KIAN RAVAEI

I WILL GREET THE SUN AGAIN

for mezzo-soprano and piano



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(2024)

ÆI edition

Commissioned by Fleur Barron and Kunal Lahiry, with generous support from Internationale Hugo Wolf Akademie Stuttgart.

PROGRAM NOTE

This song was conceived as a companion piece to Ravel's *Shéhérazade*, offering a different view of the infamous enslaved storyteller from the *One Thousand and One Nights*. I set the words of another Persian queen: Forough Farrokhzad (1934–1967), the queen of modernist poetry, whose transgressive feminist language revolutionized Iranian art. Scheherazade's experience of female captivity is not unlike that which Farrokhzad underwent, and which millions of Iranian women continue to endure.

—Kian Ravaei

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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TEXT & TRANSLATION

Be āftāb salāmi dobāre khāham dād

by Forough Farrokhzad (1934–1967)

Be āftāb salāmi dobāre khāham dād Be jooibār ke dar man jāri bood Be abrhā ke fekrhāye tavilam boodand Be roshde dardnāke sepidārhāye bāgh ke bā

Az faslhāye khoshk gozar mikardand Be dastehāye kalāghan Ke atre mazraehāye shabāne rā Barāye man be hedye miyāvardand Be mādaram ke dar āine zendegi mikard Va shekle piriye man bood Va be zamin, ke shahrvate tekrāre man, daroone moltahebash rā Az tokhmehāye sabz miyan bāsht, salāmi dobāre khāham dād

Miāyam, miāyam, miāyam Bā gisooyam: edāmeye boohāye zire khāk Bā cheshmhāyam: tajrobehāye ghalize tāriki Bā bootehā ke chidam az bishehāye ānsooye divār Miāyam, miāyam, miāyam Va āstāne por az eshgh mishavad Va man dar āstāne be ānhā ke doost midārand Va dokhtari ke hanooz ānjā Dar āstāneye por eshgh istāde, salāmi dobāre khāham dād

I Will Greet the Sun Again

(translation by Kian Ravaei)

To the sun, again I will give my greeting, To the stream that once flowed through me, To the clouds that were my meandering thoughts, To the aching growth of the garden's poplars that Passed with me through dry-weather seasons, To the flocks of crows Whose nighttime-grove-scented perfume They would bring to me as a gift, To my mother who lived in the mirror And was the reflection of my old age, And to the earth, who lusts to recreate me, swelling With green seeds—again I will give my greeting.

I will come, I will come, I will come, With my hair: emitting odors that belong beneath

With my eyes: discerning darkness's density, With bouquets I gathered from thickets on the other side of the wall,

I will come, I will come, I will come, And the doorway will become filled with love, And I, standing in the doorway, addressing those in love.

And addressing the girl, still standing In the love-filled doorway—again I will give my greeting.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Vowels		Consonants				
a	=	mat	g	=	game	
ā	=	fall	gh	=	like a guttural "g"	
e	=	net			(voiceless uvular plosive)	
i	=	ring	j	=	joy	
		role	kh	=	"ch" in the German word dach (voiceless uvular fricative)	
00	=	boot	У	=	year	
			(All remaining consonants are the same as in English.)			

To aid with pronunciation, a spoken recording of the text may be accessed at: kianravaei.com/downloads/i-will-greet-the-sun-again.mp3

IPA TRANSCRIPTION

Be [be to	āftāb of.tob sun		dobāre do.bb.re again		dād dɒd] give			
_	jooibār ju.i.bɒc stream		ær mæn	jāri bo dzp.ci bu flowing wo	ıd]			
Be [be to	abrhā æbr.hp clouds	ke fe	ekrhāye ekr.hp.je ny thoughts	_	boodand bu.dænd] were			
Be [be to	roshde rof.de growth		sepidārl ke se.pi.do poplars	r.hv.je br		o mæn]		
Az [æz of	faslhāye fæsl.hp.je seasons	xo∫k	gozar mi go.zær mi pass the		1]			
Be [be to	dastehāye dæs.te.hp groups of	.je kæ.lb.o						
Ke [ke <i>that</i>	atre æt.ce perfun	mæz	zraehāye z.ræ.e.hb.je e		rā rɒ]			
Barā [ba.a for	nye man ro.je mær me	n be h	edye miyāv ed.je mi.jo ift they b	.vær.dænd]			
	mādaram mv.dæ.ræ my mothe	em ke d		zen.de.	i mikard gi mi.kærd] was doing			
Va shekle piriye man bood [væ ʃek.le pi.ri.je mæn bud] and appearance old age me was								
Va [væ and	be zam be zæ.n to earth	nin ke	shahrvate ∫æhr.væ.te lust of	tekrāre tek.co.r repetitio	,	daroone dæ.ru.ne inside of		_
Az [æz of	tokhmeh tox.me.hr seeds of	•	z mi.jon	bāsht, bɒ∫t <i>be</i>	salāmi sæ.lp.mi greeting	dobāre do.bp.re again	khāham xɒ.hæm <i>I will</i>	dād dɒd] give

IPA TRANSCRIPTION (CONT'D)

Miāyam, miāyam, miāyam [mi.p.jæm mi.p.jæm mi.v.jæm] I will come I will come I will come $B\bar{a}$ khāk gisooyam: edameye boohāye zire [bb qi.su.jæm e.dp.me.je bu.hp.je zi.re xpk] continuation of with my bair smells of below dirt ghalize Βā cheshmhāyam: tajrobehāye tāriki [bb tsesm.hp.jæm tadz.ro.be.hā.je Gæ.li.ze tp.ri.ki] density of experiences of darkness with my eyes Βā bootehā chidam divār ke az bishehāye ānsooye [bb bu.te.hp ke tʃi.dæm bi.se.hp.je pn.su.je di.vor] æz shrubs thickets with that I gathered from other side of wall Miāyam, miāyam, miāyam mi.v.jæm mi.p.jæm mi.v.jæm] I will come I will come I will come mishavad Va āstāne eshgh por az mi.[æ.væd] væ ps.tp.ne eſG por az and threshold with love will become ānhā ke doost midarand Va man dar āstāne be pn.hp ke [væ dær ps.tp.ne dust mi.dv.rænd] mæn be and threshold those that love they do Va dokhtari ke hanooz ānjā [væ dox.tæ.ri ke pn.dzp] hæ.nuz and girl that still there Dar āstāneye por eshgh istāde, salāmi dobāre khāham dād [dær ps.tp.ne.je xp.hæm eſG is.tp.de sæ.lp.mi do.bp.re dpd] por

standing greeting

again

I will

give

threshold

in

full of

love

I WILL GREET THE SUN AGAIN

Forugh Farrokhzad

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^{*)} In unmetered sections, \sharp and \flat apply to the whole system.



































