

# Experimental Ruminations

The image features a 3D cube with a vibrant, multi-colored face on its left side. The face is rendered in shades of red, orange, yellow, and green, with a blue and cyan outline. The background is a dark blue gradient with diagonal lines. The title 'Experimental Ruminations' is written in a white, bold, serif font at the top of the cube.

*Ali Znaidi*

# Experimental Ruminations

Ali Znaidi



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## Acknowledgments

The author thanks the editors of the publications where these poems previously appeared.

Sonnet 1 appeared in *Otoliths*.

Sonnet 2 appeared in *streetcake magazine*.

Sonnet 3 appeared in *Dead Snakes*.

Sonnet 4 appeared in my blog <http://aliznaidi.blogspot.com/>.

Sonnet 5 appeared in *Otoliths*.

A Sonnet for a Clothesline appeared in *BoySlut*.

A Dying Lust appeared in *The Camel Saloon* and reappeared in *The Second Hump Volume III*.

against suffocation theory appeared in *The Mind[less] Muse*.

Snow Is Made up of Aphrodite's Teeth appeared in *Spinoza Blue*.

A S/tar appeared in *Spinoza Blue*.

Stainless Wit in Every Direction appeared in *experiential-experimental-literature*.

A appeared in *experiential-experimental-literature*.

A Little Haibun appeared in *experiential-experimental-literature*.

a new kind of brew appeared in *experiential-experimental-literature*.

a blue composite appeared in *experiential-experimental-literature*.

Ease is a Pair of Stockings Torn Away appeared in *Visceral Uterus*.

## Dedication

I would like to dedicate this work for Russell Streur, editor of *The Camel Saloon*, for his encouragement and for being the first editor who published my poems in his magazine *The Bamboo Forest*, without forgetting my family and my friends.

## Prologue

*I followed the course  
from chaos to art...*

From *Book of Longing* by Leonard Cohen

## Sonnet 1

Empty sky.

Empty dams.

Empty buckets.

Empty prairies.

Empty udders.

Empty mouths.

Empty life.

Empty words.

Empty glasses.

Empty hours.

Hollowness,

vacuousness

& nothingness abound

Yet full dream!

## Sonnet 2

ice cream  
a poor child's dream  
a limousine  
a rich wo(man)'s dream  
one dreams to find a shelter  
someone else dreams of a palace  
I have a dream

.....

[palimpsest]

I have a dream.

this content is obliterated  
as the sun's lights void  
the murk of the night  
hello, reality!



### Sonnet 3

midday devoid of  
sunlight full  
of solar eclipse  
filled with opacity & black fog  
butterflies blinded  
went astray  
collided with each other  
smashed against the walls  
like colourful glasses  
dead butterflies  
stuck on the walls  
afternoon filled with sunlight  
walls filled with butterflies *corpses*—  
a canvas astounding Salvador Dali

#### Sonnet 4

He escaped the grey town.  
The colour grey harmed the eyes.  
The eyes wanted to see other colours  
diluted w/ desire.  
The colour grey—ash in the ashtray,  
grey pebbles prisoned in asphalt,  
scents of a burnt tyre:  
All coerced the poor eyes.  
Same colour cuffed the eyes  
from eyelash to eyelash.  
The eyes wanted to see prairies, so lush.  
Even a flash of greenness would suffice.  
It would set the eyes aglow,  
saving them from a deathblow.

## Sonnet 5

Protracted necks—

giraffe people line up  
for a precious autograph  
from the  
protected star.

Bodyguards abound.

The star is there now.

Giraffe people collide.

Bodyguards are nervous.

Seas of sweat.

Retracted horns:

The little snail

doesn't like to be trodden.

Oh, autograph lovers! Please, think of little snails!

## A Sonnet for a Clothesline

Beautiful sparrows/  
Beautiful

Beautiful

flutter

ing.

A bra(in) on a clothesline.

Wings

flutter.

The (bra)in

is still

[hanged]

on a clothesline.

