

THE  
Markaz Review

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Welcome to TMR, Newsletter 11 • December 8, 2020

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Assaulting Free Speech in the [Israel/Palestine Debate](#)

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It's Giving Tuesday

**GIVING TUESDAY**

**MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE**

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Hello Subscriber First Name!

Today is Giving Tuesday and based on our shared values—love of the arts and an absolute respect for freedom of expression—we hope you will support [The Markaz Review](#) with **a year-end contribution**. We can only continue having an impact when readers contribute. We are free of all advertising as well as government or corporate influence. **We are 100% independent and we hope to keep it that way!**

The fact is, there's only one Markaz Review and one of you, but in December every donation will be matched by a donor who's asked to remain anonymous, so your contribution will have twice the impact. [You can now make a one-time or monthly contribution online here.](#)

Here are the new and recent columns we've edited for you, as we prepare next week's *Celebrating Small & Independent Presses!* issue:

**Now featured in TMR Weekly:**

**[Kuwait's Alanoud Alsharekh, Feminist Groundbreaker](#)**

- Nada Ghosn speaks to Dr. Alanoud Alsharekh in our monthly series profiling trailblazing Arab, Iranian and other women of the SWANA region

**[Assaulting Free Speech in the Israel/Palestine Debate](#)**

- Columnist Firouzeh Afsharnia says Facebook shut her down for bringing up Israel's heavy-handedness when it comes to Iran and flouting international law.

**[SUPPORT THE MARKAZ REVIEW](#)**

**[The Unbearable Affront of Colorism](#)**

- Racism continues to diminish us all wherever it proliferates, including in the Arab community. Columnist Banah Al Ghadbanah writes about the scourge of racism/colorism in Syrian communities and how it is tied to centuries-old endemic anti-Blackness and internalized colonialism.

**[Breathing in a Pandemic](#)**

- How do we survive Covid-19? From Montpellier, Kurdish poet-scholar-translator Selîm Temo thinks of the young Thomas Bernhard and his own infant son as he fights for life in intensive care.

**[The Unvarnished Truth: Obama, Harris and Diversity without Accountability](#)**

- 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.



Kuwaiti trailblazer [Alanoud Alsharekh](#)

### **Emphasizing Culture, Arts and Freedom of Expression**

The Markaz Review or TMR is not overly political. We emphasize a cultural and literary approach. We are an international platform for creative inquiry, criticism, performance and dialogue that explores the arts, humanities and current affairs.

As such we would benefit greatly from your support of our mission and vision, which is borne out by the content found at <https://themarkaz.org>.

We seek funding for the first quarter of 2021 to underwrite special issues on **WATER** (from a creative, literary and environmental approach), **REVOLUTION** (with art, essays and photography on what happened in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt and Syria) and **TRUTH** (an issue that dissects "fake news" and invasion of privacy in order to uphold the value of the free press and freedom of expression).

[Make a contribution here](#) or support The Markaz Review by check: kindly write TMR in the memo line of your check and send your tax-deductible

contribution payable to MPV to: MPV, 1626 Wilcox, Suite 702, Los Angeles CA  
90028-6206. Thank you from TMR.

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

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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](mailto:books@themarkaz.org).

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### [TMR 5 Call for Submissions](#)

**The theme for our Jan 2021 issue** (deadline 12/25 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](mailto:editor@themarkaz.org).

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