer of Farms, Pawner of Crops
And—may your wishes come true—Commander of Armies
You can't deny it, can't say you don't know him.
Can't say you've never heard of him.
Sheḥḥāta al-Me'assal, beloved by all hearts
He gets out the stains, the worries and fears,
He tokes, he snorts, he pops pills
You won't understand him as he blathers on
Understand, or not—we don't care.
Because you understand, even if you pretend you don't.
You can deny it and swear it, but I tell you:
Don't bother. You'll give us both a headache.

Upsidedownistan here.
Your place for oldies but goodies.

Because what was hidden has been revealed, clear as day
The issues are out for all to see
Stories have been told, even in print
About the smuggling and shirking and about this and that
About the influence peddling and deceit
That have appeared in the city like a flood
Sinking boats and inundating fields.
More boats are yet to sink.
And the crisis in housing, and the crisis in public safety.
While some eat well off a hungry world
The place is filled with a stench of conspiracy
And planning treason with the Americans
To slaughter the people and burn down the neighbors
People are chattering about it, so an announcement is in order
As the ears have reported to us
For this reason and that, and the other one, too
We present to you a sugar *moulid* doll and horse
Sheḥḥāta al-Me'assal, and this announcement.

Upsidedownistan here.
Your good ole radio station.
In the name of God.
A peace upon you, and salmon and bananas.
As far as everything's going, it's all hunky dory.
O Brethren, O Brothe . . .
Here is my announcement, as what follows:
Everything is A-okay.
And all that talk that's going around is just talk.
Verily, Don't be impatiently! And don't worry—
It's the stuff of small-minded people, and I won't accept it!
Nothing is wrong.
I swear most solemnly, most solemnly thrice,
There is nothing wrong, nothing at all.
And know this: even if there was something
There's nothing.
There's no reason to talk about it or nag me.
And shame on kids
Who go on with their churlishness
Making me pay them attention, forcing me to debate them.
By my very nature, I am against big dealers
For the sake of free competition and neighborliness.
But, it is not in my character
To expose the scandal
Of an associate of mine who's pocketed a few bills.
Everybody puts things away for themselves
The new ones do it, just like the old ones did before.
O People: Zionize yourselves and go with the flow!
Have a good toke and a good evening.
My good Iranian buddy, the Prince Bazramīṭ
Wrote me this year to invite me to a big party,
I accepted, of course, and we went to the bash,

It was the kind of banquet that would never happen twice.
My God—what fried foods, and the puddings!
What stews and platters!
To be frank, my head began spinning
From all the luxury and Persianate trimming.
There, for instance, when you drink second-hand dregs
They serve it with sweetmeats and veal pastrami as appetizers.
Over there, I never saw anyone envying anyone
Or people insulting anyone
Who happened to purchase two farms on the cheap
Because he was such a smart entrepreneur and
developed them into housing.
After the feast we collected our presents
Silver plated and gold plated, and faience, too.
And of course, my good buddy the Prince Bazramī
told me something
Which I'll tell you about at some appropriate time.
Some punks will come after me without cause.
Getting up in my face, sitting to judge me.
That is socialist resentment, and I will not tolerate it.
If they were my sons, I'd ground them at home.
Talk about wheeler-dealers, talk about whoring—
Fake news and tired old slogans!
They want to turn the whole country into chaos!
They have long wanted me to leave the country
But I will not give it up, or let security slip
Not by the police, nor by the public prosecutor.

O People, do me a solid and hang tightly tight!
Stay the course and the money will come.
Eat and drink according to what comes to you,
Let yourself drown in a sea of slaves and slave-girls,
Paint your life as you like
As brothels and palaces fill the streets.
Say your prayers and thank God
For the blessings of garbage and sewer overflows.
In closing, peaceably,
And finally, in terms of words,
Necessitarily, calm and harmony must prevail
Or else, and if not, I will smash it to bits, or else...
I will take all my money and leave this country at once!
A peace upon you, and salmon and bananas,
By my authority as president, and father and husband.

Translation: Elliott Colla and Ahmed Hassan

Translators' note:

This translation is based on a recording of the 17 November 1977

performance of “Bayān Hāmm” at ‘Ayn Shams University. Negm composed and performed versions of the poem in the first months of 1976. These, along with others, exist in multiple guises across different print and electronic media. The print version closest to this transcription can be found in Aḥmad Fu’ād Najm, al-A’māl al-kāmila (Damascus: Dar Tlas, 1986), v. 1, 133-58. An earlier print version of the text can be found in Aḥmad Fu’ād Najm, Bayān hāmm: ghanā’ Shaykh Imām; dirāsāt al-Ṭāhir Aḥmad Mikkī (Beirut: Dār al-Fārābī, 1976). For more information on Negm’s legal troubles with this poem, see: Ṣalāḥ Ṭsa, Shā’ir takdīr al-amn al-‘āmm: al-milaffāt al-qaḍā’iya li-l-shā’ir Aḥmad Fu’ād Najm (Cairo: Dar al-Shorouk, 2007), 205-42.

In this famous poem Negm imitates the speaking style of Anwar el-Sadat. For this he was charged with insulting a public official. Sadat once called him “the obscene poet”.

VIDEOS:

Good quality sound

https://youtu.be/EMoJpyRc_Ok

https://youtu.be/NFiR_XAxTLI

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