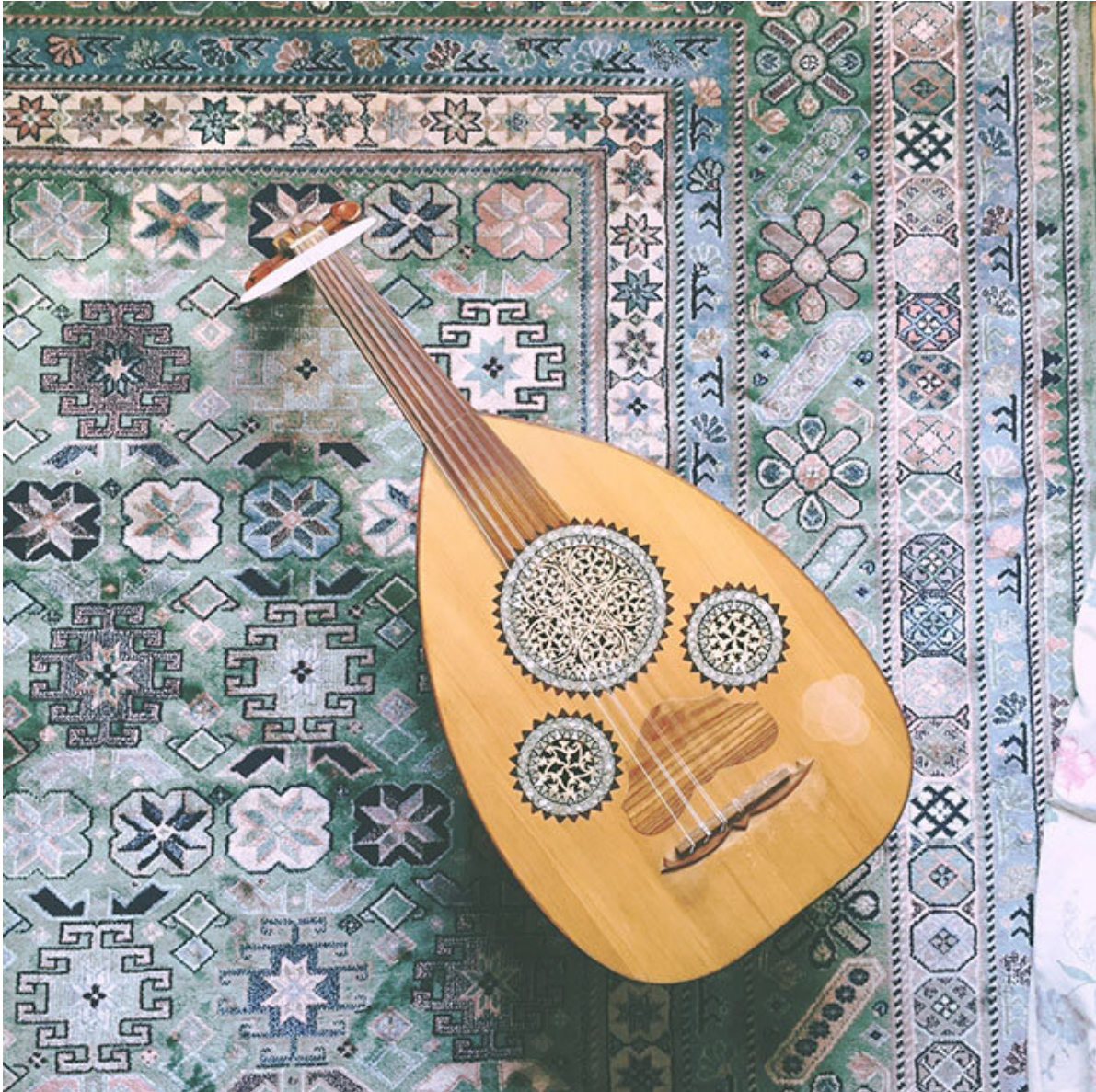


THE Markaz Review

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TMR Newsletter 25 • March 22, 2021



New: [*Ode to the 'Ud and Its Lovers*](#) by Sherifa Zuhur

Hello Subscriber First Name!

