

ABD AL-RAHMAN I
The Palm Tree

A palm tree stands in the middle of Rusafa, born in the West,
Far from the land of palms.

I said to it: "How like me you are, far away and in exile,
In long separation from family and friends.

You have sprung from soil in which you are a stranger;

And I, like you, am far from home.

May dawn's clouds water you, streaming from the heavens

In a grateful downpour."

Translated from Arabic by D.F. Ruggles