Golan Haji.

'Steep Cliffs' and 'Under Spring Skies'.

Transnational Literature Vol.11 no.1, November 2018.

Cliffs

Light is throwing its immense feather
between the church tower and the shop of coffins
where I stood yesterday
and waited for someone to take me to the mountains
and I didn’t see the vehicles with their monotonous
pulse that lulled us to sleep for years on end.
Daylight is beckoning my footsteps
like a friend whistling under the window
to climb those distant stairways.

*

The light wind drowned our white papers.
Blue ink melted in the swimming pool
and kohl-coloured evening covered what we’d written
and we opened the top buttons of our shirts,
lightweight sails that make nothing move.
At daybreak, on the remains of a floating poem,
we saw a crimson dragonfly landing
like a sole surviving word.

Golan Haji
translated by the author and Stephen Watts
تحت سماء الربيع

بمصنف الأسود المظلم
السنو هو خرقٌ لرخوة البيوضة العالية
فلا التَّلْعَج من نَّعْمَةَ الغيم

يَنْفَقُ على السَّفِير الخفيف
ولا المياه تذكر سبته القاسي.
غاب الَّذينفَن جفن الطَّلْع
على وتر النَّحل الناَّعم.

ما بُنِطِه وهمتَه السَّهوبُ الطَّليئة
دخان تغلَّغ في حافزة يفتَتِ.

الربيع عَرْبَة فارغة
تتناقل السِّياضات وراءها
في الدُّروبي الخالية
وادي الداكنة
مَمْدُودة بين الشمَس الخاربة وحَتِي
مرأة تنادي طفليها المفقود.

Golan Haji. 'Cliffs' and 'Under Spring Skies'.
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Under Spring Skies

I glimpse the black scissor of a swallow
veering through a high ball of mosquitoes,
but snow is not woken from its cloud slumber
   by such slight shrilling
and water does not recall its silver swords.
The dust of lindens has dried
   the pollen on the soft down of bees.

What was slowly offered by the shadows on the plain
   is smoke that has suffused the edge of my collar:

Spring is an empty black carriage
   behind which vehicles slow down
   on deserted roads,
and my dark hand–
   stretched between my cheek and the setting sun–
   is a mirror calling out for the missing child.

Golan Haji
translated by the author and Stephen Watts