Are you as in love with the ‘*ud* as we are? This week, contributing writers and musicians John Densmore and Sherifa Zuhur lend us their thoughts. Did you know, for instance, that “70% of young women played the ‘*ud* in Istanbul early in the twentieth century as a prerequisite to marriage (as was true elsewhere in the Levant)”? Or that there are a number of fine young women ‘*udists* in Iran today?

Next up, on the 29th, a review of the new Najwan Darwish book of poems, *Exhausted on the Cross*, plus a dual review by Joyce Zonana of *Jewish-Muslim Interactions: Performing Cultures between North Africa and France*, and *Togo Mizrahi and the Making of Egyptian Cinema*.

Also, watch for the video of yesterday's scintillating conversation on literature and Arab identity with novelist Layla Alammam and Farah Abdessamad. We'll be posting it this week on our Vimeo channel.

Folks, only 9 days left during our winter fund drive, and we still have a ways to go to raise the missing 23K to meet our quarterly goals. Let's pull out the stops. All contributions make a difference. We've got to raise these funds. By the way, we'll recognize three of this drive's donors with special gifts on April 11th.

We also invite you to discover our double issue on [TRUTH? حقيقة](#). Thanks for reading, and as always, [supporting TMR](#).

—Jordan Elgrably, Editor

p.s. Please remember the late, great feminist author and activist [Nawal El-Saadawi](#), who died yesterday in Egypt.

**[SUPPORT TMR'S WINTER FUND DRIVE,](#)
[FROM 27K TO 50, ONLY 9 DAYS REMAIN!](#)**

WE'RE TRULY HONORED. TMR has received a generous grant in the amount of **\$25,000 – equivalent to half of our Winter Fund Drive goal of 50K.** We're now up to 27K. We need to reach 50K to meet our quarterly goals and keep TMR going strong! Please help us match it to reach our goal by making a contribution in any amount by March 31, 2021. *Be one of three winners in our special drawing:*

[Donate by March 31st to the Winter Fund Drive](#) and we'll add your name into a mystery drawing. **ONE lucky winner** will have a chance to meet some very special people and

receive several unique GIFTS, and now, **TWO** additional winners will also be rewarded. Yes, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes, wheel!

To support The Markaz Review, kindly write TMR in the memo line of your check and send your tax-deductible contribution payable to MPV: MPV, 1626 Wilcox, Suite 702, Los Angeles CA 90028-6206 or [Donate to The Markaz Review Online](#).



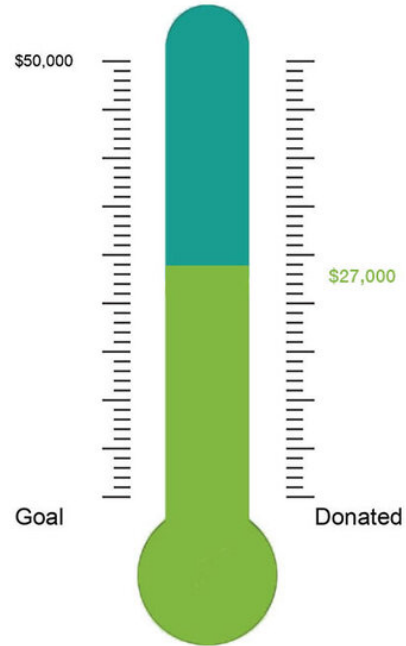
Also new this week: John Densmore: [*Arab Shaman: Remember Hani Naser*](#)



The Markaz Review Winter Fund drive

The Markaz Review thanks the
Violet Jabara Charitable Trust
for their generous 25K donation.

Please help us reach our goal of
50K by March 31st with a
contribution in any amount!



