

Mahmoud Darwish

Quotes

*Beautiful, Israel, Desire, Homeland, Hands, Dream, Wall, Love Life, Tree,
World, Illusion, Light, Thinking, Occupation, May, Horse, Names, Break,
Standing, Night*

And you became like coffee, in the deliciousness, and the bitterness, and the addiction.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Nothing is harder on the soul, than the smell of dreams, while they're evaporating.

~Mahmoud Darwish

I am from there. I am from here. I am not there and I am not here. I have two names, which meet and part, and I have two languages. I forget which of them I dream in.

~Mahmoud Darwish

If the Olive Trees knew the hands that planted them, Their Oil would become Tears.

~Mahmoud Darwish

A person can only be born in one place. However, he may die several times elsewhere: in the exiles and prisons, and in a homeland transformed by the occupation and oppression into a nightmare.

~Mahmoud Darwish

And I tell myself, a moon will rise from my darkness.

~Mahmoud Darwish

We are captives of what we love, what we desire, and what we are.

~Mahmoud Darwish

We suffer from an incurable malady: Hope.

~Mahmoud Darwish

If you live, live free or die like the trees, standing up.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Every beautiful poem is an act of resistance.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Standing here, staying here, permanent here, eternal here, and we have one goal, one, one: to be.

~Mahmoud Darwish

On this earth there is that which deserves life.

~Mahmoud Darwish

The days have taught you not to trust happiness because it hurts when it deceives.

~Mahmoud Darwish

I have learned and dismantled all the words in order to draw from them a single word: Home.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Exile is more than a geographical concept. You can be an exile in your homeland, in your own house, in a room.

~Mahmoud Darwish

My homeland is not a suitcase, and I am no traveller

~Mahmoud Darwish

We are captives, even if our wheat grows over the fences/ and swallows rise from our broken chains./ We are captives of what we love, what we desire, and what we are.

~Mahmoud Darwish

She does not love you. Your metaphors thrill her you are her poet. But that's all there's to it.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Palestinian people are in love with life.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Life defined only as the opposite of death is not life.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Without hope we are lost.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Poetry and beauty are always making peace. When you read something beautiful you find coexistence; it breaks walls down.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Far away, our dreams have nothing to do with what we do. The wind carries the night, and passes on, aimless.

~Mahmoud Darwish

I don't decide to represent anything except myself. But that self is full of collective memory.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Have I had two roads, I would have chosen their third.

~Mahmoud Darwish

My love, I fear the silence of your hands.

~Mahmoud Darwish

The Palestinians are the only nation in the world that feels with certainty that today is better than what the days ahead will hold. Tomorrow always heralds a worse situation.

~Mahmoud Darwish

To be under occupation, to be under siege, is not a good inspiration for poetry.

~Mahmoud Darwish

One day, I will be a poet. Water will depend on my visions.

~Mahmoud Darwish

I believe in the power of poetry, which gives me reasons to look ahead and identify a glint of light.

~Mahmoud Darwish

History laughs at both the victim and the aggressor.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Against barbarity, poetry can resist only by confirming its attachment to human fragility like a blade of grass growing on a wall while armies march by.

~Mahmoud Darwish

I love women whose hidden desires make horses put an end to their lives at the threshold

~Mahmoud Darwish

Where can I free myself of the homeland in my body?

~Mahmoud Darwish

Nothing, nothing justifies terrorism.

~Mahmoud Darwish

I've built my homeland, I've even founded my state - in my language.

~Mahmoud Darwish

I see poetry as spiritual medicine.

~Mahmoud Darwish

When I passed the age of 50, I learned how to control my emotions.

~Mahmoud Darwish

The stars had only one task: they taught me how to read. They taught me I had a language in heaven and another language on earth.

~Mahmoud Darwish

And what I don't understand I grasp it only when it's too late.

~Mahmoud Darwish

The metaphor for Palestine is stronger than the Palestine of reality.

~Mahmoud Darwish

I want to find a language that transforms language itself into steel for the spirit--a language to use against these sparkling insects, these jets.

~Mahmoud Darwish

The importance of poetry is not measured, finally, by what the poet says but by how he says it.

~Mahmoud Darwish

I learnt all the words worthy of the court of blood
So that I could break the rule
I learnt all the words and broke them up
To make a single word: Homeland.

~Mahmoud Darwish

Sarcasm helps me overcome the harshness of the reality we live,
eases the pain of scars and makes people smile.

~Mahmoud Darwish

I am not a lover of Israel, of course. I have no reason to be. But I don't hate Jews.

~Mahmoud Darwish

May poetry and God's name have mercy on us!

~Mahmoud Darwish

I never wanted children, maybe I'm afraid of responsibility.

~Mahmoud Darwish

... For me it is essential, essential for the poet to have a new toast, new songs.

~Mahmoud Darwish

I wish I were a candle in the darkness.

~Mahmoud Darwish

The poem is in my hands, and can run stories through her hands.

~Mahmoud Darwish

When a writer declares that his first book is his best, that is bad. I progress successively from book to book.

~Mahmoud Darwish

For the Arabs in Israel there is always a tension between nationality and identity.

~Mahmoud Darwish

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