

Bibliotheca Alexandrina

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Honoring the Past... Promoting the Future

This newsletter hopes to reach a wide public, both locally and internationally. It brings to you news about Alex Med and Alexandria. If you would like to send your views, comments or contribute topics related to Alexandria and the Mediterranean please use the contact details. Regular features include an article on an Alexandrian personage, another on an Alexandrian building or neighborhood, a page of photography that captures scenes from the life and sites of the city, and a gastronomical section on Mediterranean cuisine. Our mission is to involve you in our activities and in the making of a new Alexandria—one that honors the past, respects diversity and rises to the challenges of the 21st century.

Editor: Jaïda Gawad Hamada

Graphics: Mina Nader

Front cover: View from a fort in the town of Rosetta.

Back cover: The white Desert.



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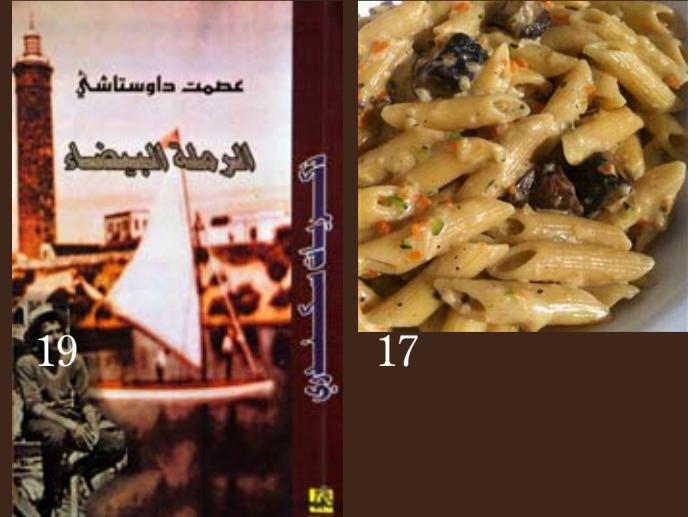
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The Forgotten Town of Rosetta

Mohamed Kenawi

Despite the importance of the town of Rosetta, it has not been given due attention by scholars, historians or archaeologists. This small town on the Mediterranean gave its name to the branch of the Nile which ends at the sea, some 65 km east of Alexandria. It also gave its name to the famous Rosetta Stone which was found in 1799 during the French occupation (1798-1801) and was the key to understanding the Ancient Egyptian language. It is now located in the British Museum.

The history of Rosetta is little known to scholars due to the lack of archaeological investigations. To the south of the modern town there exists a huge archaeological site called Abu Mandur, which has also been hardly investigated. In 1901 a base of a column was found with a Greek inscription dating back to the 4th or 3rd centuries BCE. It is generally believed that a Doric tribe founded a small commercial center at Abu Mandur with a Hellenistic constitution, but likewise little attention has been paid to it.

After the Arab conquest of Egypt in 640 CE, many Arab tribes chose to settle in Rosetta. A notable example is the Qara tribe which belonged to the tribe of Bruo Madraka. The town was also inhabited by the Murad and Wanba tribes.

The Arab town was founded in 853 CE as a fortified settlement. The town gained fame and importance after the 10th and 12th centuries CE. As Alexandria lost the use of its port and the canal that brought fresh water, Rosetta thus became a destination for commercial ships, and new settlements around the

Rosetta branch of the Nile were established. The direct access through the river attracted merchants and travellers to sail up the river. In the Mamluke period, the town became a strategic point to defend the north coast of Egypt. Sultan Qaitbay built a strong fort at the furthest point north on the Nile. The fort remained functional until it was badly damaged in 1801 when the British army attacked the French and the south west corner collapsed. The French soldiers surrendered and the Rosetta branch of the Nile was occupied by the British fleet.

Many Arab authors have mentioned Rosetta in their works such as Ibn Huqal (10th century CE) in his book *Al Masalek*, describing it as follows: "Rosetta is a town on the Nile near its mouth on the sea, the town has markets, baths, and many palm trees". The second interesting description is the one mentioned by Ibn Dokmaq who narrated that the town had a bath and a Kom with a lighthouse for foreign ships. The lighthouse was renovated by Al Malik Al Zaher Baibars. There is also a tower which



Medieval grain grinder inside a private house



The façade of an Ottoman house



View from the fort

was restored by Salah Al Din Ben Ouram. Inside the tower there existed a school. In that town palm trees were found in abundance and the inhabitants earned their living mainly by fishing.

In the Ottoman period, the town became more popular with the elite of the region. Hundreds of well-constructed houses were built with decorative elements. Today the town has 22 houses only. An interesting mosque, Zaghloul Mosque, which goes back to the Ottoman period, is still operational. This mosque was built by hundreds of reused marble and granite columns which indicate an original rich settlement of structures during the Greco-Roman period. Until recently, visitors could see huge granite columns in the main streets of the modern town.

During the three years of the French occupation, the French Army controlled Rosetta, and later an important battle took place in it when the British General Fraser tried to conquer it in 1807. The inhabitants of Rosetta valiantly defended their town, thereby forcing the British out.

Today the archaeological remnants of the town consist of a small museum situated in one of the Ottoman houses, three other Ottoman houses open for tourists, a granary, three mosques, and the mound of Abu Mandur. Rosetta is considered the second town in Egypt after Cairo containing Islamic architectural remains. Visitors of Rosetta can now enjoy the taste of its fresh fish and its traditional sugarcane juice.



Rashid Museum



Abu Mandur Mosque

The Port of Alexandria and the Naval Aspect of the Arab – Israeli War

Ashraf M. Refaat*



On 5 June 1967, Egypt suffered a major military defeat in Sinai in its longstanding conflict with Israel. In spite of all the chaos that was happening in the Armed Forces, the Egyptian Navy was able to come out of this conflict unscathed, with none of its units sunk or damaged. At the same time, it managed to score memorable victories, while the Israeli Navy failed to exploit the advantage of its superior air power.

During the 1967 aggression on Egypt, the Israeli Armed Forces were given specific tasks. The air force was given the mission to destroy the Egyptian Air Force and support the Israeli advance towards the Suez Canal. As for the Ground Forces, their mission was to occupy Sinai.

However, the main mission for the Israeli Navy was never mentioned by Israel. This testifies to the fact that the Israeli Navy failed to accomplish its mission: mainly to deliver a blow directed against the Port of Alexandria, with the object of destroying the naval units stationed there, thus crippling the superiority of the Egyptian Navy.

The operational evaluation of the situation, carried out by Naval Headquarters, ruled out the use of Israeli surface ships for this attack because of the threat emanating from the coastal defense missile batteries, coastal artillery, as well as the presence of a fleet of guided missile boats.

Thus, the only solution available to the Israeli Navy was to use submarines to launch a frogmen attack against the Port of

Alexandria. To achieve this end, on the night of 5 June 1967, while the Egyptian Navy was launching its attack against the Port of Eilat, an Israeli submarine approached the Port of Alexandria, penetrated the anti-submarine patrols that were stationed there, and launched a frogmen attack, aimed at destroying the main naval units in the port. That evening, at Destroyer Brigade Headquarters, the Combat Information Center reported the sudden appearance of a small target close to the Great Pass Beacon that was closing in at a very slow speed, and it was classified as a possible submarine. Anti-frogmen activities were rapidly increasing and the whole area was subjected to intensive anti-submarine measures. As a routine precaution, ever since full readiness was declared on 14 May,

destroyers stationed in Alexandria changed their berth after dusk every day. Thus, instead of two destroyers being tied to buoys opposite the breakwater, they shifted berth to the inner quays of the Port of Alexandria, and some auxiliary vessels were tied in their place. Later it became apparent that enemy frogmen penetrated into the port after explosions were heard in the vicinity of an old dredger which was mined by frogmen.

