

### Levantine Arabic transcript:

ياسر: في روايات تانيه بتتناول مواضيع عدة منها قصة حب مجوسية إلي إلهها علاقة بشخص غريب بأحد البلدان الإشتراكية، وحالة غرام مش بالضرورة أنو تنتهي بطريقه جيدة. عندو أيضا روايات بتتناول مواضيع مختلفة مثل موضوع الصيد في سوريا. همو الأساسى من خلال كتابة الرواية هو طبعاً التعامل مع اللغة العربية، واكتشاف امكانيات اللغة، ..إل. فضل اللغة، وتأثير اللغة على المجتمع، وتأثير المجتمع على اللغة طبعاً لأنو هاي حالة جدلية مش من طرف واحد.. الاثنين بأثروا على بعضهم. فكان طبعاً عندو هم تأثير الرواية على المجتمع مثل ما قلت، وأتوقع أنو نجح الى حد ما لأنو كان عندو شعبية جيدة في العالم العربي، قراؤوا كانوا موزعين على عدة بلدان من أفريقيا أو المغرب العربي بالأحرى الى مصر الى الخليج والمشرق. وكان.. أنا بحسب رأيي.. سر نجاحوا هوي علاقة الرواية بالسياسة. كان طبعاً دائماً همّو الأساسى أنو كيف يعكس هم الانسان العربي في أدبو مش فقط مواضيع الهها علاقة في الذات ويعني مواضيع تأملية أو فلسفية، بل أيضا مواضيع ساسية وأجتماعية. فمن هون أنا برأيي أهمية الأدب بشكل عام وامكانية تأثيره على المجتمع، يعني مش دائماً مضطر الواحد انو يفوت بجذالات سياسية مباشرة ليأثر على المجتمع. ممكن من خلال كتابة يعني روايه أو كتاب في أمكانية انو الواحد ياتر على حيزات مختلفة بالمجتمع.

### English translation:

Yasser: There are other novels that tackle different subjects, such as *Zoroastrian Love Story* which deals with a stranger connected to one of the socialist countries ... ah ... and a love story ... ah ... that didn't necessarily have a happy end. He [Abdul Rahman Munif] also had stories that dealt with different subjects, such as the subject of ... ah ... hunting in ... ah ... Syria.

... ah ... his main concern, through writing novels, was certainly how to deal with [the] Arabic language and discover the capabilities of the language ... ah ... and ... ah ... the echo of the language ... ah ... and the effect of the language on the society, and the effect of the society on the language, of course, as this is an argumentative issue .... Umm ... not by one side; they affect each other. So the important thing for him was the effect of a novel on the society, as I said and ... [pause] and I think that he succeeded to a certain extent, because ... ah ... he is popular in [the] Arab World. ... ah. His readers are in many countries, from Africa (or rather [the] Maghreb<sup>1</sup>), to Egypt, to the Gulf States and the East. Ummm and he was ... ah ... the...ah ... according to my opinion, the secret of his success is ... ah ... the relation of...ah ... [the] novel to politics. Of course, his main concern was how ... umm ... to reflect the concern of an Arab human being ... umm ... to reflect the concern of an Arab human being in his literature -- not only subjects that are related to self and, and, I mean, spiritual or philosophical subjects, but also political and social subjects. So, I think that the importance of literature in general and its influence on the society -- I mean, one doesn't always have to get involved in direct political arguments to influence the society. One can do so through writing a novel or a book ... ah ... there is a possibility for one to influence different layers in the society.

<sup>1</sup> Maghreb. "The place of sunset"; the west. The term refers to northwestern Africa: Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, and Mauritania.

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