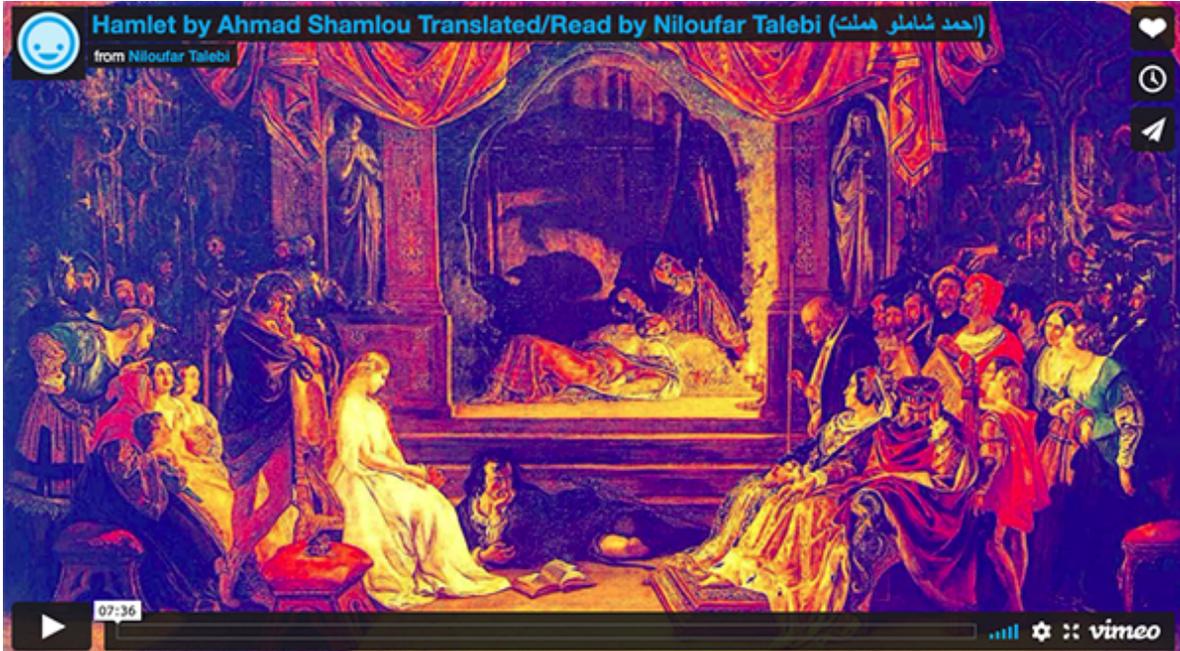


THE Markaz Review

Welcome to TMR, Newsletter 12 • December 12, 2020



To Be or Not to Be, That is *Not* the Question

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Hello Subscriber First Name!

December 12, 2020 marks the 95th birthday of the revolutionary and controversial Iranian poet, translator, essayist, editor, encyclopedist, and cultural figure, [Ahmad Shamlou](#) (1925-2000).

The Markaz Review is particularly pleased to bring you this commemoration by perhaps his foremost English-language translator, Niloufar Talebi, who grew up in Iran at a time when Shamlou was a family visitor. Last year Talebi published a unique genre-busting

memoir, *Self-Portrait in Bloom*, that melds her own history with the trajectory of Shamlou and his extensive body of work.

[Go to Shamlou here.](#)



[The Unbearable Affront of Colorism](#) by Banah Al Ghadbanah

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WITH \$8 A MONTH, YOU CAN SUSTAIN THE MARKAZ REVIEW

Wait a minute! What the heck can you get for just \$8 a month?

A fancy Starbucks coffee? A falafel sandwich? Two bags of marbles?

We are in the running for major grants from **three prominent foundations** for 2021 funding—if I don't mention their names right now, it's because I don't want to jinx it!

In the meantime, our wonderful readers—**YOU I hope!**—can sustain The Markaz Review by simply making a [monthly contribution](#), starting at just \$8, the cost of a fancy coffee at Starbucks topped with whipped cream and sprinkles!!

Your regular monthly donation will work wonders for us, believe it or not. [Go here](#), it's easy, simple

and fun to fill out the form and support TMR. You decide how much you want to contribute, the whole experience is absolutely DIY and user-friendly.

Here's what your monthly contribution will make possible:

- A monthly theme issue, for instance "Beirut," "Racism & Identity" or "Water" (our special literary/environment issue due out Jan 15)!
- Unexpected weekly columns in TMR Weekly, published Mondays!
- A monthly food and life column by Bethlehem's iconoclastic chef, Fadi Kattan!
- A monthly column on trailblazing SWANA women (of the Middle East/North Africa)!
- We pay writers and artists so you're participating in a creative economy!

WE LOVE monthly contributors! We also love folks who include us in their estate planning or make a friendly year-end contribution. In any case, we appreciate you. We care about what you think. Never hesitate to send me your innermost thoughts about what we're doing, what we may be missing, what we could do better—and your heartfelt compliments are also welcome here!

Merci/masalama,

Jordan Elgrably
Editor

p.s. check out these columns:

Breathing in a Pandemic

- 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.

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.
-

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 12/25 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.

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