Soon after daybreak on 6 June, one of the Destroyer Brigade units, the frigate Tarek, was out on patrol off the coast of Alexandria. It had assumed Routine Action Stations when suddenly the tracks of approaching torpedoes were detected visually, for the sea was dead calm, and the torpedoes had been set to run at a very shallow depth, leaving behind them a clear track, and thus were successfully avoided by the timely maneuvering of Tarek. Four torpedoes were fired in two salvos and all missed. Increasing to full speed, Tarek carried out a counter attack against the submarine using depth charges. The Israeli submarine, Tanin, which had launched the frogmen attack earlier, was seriously damaged, though not totally destroyed. The whole situation was cleared up when Israeli frogmen were discovered hiding near the breakwater in the vicinity of Qaitbay Fort in the Eastern Harbor, while others were arrested on the Corniche while attempting to flee. Later on, they were all arrested and subjected to intensive interrogation. As such, the Israeli frogmen attack on Alexandria failed, resulting only in minor damages to a dredger and a supply barge.

Meanwhile, units of the Destroyer Brigade in the Red Sea regrouped in Port Tawfik and Suez. They took up air defense positions





where they continued for several days to provide effective fire for the benefit of the retreating Egyptian Army units against enemy aircraft. At the same time, the presence of these destroyers prevented Israeli Army formations from approaching the areas of Suez and Port Tawfiq.

In Alexandria, seaward defense measures were increased to a maximum, with constant patrols being operated by destroyers, mine sweepers, subchasers and missile boats further out at sea. After the almost total destruction of the Egyptian Air Force, and

combat, no Israeli units were intercepted. It seemed that utter fear of Egyptian missile boats kept the Israeli Navy helplessly confined to its ports. When Israeli destroyers finally ventured close to Port Said, it took the Egyptian Navy only a few minutes to sink the Israeli flagship, the destroyer Eilat, off Port Said just before dusk on 21 October 1967: an outstanding achievement to the credit of the Egyptian Navy.

Although the Egyptian Navy enjoyed marked superiority over its Israeli counterpart, this advantage was not fully made use of, due to the lack of effective operational planning, and the general loss of control at General Headquarters. Nevertheless, the Egyptian Navy was able to preserve its fighting capabilities and did not suffer any losses during the war. Discipline and morale were high and the standard of training was excellent. Various Israeli claims to the sinking of Egyptian destroyers and submarines off the Israeli coast were quite untrue, simply because no Egyptian naval units were anywhere near the vicinity.

A fair evaluation of Israeli naval activities during the June 1967 War shows that action was limited to the attack carried out by the submarine Tanin which cannot be termed successful; the frogmen attack did not achieve its purpose and the participants were arrested; the torpedo attack on Tarek failed and the Tanin was seriously damaged. In the Red Sea vicinity, the Egyptian destroyer attack initiated against the Port of Eilat was neither detected nor intercepted. This incident indicates a serious lapse in the security measures taken by the Israeli Navy in spite of the outbreak of hostilities.

Besides the attempted frogmen attack on the Port of Alexandria, the only Israeli naval action was the inexplicable air/sea attack against the American electronic reconnaissance ship, the USS Liberty, in the afternoon of 8 June, causing loss of life and many casualties.

In conclusion one can say that the Egyptian Navy stood up to the rigors of war, acting with valor and determination. Thus, its performance was indeed a silver lining to the dark clouds of 1967.



*Admiral Ashraf M. Refaat was the Commanding Officer of the Destroyer Brigade, the main striking force in the Egyptian Navy, and was deeply involved in the naval and military activities that occurred during the war.



the devastation of the Army, there were fears of an Israeli naval strike against the main naval base in Alexandria. Thus, late at night on 5 May 1967, a search and destroy mission was assigned to the Destroyer Brigade in a daylight sweep eastwards as far as Damietta. This mission was executed in order to intercept any Israeli attempts to locate and assist the submarine Tanin which was damaged off Alexandria.

In view of the hazardous nature of the mission due to the complete lack of air cover and the presence of enemy submarines, the formation was commanded by the Commanding Officer of the Destroyer Brigade. East of Port Said, similar sweeps were carried out by missile boats during night hours. During all these sorties, which were repeated several times during the period of

This is not a Pipe

دھ مش بایب

أحمد خليل

فاطمة مصلح

مي عرابي

تأليف وإخراج: دينا عبدالسلام

إنتاج: مكتبة الإسكندرية

مدير التصوير: عماد ماهر

монтаж: ندى رياض

مساعد مخرج أول: ميسون المصري

منتج فني: أحمد نبيل

مدير إنتاج: ماجد مكرم

تصوير: مينا نبيل

مسجل صوت: سامح نبيل

مساعد مخرج ثان: رشا جودت

مكياج: سمير نبيل



This is not a Pipe: Dina Abdel Salam's Childhood Dream Coming True

Jaidaa Gawad Hamada

"This is not a Pipe"—a sentence that may sound familiar for those acquainted with the painting of the Belgium surrealist artist René Magritte *The Treachery of Images* (1928-29), which shows a pipe under which Magritte wrote: "Ceci n'est pas une pipe", French for "This is not a pipe". In other words, the painting is not a pipe, but rather an image of a pipe, which was Magritte's main theme: the real thing versus the image.

The sentence may also sound familiar to those interested in literature through the book of the French literary critic and philosopher Michel Foucault, *This is not a Pipe* (1973). For those endowed with a passion for cinema, however, the title *This is not a Pipe* signals the film debut of the Alexandrian director and scriptwriter Dina Abdel Salam. To the budding artist's delight, the film won the Plaza Award for Funding Short Movies, which was granted by the Arts Center of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and supervised by the renowned Egyptian director Dawoud Abdel Sayed.

The events of the 13-minute movie take place on a single day in the life of two Egyptian girls, Nadia, a journalist, and Salma, a photographer, who are entitled to spend a day together. The locus of their encounter is the Bibliotheca Alexandrina where they are assigned to write an article and take

photos of the place. The rebellious, defiant and liberal nature of the latter is accentuated by the more conventional and conservative nature of the former.

Despite the obvious difference in temperament and inclinations, the movie pits both against the backdrop of a repressive society and focuses mainly on the commonality of their experiences, most obviously revealed in stereotypical degradation of women, allegations about women's inferiority, the dilemma of choosing between conformity to prescribed models and rebelling against them, pursuing a fulfilling career, breaking free from authority, the liberating potential of female solidarity, the sense of entrapment and confinement from which women suffer, the patriarchal tendency to suppress women's voices and curb their creative minds, and the exploitation to which they are subjected, to name only a few of common episodes that punctuate women's lives.

The girls' discussion of René Magritte's painting, which happens to be Salma's favorite, highlights the tension between reality and the image, and accordingly calls into question the unbridgeable gap between the girls' real lives in their oppressive society and the more liberating paths they would like to carve out for themselves but are forced



The Alexandrian director and scriptwriter Dina Abdel Salam

to give up because of societal norms and conventions.