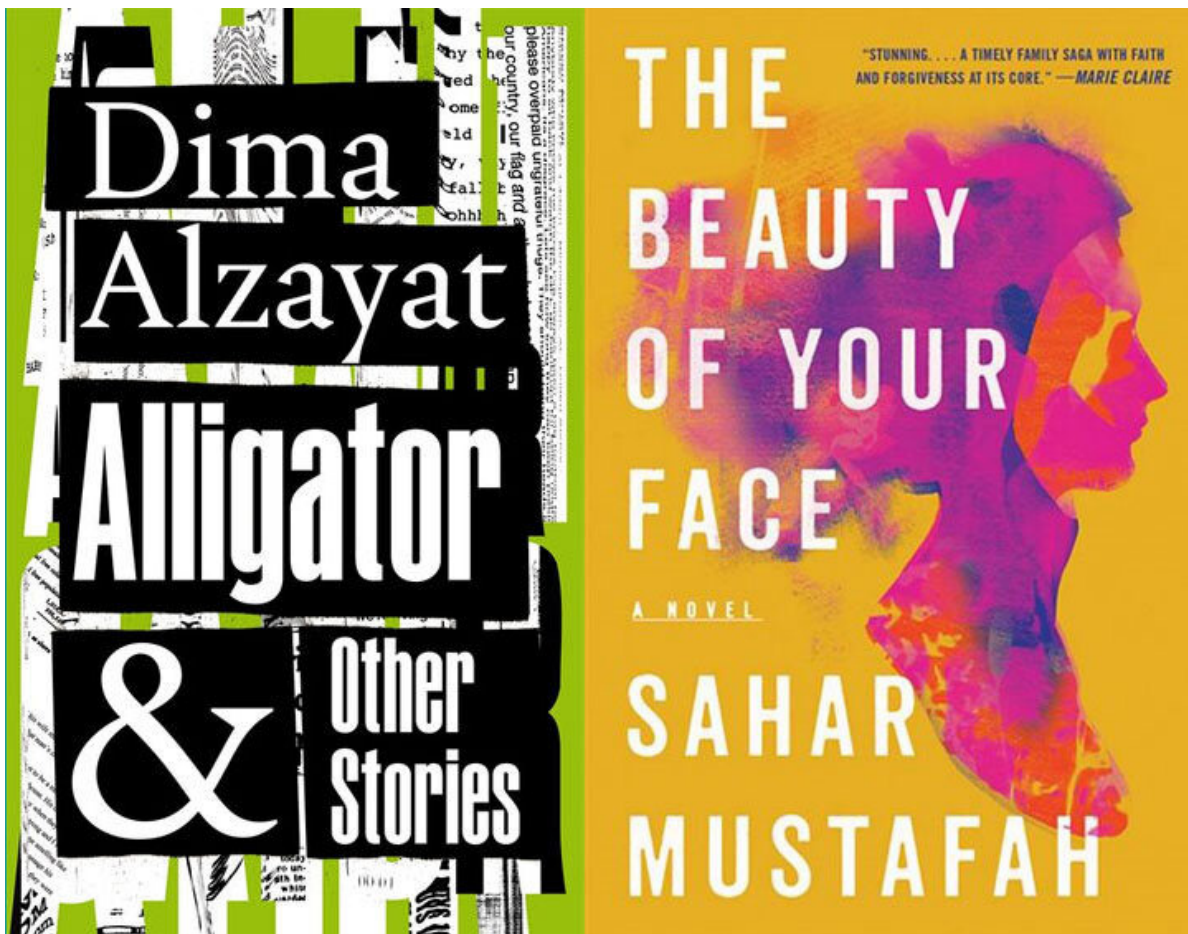
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Kindly write TMR or The Markaz Review in the memo line of your check, make
it payable to our fiscal sponsor, MPV, and the mail goes to MPV, 1626 Wilcox,
Suite 702, Los Angeles CA 90028-6206.

You can also choose to support with either a one-time or monthly contribution
[online](#). Thanks for reading, sharing and [supporting TMR](#).



TMR BookGroup March and April 2021 selections

[TMR BookGroup](#) is reading/discussing:

Recently the BookGroup (free & open to all), read and talked about Ayad Akhtar's *Homeland Elegies*, Malu Halasa's *Mother of All Pigs*, Laila Lalami's *Conditional Citizens* and Hassan Blasim's novel *God 99*. Next up are Dima Alzayat's stories in *Alligator & Other Stories*, (discussion, Sunday, March 28, 12 noon/3 pm EDT) and Sahar Mustafah's novel, *The Beauty in Your Face* (discussion last Sunday in April). When possible, writers and/or translators join the Zoom at the half hour.

[Go here](#) or to join the group, send an email to books@themarkaz.org.

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