Sparrows fly away,

& the brain is still

charmed by the clothesline.

## A Dying Lust

a flicker of a candlelight was waltzing,  
and quivering, as it was caressed by a gentle wind—  
an endless orgasmic trembling  
of lust

a comet dancing  
through the dark

once again  
only the wasps  
next door were singing

the beat  
symmetrically

went on

lust

went away, and helplessly thawed  
with the appearance

of the first sunlight

against suffocation theory

the garment is

concealing (the body  
and its contours)

the tie is

stifling (the neck)

the neck is

the locus of

**life** /tightening

the tie=

suffocation

the

ory/

o

tie

be kind to the neck

o garment don't hide beauty

and/or ugliness

just walk

away and let

the body

feel

free

at least at bath time let the body be itself

let the body walk away from the symptoms of

**[suffocation]**

oh, body! don't you feel better, now?

## **Snow Is Made up of Aphrodite's Teeth**

Teeth of Aphrodite break.

Chipped snow. Ice.

Snow scattered.

The ground moans with satiation.

Snowwhite stories

still appeal to

children,

while Time dissolves

behind closed doors.

## A S/tar

Behind a star     tar

blackness

darkness

like

the innermost

of a whale

glowing stardom, a version of blackness

engulfed in the deepest unknown seas

shoe polish glows

under layers of dirt



**Stainless Wit in Every  
Direction**

*bright* white

young birds

*in* twirled nests

*a top* a *lofty* lofty

tree

*left* me astounded

they shine like

**stainless** stars

♪ ○ ♪

????

wh@ # a #

**Twitter**

**A**

i **wish** that  
sandwich  
**was** ~~knot~~  
**eaten by**  
that witch  
but which sandwich  
& which witch  
what a sandwich  
what **a witch**

## A Little Haibun

You : ~~will~~pretend to be visible  
: in fact you are a phantom  
: drenched in a symphony  
of illusion—a hieroglyph not yet **discovered**

@@@

terra cognita

terra nova

era of terror

**a new kind of brew**

this place is full of barley dust  
dust that runs faster than the wind  
the wind can't collide with insects  
**insects of every kind**  
infusion+fermentation  
a new kind of brew

a blue composite

to stand, , against

the blue light dreams

visible

in your translucent disguise

gesticulations **amplified**

seeking abstraction—experimenting with  
your thoughts

mind

b/r/u/i/s/es

scars

broken blue lights of flashy cars

^^a ride to heaven

w/ out speech processing

think of little fish in **huge seas**

dance: .dense

expressions gesticulating

blue waves

~s~w~a~y~i~n~g~

# uneasy hermeneutics #

## **Ease is a Pair of Stockings Torn Away**

anxiety encumbers the soul  
melancholy+depression—colour of coal  
    life is tiring  
coal in this regard is the antonym of ease  
the way  
a tight pair of black stockings [engulfs]  
    **chubby thighs**  
tearing the pair of s/t/o/c/k/i/n/g/s away  
        is the synonym of ease  
liberation+euphoria—colour of light

**Bio.**

Ali Znaidi lives in Redeyef, Tunisia. He graduated with a BA in Anglo-American Studies in 2002. He teaches English at Tunisian public secondary schools. He writes poetry and has an interest in literature, languages, and literary translations. His work has appeared in *The Bamboo Forest*, *The Camel Saloon*, *phantom kangaroo*, *fortunates.org*, *Otoliths*, *Dead Snakes*, *Speech Therapy Poetry Zine*, *streetcake magazine*, *The Rusty Nail*, *Yes, Poetry*, *The South Townsville micro poetry journal*, *Shot Glass Journal*, *the fib review*, *Ink Sweat and Tears*, *Mad Swirl*, *Eskimo Pie*, *Spinoza Blue*, *Haiku Journal*, *Three Line Poetry*, *UFO Gigolo*, and other ezines. He also writes flash fiction for the Six Sentence Social Network—<http://sixsentences.ning.com/profile/AliZnaidi>.