Dina Abdel Salam herself experienced a similar sense of restriction when she wanted to indulge her passion for cinema by joining the Cinema Institute in Cairo; a childhood



This is not a Pipe

دھ مش پاپ

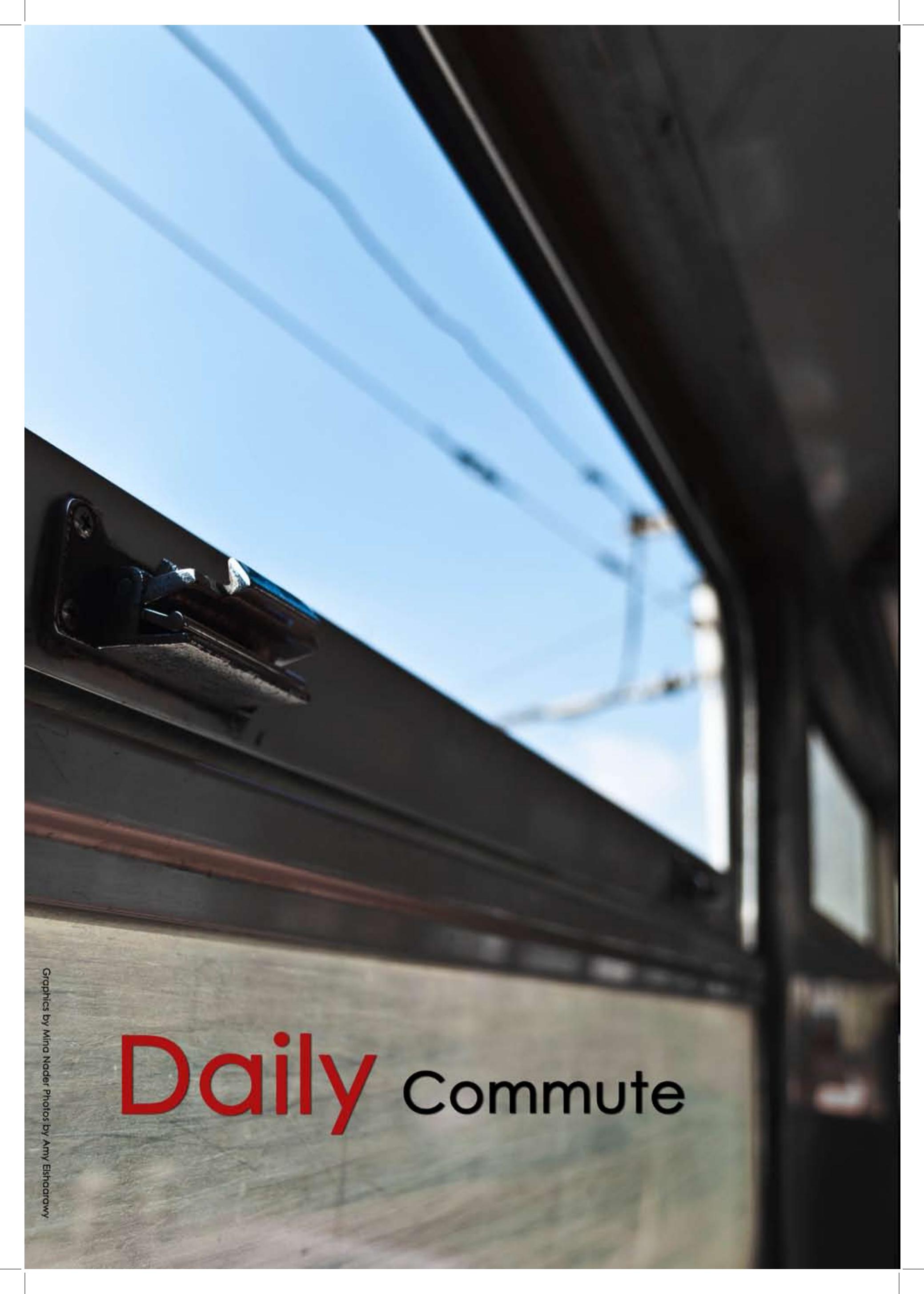
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dream she knew would be thwarted by conventional objections to girls pursuing such a career. Societal norms would have instead directed her to study medicine owing to the high grades she scored in her final year of secondary school whereupon she would have realized the dream of most Egyptian families. Nonetheless, she refused to abide by societal expectations and opted for studying English literature, another artistic field that she deemed the closest to studying cinema. Not only did she enjoy her undergraduate years, but she also graduated with distinction in 1998, got appointed in the same department, earned a Master's degree in English Literature in 2005 and then a PhD in 2010.

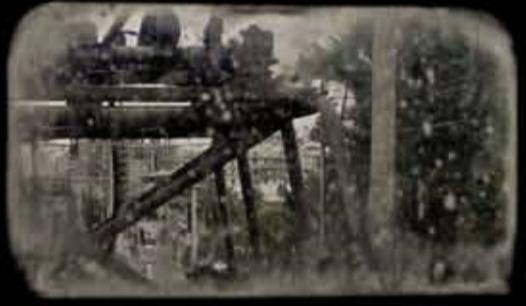
Meanwhile, her dream of studying cinema was heavily dwelling on her mind. Her only outlet was the countless scripts she stealthily stuffed her drawers with until she decided to reveal her long-suppressed talent. It dawned on her that the very first thing she should do was to consult somebody with expertise. She was luckily directed to the late Egyptian scriptwriter Abdel Hay Adeeb who, having read one of her scripts, encouraged her to capitalize on her talent. He particularly commended her strong dramatic conflicts and engaging dialogues.

Since there were hardly any institutes in Alexandria that would help her develop her talent on academic and professional bases, she decided to teach herself filmmaking. She accordingly assisted in the shooting of a number of movies in Alexandria and attended an animation workshop organized by the Goethe Institute in 2007. With thorough research and diligent effort, she eventually realized her dream when she won the Plaza Award for Funding Short Movies, which was organized by the Arts Center of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in 2010, to be followed by the 2nd prize at Baghdad International Film Festival (Arab Women Filmmakers Competition) in October 2011. Among the other festivals she participated in were: Brussels Short Film Festival Market, Rotterdam Arab Film Festival, Alexandria International Film Festival and Les Bancs Publics (6th edition of Rencontres à l'Echelle) in collaboration with Le *Polygone Etoilé* Festival.

In so doing, the promising Alexandrian scriptwriter and director has not only realized her childhood dream, but has also proved how with determination and perseverance, one can overcome the setbacks that are likely to hamper one's creativity. We cannot but wish our Alexandrian artist luck in her newly-embraced career. May she manage to achieve all her dreams and move from one artistic feat to another.



Daily Commute



Kerry Guy: An Australian Writer and Photographer Falling in Love with Egypt

Mahmoud Mansi



Abydos Temple



Mohamed Ali Mosque

"As our plane hovered above Cairo Airport waiting to land, I immediately knew that I was home. Involuntary tears ran down my cheeks as I saw the wonderful lights of Egypt for the very first time in my life". That was Kerry Guy's impression upon her first visit to Egypt in 1991; a visit that signaled the beginning of a mystical love story between Egypt and the Australian writer and photographer who has been living in Egypt for more than ten years now. It all started when one of her friends offered her, as a gift, a visit to Egypt. Although it had never occurred to her that she would make such a visit, the prospect of it was really enthralling.

Of all the places she visited in Egypt, Alexandria was particularly enchanting. "Alexandria captivates me with every wave that washes upon its glistening shore. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in particular always captures my attention and fills me with awe. Maybe this tomb speaks so eloquently to me since it was the North Coast that hosted my grandfather for some time during the Second World War". She sees Alexandria as a city with manifold voices, all echoing its history and heritage.

In her first short trip to Alexandria, she managed to make a collection of seashells, with each shell whispering a different piece of wisdom and opening her eyes to a new wonder. One of these wonders is the strange bond uniting Egyptians in general, and Alexandrians in particular; a bond which she describes as being "almost tangible".

