

It was a warm Cairo night, my friends and I shuffled into a taxi to head home after a long day of sightseeing. Before entering the taxi I was given strict instructions to not say a word. If the taxi driver was to hear my broken Arabic they would know right away we are foreigners and charge us a foreigners fare. So I sat in the back of the taxi with my mouth closed and my eyes wide open to the sights of the Cairo nightlife.

I saw a five person family sitting on a motorcycle and I spoke out to show my friend. The taxi driver heard me. Our cover was blown. His eyes caught mine in the rear view mirror, he looked at me suspiciously. He looked at my friend sitting beside him and said.

“Is that guy in the back one of us...is he really Egyptian?”

Yes! Well no..not really...but kind of...

You see its kinda complicated Mr. Taxi driver sir

You see I might not be quite as Egyptian as you

I might not fit in quite so much here in Egypt

But truth be told I don't fit in so well in Canada either

The kids there make fun of the smell of my food at lunch

I'm embarrassed to invite my friends over

my parents have accents when they speak

I try my best to fit in with kids in Canada but it doesn't work so well

You see mr.taxi driver sir

I am sort of stuck on this bridge

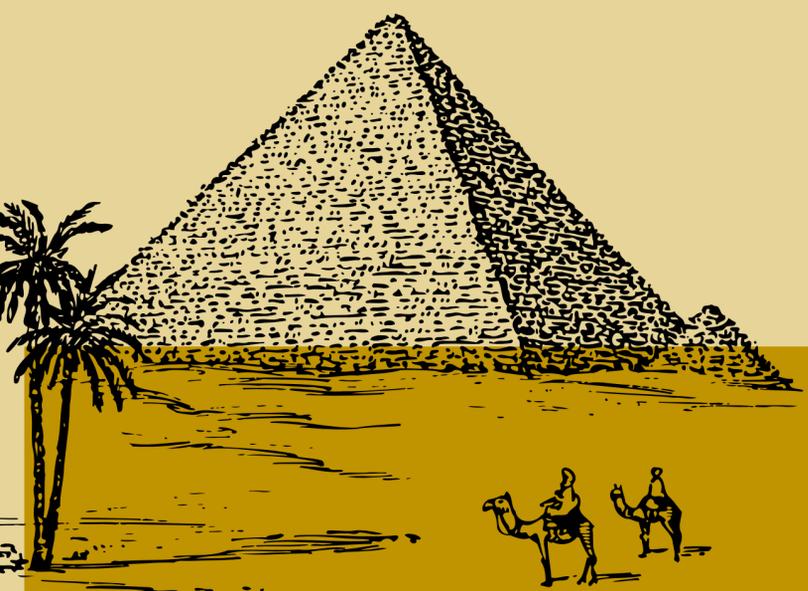
Not really fully Egyptian

But

Not really fully Canadian

Somewhere in between I guess

Here on this bridge in between



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أهواك و اتمنى لو انساك
و انسى روحى وياك
وان ضاعت ييقى فداك لو تنسانى

و انساك و ترينى بانسى جفاك
و اشتاق لعذابى معاك
والقى دموعى فاكراك ارجع تانى
فى لقاك الدنيا تجينى معاك
و رضاها ييقى رضاك
و ساعتها يهون فى هواك طول حرمانى

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وعينى تيجى فى عينيك
وكلامهم ييقى عليك وانت تدارى
واراعيك واصحى من الليل اناديك
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حرمانى

I love you

I love you and I wish I could forget you

And forget my soul with you

And if it gets lost then it remains yours if you ever
forget me

And I forget you and you show me how to forget
your cruelty

But I miss the suffering you inflict on me

And my tears remind me of you, and I go back to you
And when I see you, it's like the whole world coming
at me with you

And its desires are yours

And at that moment, all my deprivation disappears
in your love

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And I find you thinking about me and me about you

And my eyes are into your eyes

And what they sare is all over you even though you
try to deny it

And I take care of you, waking up in the night, to call
out to you

And I send my soul to wake you up

Get up, you who I obsess about, try to go through
the hell I've been through

And I find you thinking about me and me about you

And my eyes are into your eyes

And what they sare is all over you even though you
try to deny it

And I take care of you, waking up in the night, to call
out to you

Ahwak by Abdel Halim Hafez

