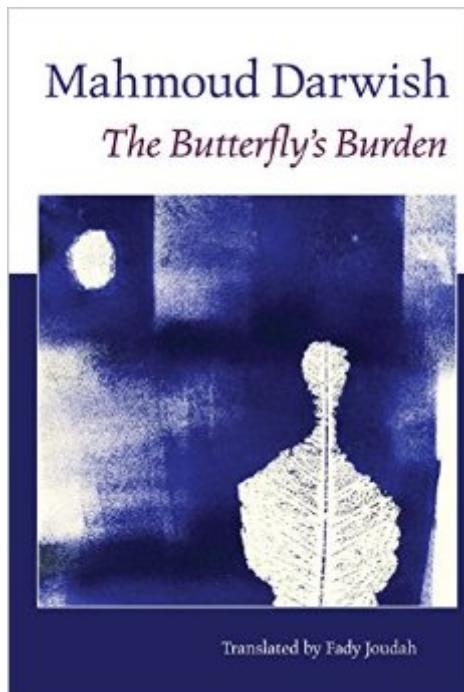


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# The Butterfly's Burden (English And Arabic Edition)



## Synopsis

Mahmoud Darwish is the Essential Breath of the Palestinian people, the eloquent witness of exile and belonging, exquisitely tuned singer of images that invoke, link, and shine a brilliant light into the world's whole heart. What he speaks has been embraced by readers around the world; his is an utterly necessary voice, unforgettable once discovered.

Naomi Shihab Nye

Mahmoud Darwish is the leading poet in the Arab world, an artist and activist who attracts thousands to his public readings. The *Butterfly's Burden* combines the complete text of Darwish's two most recent full-length volumes, linked by the stunning memoir-witness poem *A State of Siege*. Love poems, sonnets, journal-like distillations, and interlaced lyrics balance old literary traditions with new forms, highlighting loving reflections alongside bitter longing.

From Sonnet [V] I touch you as a lonely violin touches the suburbs of the faraway place. Patiently the river asks for its share of the drizzle. And, bit by bit, a tomorrow passing in poems approaches so I carry faraway's land and it carries me on the road.

Mahmoud Darwish is the author of 30 books of poetry and prose, as well as the Palestinian Declaration of Independence. He has worked as a journalist, was director of the Palestinian Research Center, and lived in exile until his return to Palestine in 1996. He has received many international awards for his poetry. Translator Fady Joudah is a physician based in Houston, Texas. His first book of poems received the Yale Younger Poets prize.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have waited for this book like a nomad in the desert longs for a night to set off for his journey, like

the sea aches for its returning wave, like a poet who wants the reader to embrace his poem. Now I have it in front of me "The Butterfly's Burden", a journey of, and through, voice. There is an "I" that overflows from "you", a dialogue between masculine and feminine, prose and poetry. There is a question how to carry the "I" of the "we" without betraying one perception for the other. It's singing about love as a private exile.

Low Sky by Mahmoud Darwish

There's a love walking on two silken  
feet  
happy with its estrangement in the streets,  
a love small and poor made wet by a passing rain  
that it overflows onto passerby:  
My gifts are larger than I am  
eat my wheat and drink my wine  
my sky is on my shoulders and my earth is yours...  
Did you smell the jasmine's radiant blood  
and think of me  
then wait with me for a green-tailed bird  
that has no name?  
There's a poor love staring at the river  
in surrender to summoning:  
Where do you run to see a horse?  
Soon the sea will suck you in  
so walk leisurely to your chosen death,  
O seahorse!  
Were you as two embankments for me  
and was the place as it should be  
light-footed on your memories?  
What songs do you love  
what songs? The ones  
that speak about love  
thirst, or about a time that has passed?

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