Soon afterwards, she found herself falling under the spell of this wonder. Though she had the opportunity to live a far more luxurious kind of life in her homeland, she felt Egypt was her real home the moment she set foot in it. "I didn't choose to stay in Egypt – Egypt chose that I stay here!" she explains. When her trip came to an end, she felt really dismayed, yet she knew that some day she would return. "Somewhere deep within me I trusted that I would come back, but just to double check, I made sure I drank from the water of the Nile".

And so it happened! She returned to Egypt, with an ever-increasing infatuation with its history, culture and shores. In Egypt, and particularly in Alexandria, she embarked on a totally new life, venturing upon things that Egyptians themselves never did, socializing and intermingling with the downtrodden classes. She worked, saved money and spent more. Her outlook totally changed as she delved deep into the core of life in Egypt. The job that fitted her the most was to become a tour guide, whereupon she would have more chances to connect with the real essence of Egypt.

From Kerry Guy's experience in tourism and art, she has found out that the greatest memories most tourists take home are related to the Egyptian spirit – to the people and their hospitality. She justifies her vision by her view that "Egypt has a heart like no other country, and when a tourist's heartbeat pulses in harmony with Egypt's, the bond is eternally cemented".



The Temple of Ramses II

When the 25 January Revolution broke out, Kerry Guy had been on a tour with one of her groups in Siwa Desert. "The desert which I've known to be calm and peaceful became tumultuous on that day as if it were in harmony with the energy of Tahrir Square. We



The White Desert



Giza Plateau

were in the midst of a sand storm while Cairo was in the midst of an unprecedented emotional storm", she recalls. Fear started to find its way through their hearts and veins just as danger disseminated throughout the country, with phone lines being cut off and the police withdrawing. Kerry Guy was the one responsible for her group and the plan was to reach Cairo Airport before the curfew. "As we approached

country is so special and millions of tourists come here because they sense this. Some tourists save for almost a lifetime to make their journey to Egypt possible", she explains. She firmly believes that whatever happens, "Egypt will always be a place that enchants foreigners, but the vital key is to make it easier for them to reach it and to safeguard them once they set foot in it".



Sayed Zienab

Cairo, the curfew hours were lengthened and so we knew we had no chance of making it to the airport. Fear overtook us as we drove into Cairo. Army tanks were everywhere. Looters were everywhere. Vehicles were overturned and burnt. People were frenzied", she states. Luckily, the tourists made it safely to their homes, but she insisted on remaining in Egypt.

Before the Revolution, she had great plans for tourism. She even wrote several unpublished books about Egypt and its shores. Notwithstanding the current state of affairs, Kerry Guy is still endeavoring to accomplish her mission as she still believes in her Egypt. She still maintains great faith in Egypt's ability to recover from the drop that has befallen tourism. "Patiently, and with some forethought, Egypt can regain its stature in the field of tourism. This



Abydos

Kerry Guy's interests are varied. She believes that writing and photography enhance one another. "Sometimes I have absolutely no clue as to what I will be writing about until I see a picture that sparks a string of thoughts; at other times, I jump out of bed filled with inspiration and then spend hours looking for the right picture that fits my words".

"Be proud, be patient, be open-minded, be strong, be forgiving and never give up hope" this remains her motto in life and her rallying cry for Egyptians to work for the welfare of their country.

* Kerry Guy's website: <http://www.kerryguy.com/inspirational-journey/>

La Tasse Farnèse : Un Exemple de l'Excellence de l'Art Alexandrin

Yasmine Hussein

Alexandrie a été le lieu de naissance de nombreux genres artistiques hellénistiques, selon Th. Scheiber, c'est la théorie du panalexandrinisme. Au crédit de celle-ci figurent de nombreuses pièces de sculpture, de peinture, de mosaïque ou d'arts dits mineurs comme le métal ou les bijoux.

La Tasse Farnèse est emblématique de cet art alexandrin. Réalisée probablement à la fin du II^e siècle avant notre ère, à l'époque du pouvoir lagide, elle est passée des trésors romains puis byzantins pour arriver en possession de la famille Médicis, au sein de la collection Farnèse; d'où le nom que l'on prête actuellement à l'objet. La tasse est actuellement exposée au sein de la collection Farnèse, joyau du Musée archéologique de Naples. Elle est taillée dans un bloc de sardonyx indien et mesure 8cm de hauteur pour 20cm de diamètre. Sur la partie externe figure l'image d'une Méduse tandis que l'intérieur est orné d'une scène allégorique. De par ses dimensions et la complexité figurative, cet objet est un exemple exceptionnel de l'art alexandrin hellénistique.



Si son origine alexandrine paraît certaine, c'est la date de sa fabrication ainsi que sa signification symbolique qui donnent lieu à des controverses. La majorité des chercheurs, en accord avec les travaux antérieurs de Furtwängler, s'accordent pour la dater à l'époque ptolémaïque. Les motifs représentés sur la tasse auraient alors un lien avec thème du Nil et de la fertilité de l'Égypte à cette époque. Selon Pollini, la fabrication de l'objet remonte aux débuts de l'ère romaine, et représenterait une scène à la gloire de l'empereur Auguste. On peut également noter l'interprétation de Dwyer qui voit dans les ornements de la Tazza Farnèse plus qu'une allégorie du Nil mais une illustration à part entière du *Corpus Hermeticum*.

Dès 1900, le chercheur Adolf Furtwängler a décrit et analysé les motifs de la Tazza Farnèse. Ses travaux ont servi de base à des

prises de position scientifiques plus récentes. Ainsi, sur la représentation de la Méduse à l'extérieur de la tasse il y a peu à dire, sinon que c'est un thème qui est en général utilisé pendant l'Antiquité comme protection spirituelle pour éloigner les mauvais sorts ou les ennemis. La Méduse est entourée par des serpents à la place des cheveux, dont deux sont joints sous son menton. Son expression pathétique mène à l'héritage baroque.



La méduse sur la face extérieure

Selon Paolo Moreno, la Méduse sur le fond est formée en suivant le type de Ptolémée VIII Physcon¹ dans son aspect physionomique. Pollini, pour sa part, affirme que la Méduse a le rôle d'un charme apotropaïque destiné à prévenir l'âge d'or du règne d'Auguste de tout mal potentiel.



Ptolémée Physcon, Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, Bruxelles

L'intérieur de la tasse est plus complexe. L'objet présente huit figures : un sphinx, une femme couchée avec la coiffure d'Isis, un vieil homme barbu assis sur la branche d'un arbre avec sur ses genoux une corne d'abondance vide, un jeune homme debout,

deux personnages masculins qui volent, deux figures féminines partiellement nues et inclinées. L'analyse de ces différentes figures se trouvant à l'intérieur de la tasse a donné lieu à des interprétations différentes.

Le sphinx et la femme allongée



Détail de la tasse Farnèse : la femme allongée

Selon Furtwängler, on peut interpréter ces deux figures comme les incarnations symboliques de l'Egypte Ptolémaïque et d'Isis Euthenia². Les chercheurs vont dans le sens de cette hypothèse tout en ajoutant qu'il y aurait probablement une identification royale. Adriani pense que le sphinx représente Ptolémée VI et la figure féminine Cléopâtre I ou Ptolémée X et Cléopâtre III, respectivement. De la Rocca soutenait cette opinion en ajoutant la possibilité de Cléopâtre VII pour la figure féminine. Pour fonder cette opinion ils se basent sur la tête ornée du «ruban de la royauté» de la femme. Paolo Moreno, pour justifier cette analogie, s'est basé sur des comparaisons entre les traits du visage de la figure féminine et le portrait de Cléopâtre.



