

After the oceans evaporated
The mountains of the seabed
Became the benchmark of elevation

– Alireza Roshan

translated from Persian
by Erfan Mojib & Gary Gach

Blood
belongs in arteries
& veins. Not
on the pavements.
Not to be bottled.

– Alireza Roshan

translated from Persian
by Erfan Mojib & Gary Gach

Note

In Persian, "putting someone's blood in a jar" means to hurt someone, to impose suffering.

Each bullet
Kills a bird
& sends thousands of birds in flight

– Alireza Roshan

translated from Persian
by Erfan Mojib & Gary Gach

Us

We cup our hands around the flame
So it isn't blown out by the wind

You also cup your hands
To block the light

We're both vigilant
Indeed
We're guardians of the light
You're guardians of darkness

– Alireza Roshan

translated from Persian
by Erfan Mojib & Gary Gach

When a bird is judged
By the taste of the kebab it makes
Flying is just a pattern
On a stew bowl

– Alireza Roshan

translated from Persian
by Erfan Mojib & Gary Gach