

THE Markaz Review



Welcome to TMR Weekly, Newsletter 9 • November 30, 2020



New today in TMR Weekly

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Hello Subscriber First Name!

Racism continues to diminish us all wherever it proliferates, including in the Arab community. Today, columnist Banah Al Ghadbanah reveals [The Unbearable Darkness of Colorism](#) in her essay on the scourge of racism/colorism in Syrian communities and how it is tied to centuries-old endemic anti-Blackness and internalized colonialism.

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As Ayad Akhtar made clear in his novel [Homeland Elegies](#) ... as a result of the Muslim country ban and the anti-immigrant rhetoric of the past four years (to say nothing of the post-9/11 malaise), a great deal of damage has been done to Arabs, Iranians and other immigrants from the Middle East in terms of our comfort in American society. The Markaz Review addresses this vacuum with carefully-curated essays, reviews, interviews and other content that we publish both in our monthly and weekly editions:

:: How do we survive Covid-19? From Montpellier, Kurdish poet-scholar-translator Selim Temo thinks of the young Thomas Bernhard and his own infant son as he fights for life in intensive care, in [Breathing in a Pandemic](#).

:: New York columnist Mara Ahmed isn't fooled by Obama's burnished spin, nor is she taken in by Kamala Harris' mixed Indian-Jamaican heritage, in [The Unvarnished Truth: Obama, Harris and Diversity without Accountability](#).

:: And in Seattle, Egyptian American playwright Yussef El Guindi argues it's time for American theatre to go beyond bombs and burkas when it comes to Arab/Muslim characters and storylines, in [Arabs and Muslims On Stage: Can We Unpack Our Baggage?](#)



Also, check out our racism & identity issue's centerpiece by [Raja Shehadeh, The Road to Jerusalem, Then and Now](#)

The bittersweet geographical memories of a sharp 16-year old Palestinian, interwoven with the desperate anger of his 69-year old self confronting the reality of Palestine under what feels like a permanent Israeli occupation.

Interview: [Ayad Akhtar, author of *Homeland Elegies*, on Capitalism, Literature and the U.S. Decline](#), a candid video conversation with TMR's editor, Jordan Elgrably.

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TMR features new writing and ideas in the spirit of the late Levantine Cultural Center/The Markaz. If you like what you read, please post your comments at the bottom of each story and share with your friends. Thanks for reading, and above all, [please support The Markaz Review here](#) with a year-end gift. We ask for your contributions now to be able to bring you TMR in 20121. Thank you!

[See all articles in the Racism & Identity Issue](#)

MOTHER

OF ALL

PIGS



A Novel

Malu
Halasa

[TMR BookGroup](#) is reading:

Most recently the BookGroup, open to all, read and discussed Ayad Akhtar's *Homeland Elegies*. For next month's conversation, readers have selected [Malu Halasa](#)'s novel *Mother of All Pigs* and will discuss it on Dec. 20th. [Go here](#) or to join the group, send an email to books@themarkaz.org.

[TMR 5 Call for Submissions](#)

The theme for our Jan 2021 issue (deadline 12/18 but query first) is WATER—water is our worldwide shared resource...Yet with climate change comes drought & rising sea levels. We at @TheMarkazReview seek queries for 'water' stories—literary, creative, environmental pieces, for our Jan. issue. Query the editor@themarkaz.org.

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