Cléopâtre III, Musée du Louvre

Pollitt estime aussi en général que ces figures sont des portraits et que si il y a une personnification spécifique, celle-ci ne peut être déterminée qu'en fonction de la date précise de la fabrication. Il partage cependant

l'opinion précédente d'une identification ptolémaïque pour le sphinx et d'Isis pour la figure féminine avec la possibilité de la personnification d'une reine lagide. Cette représentation d'Isis symboliserait la fertilité. Elle serait associée à Euthenia et grâce à son pouvoir apporterait la crue du Nil. De même, elle est représentée tenant un épi de blé et avec les seins nus, ce qui dans l'Égypte ancienne symbolisent la générosité de la terre.

Pollini pense que les deux figures ne représentent pas des personnes historiques ou des divinités précises mais sont des personnifications de l'Égypte ptolémaïque. On y retrouve ainsi toutes les caractéristiques générales des portraits royaux des Ptolémées. Les traits de la figure féminine n'évoquent pas pour le chercheur ceux d'une souveraine ou déesse en particulier, mais étant fortement hellénisés ils suggèreraient la transformation de l'Egypte ancienne dans une nouvelle koinè ptolémaïque. Le sphinx représenterait également l'ancienne tradition égyptienne et la transmission de la souveraineté aux Lagides.

L'homme âgé

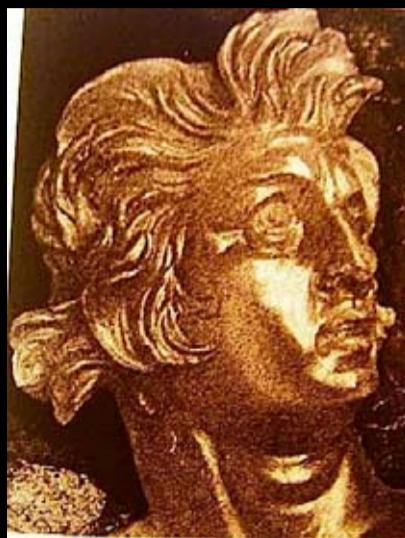
Pour Furtwängler et Pollitt, le personnage âgé, assis sur une branche d'arbre et tenant une corne d'abondance vide, est une représentation du Nil. Pollini souligne que cette figure, même si elle n'est pas centrale au sein de la scène, tient un rôle important du fait des détails qu'elle fournit : l'âge de l'homme, son physique encombrant, le fait qu'il tienne une corne d'abondance très imposante mais vide, sa position sur un arbre qui semble être un olivier. Ce dernier n'est d'ailleurs pas le symbole de l'Egypte. Ainsi Pollini évoque le lien entre l'objet et son éventuelle fonction de contenant pour huile d'olive, qui évoquerait l'Italie et accréditerait sa thèse selon laquelle l'objet est dédié à la gloire de Rome. De la Rocca soutient l'idée que cette figure peut représenter Hadès ou Hadès-Dionysos ou encore Osiris-Sérapis si on reprend l'idée de la corne de taureau. Dwyer estime que le vieil homme est une divinité barbue qu'il assimile à la constellation du taureau. Il précise que ce qu'on pense être une corne d'abondance vide est tout simplement une corne, attribut des taureaux.

La figure du jeune homme au centre de la scène

Pour Furtwängler, il représente Triptolème Horus, qui a enseigné l'agriculture à l'humanité. La plupart des chercheurs acceptent cette interprétation, et ce malgré le constat que le jeune homme représenté sur la tasse ne possède pas toutes les caractéristiques d'Horus. Ainsi, il manque par exemple le geste avec l'index.

Pollitt hésite entre interpréter cette figure comme une personnification de Triptolème Horus, car selon lui une représentation d'un

souverain lagide, toujours en fonction de la date de la fabrication de l'objet, n'est pas impossible. Il note par ailleurs certains traits étranges comme une ressemblance entre les cheveux de la figure et ceux des satyres ainsi qu'une moustache qui pourrait faire allusion aux Gaulois.



Détail de la tasse Farnèse : Triptolème

Pollini ne pense pas que cette figure du jeune homme fasse référence à Triptolème Horus, s'appuyant sur le fait déjà constaté qu'il lui manque des attributs. Il la compare au contraire avec des figures gauloises, en faisant référence aux cheveux mais pas à la moustache contrairement à Pollitt. Pour lui, le physique puissant se dégageant de cette représentation incarnerait davantage l'Occident romanisé. De même, la figure tiendrait dans sa main droite une serpe selon Pollini. Cet objet qui est l'un des attributs de Saturne est utilisé surtout pour la fabrication du vin, l'un des trois aliments de base du monde antique avec le pain et l'huile. Si on fait le lien avec la corne d'abondance vide du vieil homme la tasse peut délivrer le message que les terres conquises par Rome vont aider à remplir la corne d'abondance de Saturne. Enfin, pour Dwyer, qui voit dans les motifs de la tasse une illustration hermétique, la figure du jeune homme symbolise Orion.

Les deux figures masculines volantes

Pour Furtwängler, ces deux êtres ailés sont censés représenter les vents éthéiens, opinion partagée par De la Rocca et Pollitt. Moreno y voit quant à lui l'incarnation de deux princes ptolémaïques sans toutefois pouvoir en préciser les noms. Pollini interprète ces deux figures comme l'incarnation des vents de l'Ouest (Zéphyr) et du Nord (Borée). Pour Dwyer, ces hommes ailés représentent les Dioscures dont les homologues stellaires sont les gémeaux.

Les deux figures féminines

Situées dans la partie droite de la scène, elles sont selon Furtwängler une personnification des deux saisons : celle de la crue et celle de la culture. Pollini interprète ces deux figures également en fonction des

saisons. L'une des deux femmes qui tient une corne d'abondance vide, symbolise probablement l'été et l'autre, qui tient un bol de vin vide, l'automne; ces saisons sont importantes car c'est à ce moment que sont récoltés le blé et le raisin respectivement. Toujours selon Pollini, ces deux femmes complèteraient les figures des deux hommes ailés : deux saisons et deux vents. Moreno décrit ces deux figures féminines comme la personnification de princesses ptolémaïques. Enfin Dwyer, fidèle à son interprétation hermétique de la scène de la tasse, voit en ces deux femmes les deux étoiles Sirius et Procyon.

Ainsi, on constate dans quelle mesure l'absence de datation précise de la Tazza Farnèse de même que la richesse et la complexité de ses ornements conduisent les chercheurs à des interprétations très variées. Celles-ci sont au nombre de trois.

- La tasse, fabriquée durant la période hellénistique, quand Alexandrie connaissait la prospérité notamment grâce aux richesses agricoles de l'Egypte et à sa position de carrefour des échanges, serait un hommage à la fertilité. Les tenants de cette théorie insistent sur l'hommage à la déesse Isis, au Nil mais aussi aux souverains lagides.
- L'objet, dont la fabrication daterait des débuts de la présence romaine à Alexandrie, rendrait grâce à la puissance de Rome avec des allégories faisant référence à l'abondance et à la triade méditerranéenne du blé, du raisin et de l'olivier.
- Enfin une dernière interprétation selon laquelle la tasse présenterait une scène du *Corpus Hermeticum*. En effet, derrière l'interprétation de ces ornements se trouverait une carte astronomique.

Notes

- 1 Ptolémée VIII Évergète II parfois surnommé Physcon, Le Ventru en raison de son obésité
- 2 Isis Euthenia, déesse de la fertilité, prospérité et de l'abondance.

