

YOUNIS TAWFIK

IRAQ (1957-)

LANGUAGE: ITALIAN

Dal silenzio della remota memoria
è scaturito un volto
lo riconosci:
dentro di te si è raccolto
come gocce di luce,
e tu lo leggi:
sparisce quando vuole,
e non ritorna,
e dietro quelle mura infine sfuma.
All'improvviso
apri le ali,
e nella solitudine dello spazio
libero ti abbandoni.



Younis Tawfik is a writer, journalist, and university professor. Born in Mosul, Iraq, he moved to Italy when he was 22 years old. Tawfik has said that “For me, language is the land. Whoever writes in the language of the land belongs to that land and the language itself becomes his land. I love writing in Italian because, just like Arabic, it offers great flexibility and plenty of room for creativity.” *

*From an interview with Al Majalla:

<https://en.majalla.com/node/292231/culture-social-affairs/iraqi-writer-younis-tawfik-italian-my-language-and-my-homeland>

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
ali (n.)	used for flying	wings, feathers
all'improvviso (adv.)	quickly and unexpectedly	all of a sudden, without warning
apri (v.)	from the verb <i>aprire</i> , meaning to open	you open, you unfold
dal (prep.)	indicating the source of something	from, out of
come (prep.)	used to express similarity	like, similar to, as
di, della, dello (prep.)	used to express possession	of
dentro (prep.)	used to indicate location/position	inside, within, in
dietro (prep.)	used to indicate location/position	behind, on the other side of
dove (adv.)	used to express location/position	where, the place in which
e (conj.)	in addition to	and, as well as
è scaturito (v.)	from the verb <i>scaturire</i> , meaning to arise from	has sprung, has appeared
gocce (n.)	a small amount of liquid	drops, droplets, beads
il, la, lo (art.)	denoting one or more people or things already mentioned or assumed to be common knowledge	the
in, nella (prep.)	used to express location/position	inside, within
infine (adv.)	used to indicate time	finally, at last, in the end
le (art.)	denoting one or more people or things already mentioned or assumed to be common knowledge	the
leggi (v.)	from the verb <i>leggere</i> , meaning to read	you examine, you study, you decipher

libero (adj./adv.)	being able to act however one wants	free, uninhibited, uncontrolled
luce (n.)	what makes things visible	brightness, light, radiance
memoria (n.)	the ability to store and recall information	memory, remembering
mura (n.)	a vertical structure	walls, barriers, obstructions
non (adv.)	used to form a negative statement	not
quando (adv.)	used to indicate time	when, whenever, as soon as
quelle (adj.)	used to identify a specific person or thing	those
remota (adj.)	used to describe distance	faraway, isolated, far-off
riconosci (v.)	from the verb <i>riconoscere</i> , meaning to identify something seen before	you recognize, you know, you are familiar with
ritorna (v.)	from the verb <i>ritornare</i> , meaning to return	it returns, it comes back
si è raccolto (n.)	from the verb <i>raccogliere</i> , meaning to gather	it came together, it collected
sfuma (v.)	from the verb <i>sfumare</i> , meaning to blend in	it blurs, it wanes
solitudine (n.)	the state of being alone	isolation, loneliness
sparisce (v.)	from the verb <i>sparire</i> , meaning to disappear	it vanishes, it fades away
spazio (n.)	where things exist	space, expanse, empty space
te, tu (pron.)	used to indicate someone else	you
ti abbandoni (v.)	from the verb <i>abbandonare</i> , meaning to abandon	you run free, you let yourself go
un/un'/una (art.)	used when referring to something for the first time	one, a
volto (n.)	a part of the body	face, visage

vuole (v.)	from the verb <i>volere</i> , meaning to want	it wishes, it desires, it prefers
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Name: _____

Date: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

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