Palestinian poet Gassan Zaqtan is the author of ten collections of poetry, most recently Like a Straw Bird It Follows Me. He is also a novelist and editor. Translator Fady Joudah is a poet and physician. His translation of Like a Straw Bird It Follows Me won the Griffin Poetry Prize. Artist Douglas Culhane works in sculpture and drawing. He has exhibited in New York and New England.

Handkerchief

Nothing's left to say between us
everything went
into the train that hid its whistle
in the smoke that didn't become a cloud
in the departure that gathered your limbs

Nothing's left to say between us
so let your death be
the insight of dazzling silver
and let the sun of those cities
be a rose on your shoulders

 Persian translation by Fady Joudah

لم يعد بيننا ما يقال
كل شيء مضى
في القطار الذي خبا الضائرة.
في الأدخان الذي لم يصر خيبة.
في الزول الذي لم أطرافكم.

لم يعد بيننا ما يقال،
فلكن موتكم
حكمة الفضصة الباهرة.
ولكن فتحت تلك المنزل
وردة فوق أكابكم.