

“We Have Come Feasting for Tomorrow”

Said El-Moussaoui

Translated by Mohamed Daoudi

“**Narzfed ɣar thiwecca**”, from the collection: *Yesfufid useqqa* (The Seeds Have Blossomed, 1994), pp. 34-36

Narzfed ɣar thiwecca Said El Moussaoui	We Have Come Feasting For Tomorrow Said El Moussaoui
Fesyen wussan nwum am w-udfer x-idurar am w-ufsay n rɣasur x yisran deg uɣzar Thexsem atarfem zman Netta iqettu thimurar Qa thessayem thudath Maca rmuth war kides irar Minzi kur themzi Thekamd kides thuwssar Kur thaziri ithennat tuɣat d yur kur djireth tjarra awarnas nhar kur amettar imendi tuɣa itneɛniɛ deg uyar minzi ddunecth ghar zath war theddugger ɣar deffa neccin dayes neddar neggur kides dar xu dar narzfed ɣar thiwecca nisid kineɣ nwar narzfed ɣar thiwecca atnezzu tibehhar neccin nucas awar i thfuct anemsagar kenniw gueth amerqi ag di nhar nwem aneggar	Your days are melting, like snow on the mountain top, like the melting of rɣasur ⁽¹⁾ over the rocks down the river. You seek to tie up time. Yet time breaks every rope and chain. You run after a life, ever unending. But there's no playing with death. For every youth bears the seeds of old age. And every full moon was once a slender crescent. And every night is followed by daylight. And every threshed pile of barley was once a blooming spike in the field. For life moves forward, and never turns back. A life we are resolved to live, pursuing its course in every step. We have come feasting for tomorrow. We've brought flowers with us. We have come feasting for tomorrow. We shall sow them in fields that shall abound. For we have promised the sun, that someday we shall meet. That day will be your last; When the chains shall be no more

(1) rɣasur: a reddish-brown clay originating in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, which is very rich in minerals (such as lithium, magnesium, and potassium). It is

used by women in Morocco for the care of both skin and hair. It is considered a therapeutic source for cleansing the skin and eliminating dead skin cells.

Said el Moussaoui was born in Bni Bouyfrour in the region of Nador (1958). He was a key figure in the Amazigh cultural activism of the late 1970s and 1980s that ushered in the founding of *Al-Intilaqa attaqafia* (The Cultural Start), a cultural association in Nador in 1978, an experience which was interrupted after the crackdown on political and cultural activism in 1984. Many members of the same generation were involved in the founding of Ilmas association (1991), with El-Moussaoui as a leading founder. Ilmas was to be one of the six NGO signatories to the Agadir Charter (1991), which was a turning point in the history of Amazigh cultural activism in Morocco. El-Moussaoui has published a collection of poems *The Seeds Have Blossomed* (1994). He currently lives in Nador.