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عندما تبوم «الرملة البيضاء» بأسرارها: عصمت داوستاشي وتجربته في الفن والحياة

جياده جواد حمادة

الإكتشافات” بوصفه “الرملة البيضاء” التي طالما ميزت الإسكندرية، والتي أصبحت جزء من شخصيته، فكما يقول: ”و مازالت الرمال البيضاء في كياني و روحي و قلبي، منذ ذلك الزمن البعيد امتنلت بالنقاء و الحب و ظلت ذلك الملك الصغير المتشبث بجبل الشراع، المنتظر العودة للديار، الذي يرثي و يستمتع بكل شيء إلى أن يحين وقت الرحيل الأكبر، فينطلق و يطير”. و يطير داوستاشي إلى الماضي، و يبدأ بسرد مقطفاته من حياته، و التي يشتمها ”بحلم من أحلام ألف ليلة”， وأول ما يتذكره من أحلام هي تكية البكتاشية و شيخها و رغبة

والده في أن يصبح درويشاً في

التكية الجديدة في المعادي، لكنه

رفض ذلك لأن تكية الوحيدة

كانت ولا زالت هي الفن.

ثم ينتقل بعد ذلك إلى الحديث

عن ذوره و قبيلة الجريتية،

أو الكريتية كما يكتبها البعض،

و موطنها الأصلي هي جزيرة

كريت، و قد هرب الكثير من

الجريتية إلى الإسكندرية نتيجة

الحرب الأهلية التي اندلعت بين

السكان اليونانيين المسيحيين و

السكان الآثراك المسلمين. و

بما أن داوستاشي قد ولد في

الإسكندرية، فهو بذلك ينتمي

إلى القبيلة الجريتية السكندرية.

ويسجل داوستاشي كل

ما يتذكره عن حياة أسرته،

و بخاصة جته التي كان لها

دوراً كبيراً في حياته، و قد كان

للجريتية مجتمعًا خاصاً بهم،

إلا أنهم ذابوا بعادتهم و تقاليدهم

في المجتمع المصري ولم يتبقى

منهم إلا بعض الذكريات و

الصور القيمة و بعض الوثائق

و المشغولات التي اشتهروا

بها.

ويأتي وصفه للإسكندرية

وكانه تاريخ للبيئة السكانية

لمدينة الإسكندرية وتطورها

خلال القرنين الماضيين،

وهو في رأيه تاريخ يجب

الاهتمام به للدارسين و

المهتمين بمدينة الإسكندرية.

ويبداها بوصفه لها على

أنها كانت مدينة ”عالمية

بكل معنى الكلمة“، جذبت

العديد من الجاليات الأجنبية،

وكانت الجالية اليونانية هي

أكبر جالية في الإسكندرية،

وتاتي الجالية الإيطالية في

المرتبة الثانية في الإنتشار،

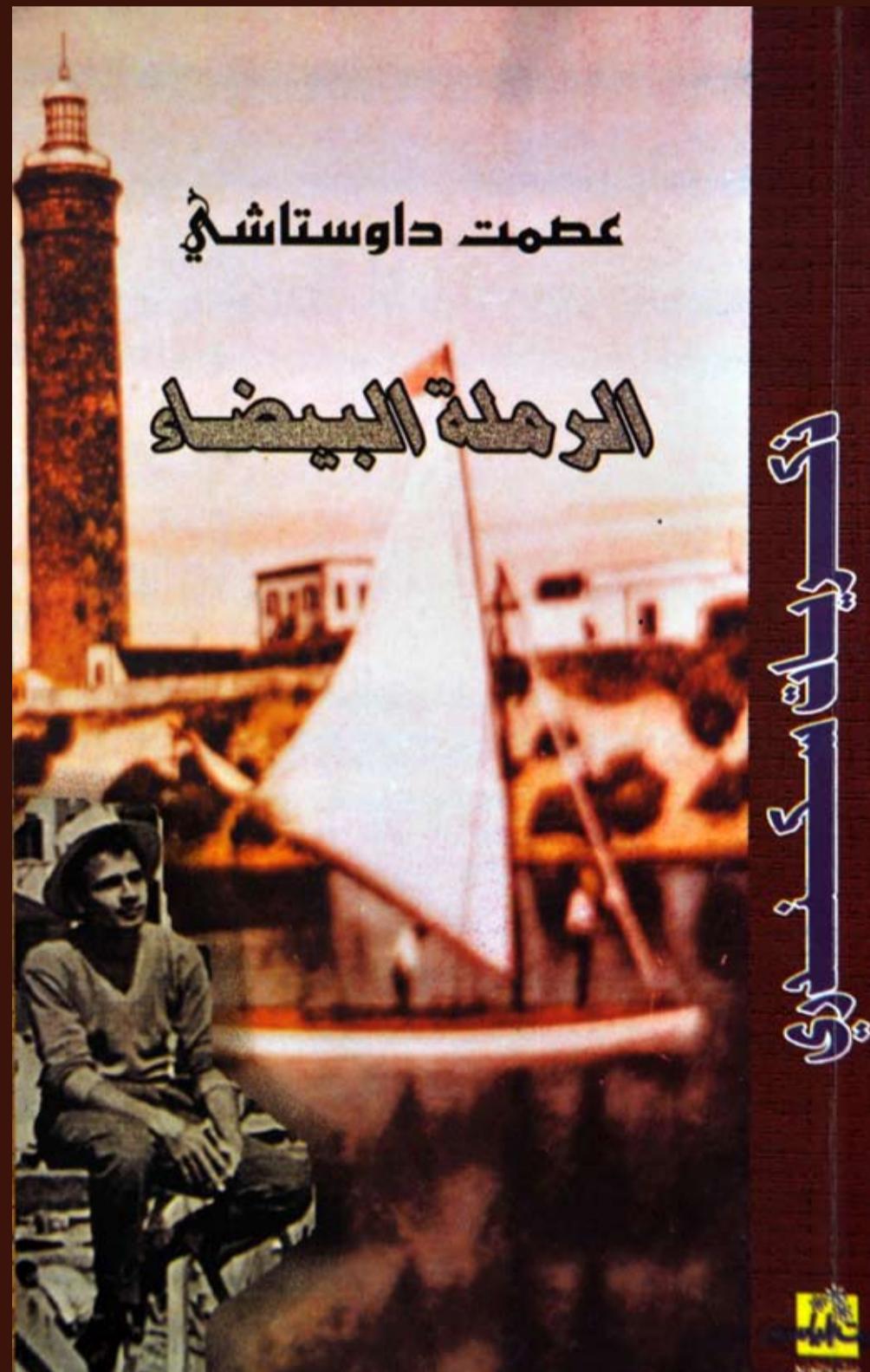
سكندرى“، فهو يكتب عن رحلاته ليس فقط كفنان ولد و كبر و تعلم في الإسكندرية، ولكن أيضًا كإنسان تشكلت شخصيته بمجموعة من الخبرات الحياتية، دفعته لأن يسرد ”ما تبقى في ذاكرته“. و ينقسم الكتاب إلى ثلاثة أجزاء: ”الرملة البيضاء“، و ”الرملة الحمراء“، و ”الرملة السوداء“. و يعتبر كل جزء بمثابة مرآة عاكسة لفترة من حياته، ثم يأتي إهدائه إلى أحفاده تحت عنوان ”من رحلات داوستاشي“ و التي يحكى لهم فيها عن رحلاته و أسفاره.

