

Poem Title : In Jerusalem

In Jerusalem, and I mean within the ancient walls,
I walk from one epoch to another without a memory
to guide me. The prophets over there are sharing
the history of the holy . . . ascending to heaven
and returning less discouraged and melancholy, because love
and peace are holy and are coming to town.

I was walking down a slope and thinking to myself: How
do the narrators disagree over what light said about a stone?

Is it from a dimly lit stone that wars flare up?

I walk in my sleep. I stare in my sleep. I see
no one behind me. I see no one ahead of me.

All this light is for me. I walk. I become lighter. I fly
then I become another. Transfigured. Words
sprout like grass from Isaiah's messenger
mouth: "If you don't believe you won't believe."

I walk as if I were another. And my wound a white
biblical rose. And my hands like two doves
on the cross hovering and carrying the earth.

I don't walk, I fly, I become another,
transfigured. No place and no time. So who am I?

I am no I in ascension's presence. But I
think to myself: Alone, the prophet Mohammad
spoke classical Arabic. "And then what?"

Then what? A woman soldier shouted:

Is that you again? Didn't I kill you?

I said: You killed me . . . and I forgot, like you, to die.

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