



I have selected to work with al-Hallaj's diwan in a way that balances its intellectual and philosophical properties on the one hand with the traditional maqam and its rhythmic cycles on the other. Essentially, maqamat and poems got intensely involved in the process and eventually contributed in their own way to making this dramatic piece of art possible; which in result advised the usage of several maqamat and utilized traditional and contemporary maqam paths, incorporated traditional and new rhythmic cycles, and made use of traditional and contemporary musical forms. I was merely an observer of the event and an extractor of the outcome; and from God I seek completion and good fortune.

-Issa Boulos

#### **There Is Something In My Heart**

There is something hidden in my heart and your name is written all over it; yet, neither lights nor darkness are aware of it!

The light of your face is full of secrets once I encounter it; to me, that's pure goodness, generosity, and charity.

So take my tales with you, as for my love, you know it quite well; yet neither blackboards nor pens know it.

#### **The Eye Recognizes**

The eye recognizes who it's in love with, and yet it misplaces him, but the one who holds the eye of the heart, will always find love.

If he is not with me, his dhikr is with me; my heart will see him, even when he seems non-seeable.

Profound love brings ecstasy to those who seek comfort through love, and when truth reveals itself, love retreats.

I used to miss these sentiments, until I am leveraged by achieving profound love once more, all through him, the one who resides in love.

### **Profound Love**

Since the times long past, love is manifested from itself by itself and in itself.  
It wasn't coincidental but rather a trait that gave life even to those who passed.

Its attributes are original and none simulated. Simulated love offers no revelations.  
When life emerged, loving him sparkled by itself with the true light.

The truth is: there is ever burning fire of longing for the truth, whether one was  
settled near it or far.

When the dear ones are mesmerized by love, they become unwillingly helpless, and  
thus when they long to their lovers, they become unwillingly humiliated.

### **The Entity Of My Entity**

Oh the entity of my entity and the entity of entities is ambiguous.  
The entity of your entity is submerged by what I convey.

When I get closer, my fears bring me back and love settles deep inside me and  
begins to worry me.

I seem to be drowning; my fingers seem to be showing on the surface of the ocean  
struggling for life.

If I don't see you because you are concealed in a different dimension, you will  
always have a caring place in my heart whether you're far or near.

### **You've Lived In My Heart**

You've lived in my heart, and often left some secrets behind, so let my neighbor and  
I congratulate you.

My home currently has no secrets but you, so take a deeper look; do you see other  
dwellers in my home?

If longing nights go long or short, you will always enlighten me with hope and  
souvenirs.

I am content with any pain that may come my way because of you, you're my  
killer, and what you chose for me, I chose.

### **I Haven't Found Consolation**

I haven't yet found consolation for my heart, and how surprising! I am destined to  
suffer!

I've overcome my egotistical tendencies and yet how surprising that one may still  
seek to save himself while choosing to ride on the dangerous boat.

I feel as if I've been caught between high ocean waves that keep flipping me  
around!

Deep sadness and fires burning within me, I feel. My tears are witnesses to all this,  
and thus my visions are your witnesses.

**Love Is Still Unsafely Dispirited**

*Love is still unsafely dispirited, and the purpose of internal sanctuary, is to get closer to carefulness.*

*When the most tasteful love becomes merely what you would say about love, ineffective and worthless all this will become, just like when fire becomes worthless if it attempts to burn a piece of stone.*

*When my jailor came to me, I knew that the "nobles" have met and my destiny was just determined; I thus wish to be released from your love once I become deaf and blind.*

**I Am The One**

*I am the one whose ego is relentlessly longing to forceful death, and it seems to be in limbo.*

*I am the one whose soul is anxious and shouts from alienation and just drowned.*

*I am saddened, excruciating and worried, my being's love is jailed, and yet it's free.*

*How can I survive when he stabs my liver with the arrows of his side-glance?*

*If my kidneys were starved and had nothing to feed upon, and get diluted in the heat of misery and get burned down, they will even though speak of what my conscience has concealed, tears of revelation will be set free and they will finally speak of his secrets.*