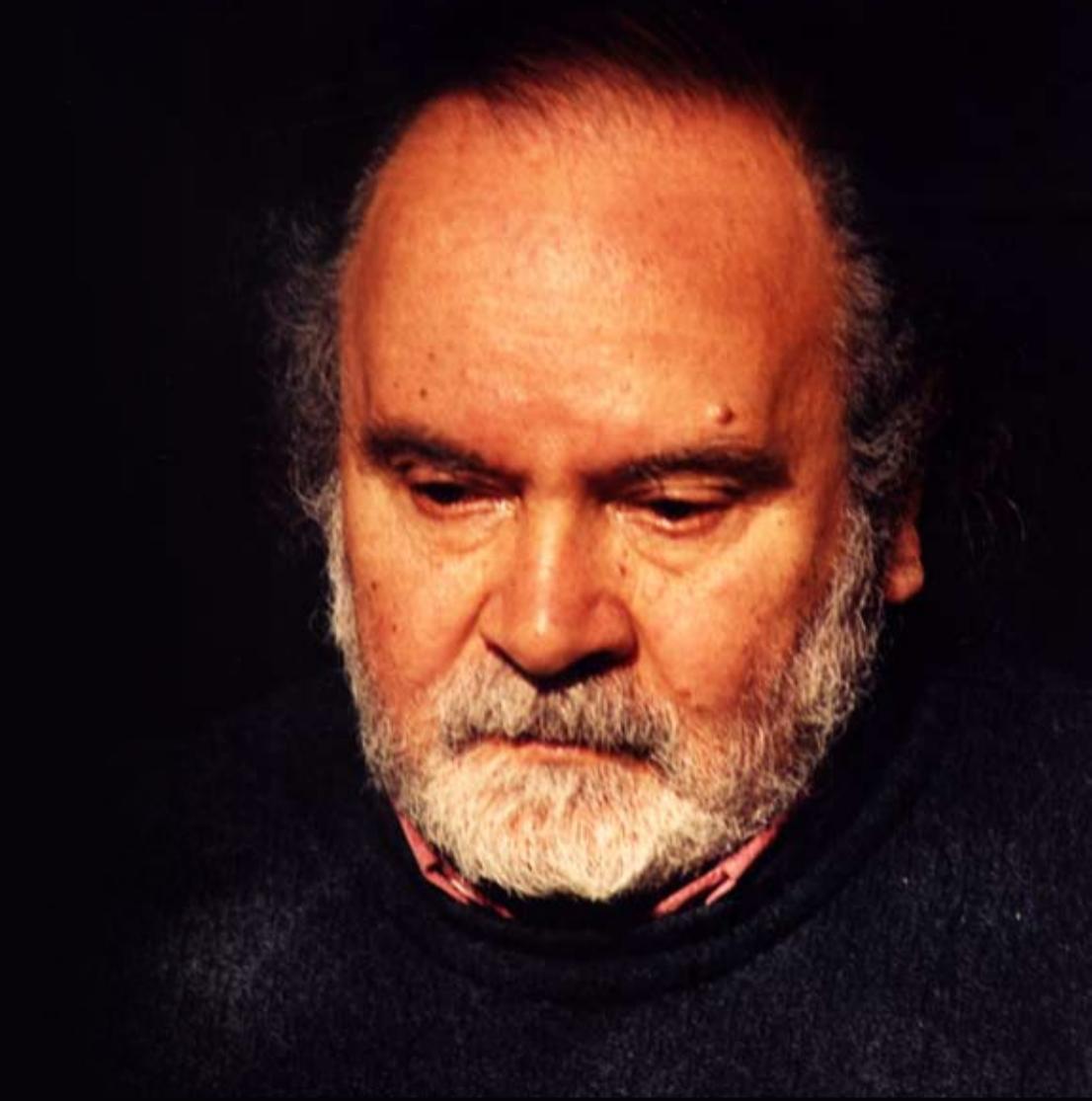
احتفلت دار العين بالإسكندرية بتتوقيع كتاب ”الرملة البيضاء: ذكريات سكندرى“ للفنان الكبير عصمت داوستاشي، و الذي يقدم فيه تجربته في الفن و الحياة على مدى عقود طويلة من الإبداع. و رغم تخرج الفنان عصمت داوستاشي من كلية الفنون الجميلة بالإسكندرية عام ١٩٦٠، إلا أنه أثرى المجال الفني ليس فقط بلوحاته واسهاماته في الحركة الفنية التشكيلية و مشاركته في معظم المعارض العامة و القومية بمصر في فنون الرسم والنحت والتصوير الضوئي والزيتى، ولكن أيضاً بإسهاماته في القصة القصيرة والسيناريو و الشعر و الدراسات الفنية والنقدية و التوثيقية، إلى جانب إخراجه للعديد من الأفلام السينيمائية القصيرة، فهو يعمل دائمًا على إنعاش الحركة الفنية من خلال إقامة المعارض و الجمعيات الفنية، و يرجع ذلك إلى إيمانه بحرية الفنان و عدم تقديره بقالب فني موحد، و بذلك يصبح مشوار حياته خير مثال على ذلك، فهو يرسم وينحت ويفوز بأعماله بالطبع، ويصمم ديكورات المسارح، و يكتب. و قد اهتم بصفة خاصة بالحركة الفنية في الإسكندرية منذ نشأتها و حتى الآن.

وقد تعددت إسهامات داوستاشي في مجال الكتابة، و لعل ذلك خير دليل على أن الفنان الذي يداخله قادرًا على الإبداع في مجال الكتابة و الفن التشكيلي على حد سواء، ولو لم تكن لديه مشاكل في اللغة كتابة، لكنه إبداعه في مجال الكتابة أكثر، ولكنه أكفي بكتابات تجريبية في الشعر والرواية والمسرح والقصة القصيرة والسيناريو، وكلها كتابات تشكيلية - أو هكذا أطلق عليها، ثمرأى أن يركز جهده في الدراسات النقدية التشكيلية.

ولد الفنان عصمت داوستاشي يوم ١٤ مارس ١٩٤٣ بين حي بحري وحي الأنفوشي حيث يوجد مسجد أبو العباس المرسي، وهو أبنا لإحدى العائلات المسلمة التي نزحت من جزيرة كريت بعد تعرضها للاضطهاد، ولا يمكن فهم إبداعات هذا الفنان الذي تعلم الرسم على يد عمه ومعلميه بشارع وكالة الليمون إلا بردها إلى جذوره ونشأته وثقافته؛ فهو مصرى سكندرى ينتمى لعالم البحر المتوسط الذى ثلثى فيه أوروبا وأفريقيا وآسيا.

وكما يتضح من عنوان آخر إصداراته ”الرملة البيضاء: ذكريات





يتناول فيها الأوضاع السياسية المتردية للبلاد قبل ثورة الخامس والعشرين من يناير، والتي كان أبرزها هو الحزب الوطني الديمقراطي، أو "الحزب الوطني الديكتاتوري" كما أطلق عليه، وظهور جمال مبارك عام ٢٠٠٢ كرئيس للجنة السياسات، ويعود داوستاشي بذاكرته إلى الوراء، ويذكر كيف عاش التسع سنوات الأولى من عمره في ظل الديمocratic الملكية التي كانت على وشك الزوال، ثم يذكر أيام الجيش وانقلابه على الحكم وسيطرته على البلاد عام ١٩٥٢، ثم يتذكر أيام النكسة وتحلي جمال عبد الناصر عن السلطة، وعلي الرغم من ابعاده عن العمل السياسي تماماً ورفضه الإنضمام إلى أي حزب، إلا أن جميع أعماله تحمل بصمة سياسياً بشكل أو آخر، وبينما داوسنطي تلك المرحلة من رحلته بالحديث عن دخول السياسة في الرياضة والفن، ويصف ذلك علي أنه "سلاح ذو حدين، وخطر كبير علي مسيرة الشعوب ولعب بمشاعرهم. فسيسود الإحباط واليأس، ولن يسكن الناس، مهما حدث لهم فلن يكون الصمت نهايتهم، وسيعلو صوت الحق ضد صوت السياسة البغيضة، وداعاً للسياسة الماكروة ومرحباً بالمشاعر الإنسانية الصادقة في حصن الإبداع الجميل".

