

البحر بيضحك ليه؟

<https://youtu.be/6I17BGfRj-I>

البحر بيضحك ليه

وانا نازله ادلع املا القتل

البحر غضبان ما بيضحكش

أصل الحكاية ما تضحكش

البحر جرحه ما بيدبلش

وجرحنا ولا عمره دبل

مساكين بنضحك من البلوة

زي الديوك و الروح حلوة

سارقاها من السكين حموة

و لسة جوا القلب أمل

قللنا فخارها إناوي

بتقول حكاوي و غناوي

يا قلة الذل أنا ناوي

ما شرب و لو في المية غسل

والبحر بيضحك ليه ... ليه

وانا نازلة ادلع املا القتل

ياما ملينا وملينا

لغيرنا وعطشنا ساقينا

صابرين و بحر ما يروينا

شايلين بدال العلة علل

والبحر بيضحك ليه ... ليه

وانا نازلة ادلع املا القتل

في بالي ياما وعلى بالي

واللي بيعشق ما يبالي

ما يهمنيش من عزالي

يا حلوة لو مرسالي وصل

والبحر بيضحك ليه ليه

وانا نازلة ادلع املا القتل
بيني وبينك سور ورا سور
وانا لا مارد ولا عصفور
في ايدي عود قوال وجسور
وصبحت انا في العشق مثل
والبحر بيضحك ليه
وانا نازله ادلع املا القتل

TRANSLATION:

WHY IS THE RIVER SMILING?

Sung by Sheikh Imam
Lyrics: Naguib Sorour

Why is the river smiling ¹
When it sees me filling the water jars?

The river is angry and not smiling
The situation is not funny at all
The river's wound has never dried
Neither ours, it never has

We're poor we're smiling because of trouble
Like roosters with high spirit
Still getting excited despite seeing the knife
Still have hope in our hearts

Our jars are of Qena's clay ²
They talk and sing songs
Oh jar of humiliation, I will
not drink even if your water is honey

We fill and we fill
Quenching the thirst of others whilst we're thirsty
We're patient and the river won't quench our thirst
We suffer from not one disease but many

In my mind, on my mind
He who loves doesn't care
I don't care about my enemies
As long as you get my message oh beauty

Between us there's one fence after another
I am neither giant nor bird
Yet I have an outspoken 'ud in my hand
And I became an example to lovers

NOTES:

1. This is a reference to an old folkloric song. The village lady is filling the water jars. She is so beautiful, she makes the river smile! in the Sa'eed (Egyptian countryside) the Nile was called *bahr* = sea rather than *nahr* = river.

2. Qena is the best clay-making region in Egypt.

TRANSLITERATION:

IL BAHRI BIYEDHAK

Il bahri biyedhak leyh
Wana nazlah eddalla3 amla el qulal

Il bahri ghadban ma byedhaksh
Asl el hikiayah mat tahhaksh
Il bahri garhuh ma biyedbalsh
We garhena wala 'umru debel

Il bahri biyedhak....

Masakeen bi nedhak mel Balwah
Zayy el douyouk wel rouh helwah
Sarqaha mel sekeen hamwah
We lessah gewwah el qalb amal

Il bahri biyedhak...

Qulalna Fakharha qenawy
Betqoul hakawey we genany
Ya qulletel zull ana naway
Mashrab walaw fil mayyah 'asal

Il bahri biyedhak...

Yama maleyna we maleyna
Le gheyrna we 'eteshna saqeyna
Sabreen we bahri ma yerweena
Shayleen bdal el 'allah 'elal

Il bahri biyedhak...

Fi bali yama we 'ala baly
Welley be ye'shaq may baly

Ma yhemmeneesh min 'uzzaly
Ya helwah law mersaly wasal

Il bahri biyedhak...

Beney we benek sour wara sour
We lana mared wala 'asfour
Fi 'eedee 'ud qawwal we gasur
We sbouht ana fil 'eshqe masal

Il bahri biyedhak...

VIDEO:

<https://youtu.be/6II7BGfRj-I>

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

[The Poets of Those Foul-mouthed, Manned-up Egyptian Activists](#)

November 27, 2013, 8:28 pm

Over [at The Arabist](#), [Industry Arabic](#) has [translated one of the absurd recent characterizations of an "activist" from Youm 7](#). Herein, the effeminate "male activist" reputedly is not a poetry-lover (although he likes to curse and use obscene expressions), but the manned-up "female activist" likes the "lewd poetry" of Fouad Haggag and Naguib Sorour:



I'm not sure whether any of [Haggag's](#) poetry or theatre has been translated into English. [Naguib Sorour](#) (1932-1978) however, made international headlines in 2001, twenty-three years after the poet's death. That's when his son Shohdy posted Sorour's controversial poem "[Koss Ummiyyat](#)" (1969) online.

The poem — a long, dark satire in colloquial Arabic— was technically banned in Egypt but had been [widely circulated via tapes and hand-copied manuscripts](#) in the decades after its composition.

About a year after Shohdy Sorour posted the poem, Egyptian authorities apparently noticed it, and Shohdy was arrested in November 2001, charged with "possessing 'immoral booklets and prints'" according to [Wired](#). He was only held for a few days, but Shohdy's case proceeded. He was sentenced to a year in jail and, as he waited on his appeal, Shohdy relocated to Russia. In his absence, the appeals court [confirmed the verdict of one year in prison](#). Sorour's work remains in an ambiguous space in Egypt — alternately celebrated and shunned by the establishment. In any case, you should

explore Surour's poetry, and — if you find you like it — goodness only knows what that says about you.

VERY LONG POEM... <https://youtu.be/GGYA87v98r4>