وبعد أن أفضى من الحديث عن تلك المراحل من حياته ينتقل داوسنطي للحديث عن أسفاره ورحلاته، وبهذا هذا الجزء من الكتاب إلى أحفاده، وفيه يتحدث عن عشقه للرحلات منذ طفولته وقد جاء الفن ليتحقق له أمنيته في الترحال والتتجوال، سواء في مصر أو خارجها، ويتخذ من رحلته إلى ليبيا نموذجاً يوضح شغفه بالسفر.

ويأتي وصف الكاتب السكدرى إبراهيم عبد المجيد لمذكرات لعصمت داوسنطي كخير دليل على مدى ارتباطه بالإسكندرية، فيقول: "عصمت داوسنطي الفنان الكبير تحرك بين يديه الإسكندرية هنا في نص يتحرك مثل هواء البحر في يوم خريف يملأ فيه سماء الشاطئ قوس قزح من ألوان البشر والأماكن القديمة والجديدة، يقدم سيرته وسيرة المكان والناس".

منه الرسم والزخرفة والخط العربي. وقد انتشرت في الإسكندرية في ذلك الوقت محلات الرسامين والخطاطين، وكان الذوق الفني في المدينة آنذاك مرتفعاً جداً بسبب الجاليات الأجنبية، وينتقل داوسنطي إلى الحديث عن بعض الشوارع والأحياء التي ارتبطت بمراحل عمره المختلفة.

وقد كان داوسنطي منذ صغر سنّه شغوفاً بالقراءة واقتناء الكتب والمحافظة عليها، ويتذكر كيف كان يجلس حوله كتبه، والتي وصل اهتمامه بها إلى حد الهوس، وكان شارع الذي دانيال في ذلك الوقت أشبه بسور الأزبكية بالقاهرة من حيث كونه مكاناً لبيع الكتب القديمة. ولعل شغفه بالقراءة هو ما دفعه إلى تجهيز مكتبة كاملة في مقيمه خفاجة في الورديان وتحويلها إلى منتدى ثقافي وقاعية للعرض الفنية، ويصف داوسنطي ولعه بالقراءة بأنه "جنون حقيقي بالكتب".

ويبداً داوسنطي الجزء الثاني من رحلته والتي يطلق عليها اسم "الرملة الحمراء" بقوله: "مع نهاية الرملة البيضاء انغرست قدمي في الرملة الحمراء ولم أستطع نزعها منذ ذلك الوقت". ويترافق هذا الجزء مع بداية مرحلة جديدة من حياته ودفع فيها حي بحري الذي ولد فيه ونشأ بين حواريه وشوارعه ومدارسه، وانتقل إلى منطقة كامب شيزار، وأصبح له مرمساً خاصاً به، وقد بدأ في تلك الفترة في تدوين مذكراته، ولعل أبرز ما يميز تلك الفترة هو التحاقه بالمدرسة الفنية الزخرفية والتي من خلالها تمكن من الالتحاق بكلية الفنون الجميلة، التي طالما كانت حلمه يراوده، وقد تزامنت تلك الفترة مع نهاية أكثر مراحل حياته إشراقاً كما يتضح هذا في قوله: "لم التفت إلى مقدمات الكواكب القادمة التي أحذتها ثورة يوليو والتي ستشكل المستقبل الأسود الذي نعيشه الآن، ولكنني شعرت بأكاذيب كثيرة تدور حول رأسي فرسمتها واستسلمت لحياتي الجديدة في حي كامب شيزار".

"وأخيراً ابتلعني الرمال السوداء التي غمرت وطني"، هكذا يبدأ داوسنطي المرحلة الأخيرة من رحلته، والتي

ثم الأرمنية، بالإضافة إلى بعض الجاليات الأخرى كالفرنسيين والشوام، وغير ذلك من الشعوب الأخرى التي اتخذت من الإسكندرية موطنها لها. ولذلك فهو يعد نفسه محظوظاً لأنّه وجد "داخل تلك التركيبة البحر أبيض متوسطية" وأنّ ميلاده وحياته كانا في الإسكندرية، "أم مدن العالم وعاصمة الفن والثقافة والحضارة في الزمن القديم". ويتحدث داوسنطي عن الأحياء التي كان يسكن فيها في الإسكندرية، كمولده في بيت جده في حارة مشرف، ثم نشأته في منزل جدته بحي الجمرك، ثم انتقل إلى منطقة أبي الدردار، ثم منزله بجوار جامع الشيخ، ثم انتقل العائلة لشارع بواليونو بمحرم بك، ثم شارع الشمرلي، والذي يمثل آخر عهده بالسكن في حي بحري حيث انتقل بعده في السنتين إلى رمل الإسكندرية، والذي يصفه بأنه خروجاً من "الحي القديم، حي أولاد البلد في الإسكندرية، إلى حي الخواجات"، وقد تزامن ذلك مع فترة خروج الأجانب من الإسكندرية، و كان أول منزل له بجوار سوق شادية، ثم انتقل بعده إلى منطقة العمجمي واستقر بها. و يعلق داوسنطي على ارتباطه بأماكن سكنه قائلاً: "هذه مساكنى وشقق سكنى وعانياينها وأماكنها فهل تبوح لي بأسرارها؟".

ويعود داوسنطي بذاكرته إلى الوراء ويتذكر منزل جده إبراهيم الجريتلي، الذي تم فيه تصوير مشاهد فيلم "رصف نمرة خمسة"، كما يذكر العابه في هذا المنزل كالأرجوز وخيال الظل، ثم عروض الأفلام الصامتة، و يستفيض داوسنطي في الحديث عن شارع وكالة الليمون، وقد كان من أهم شوارع الجمرك وأكبرها، وكان مخصصاً للمخازن الكبيرة التي تستقبل كل ما يتم تصديره أو إستيراده من الخارج، ولعل أكثر ما يعبر عن ارتباطه بهذا الشارع هو تذكره رواج ذلك الحي كرائحة العيش الفيني ورائحة الزيتون اليوناني المميز، ورائحة مصنع الحلاوة، وروائح الألوان والزيوت المتبعة من دكان الحاج أحمد الوحوش، وهو الخطاط والرسام الذي تعلم

Penne with Mushrooms

Penne is a type of pasta with cylinder-shaped pieces. Penne is the plural form of the Italian penna, deriving from Latin penna, meaning feather or quill. In Italy, penne are produced in two main variants: penne lisce (smooth) and penne rigate (furrowed), the latter having ridges on each penna. There is also pennoni (big quills), which is a wider version of penne. Penne is traditionally served with pasta sauces and is a popular ingredient in pasta salads. It makes an excellent and versatile pasta for many applications because of its very practical design. The hollow center allows it to hold sauce, while the angular ends act as scoops.

Ingredients:

- 1 packet dry penne
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 cup mushrooms, sliced
- salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese



Directions

1. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to the boil.
2. Place the penne in the pot, cook for 8 to 10 minutes, until al dente, and drain.
3. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat, and cook the garlic and mushrooms until the mushrooms are tender.
4. Season with salt and pepper, and mix in the butter.
5. In a large bowl, toss the cooked pasta and the mushroom mixture.
6. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and garnish with parsley to serve.

Nutritional Information:

Amount Per Serving | Calories: 414 | Total Fat: 19.5g | Cholesterol: 12mg



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Newsletter

