

THE Markaz Review

Welcome to TMR, Newsletter 10 • December 1, 2020



It's Giving Tuesday

GIVING TUESDAY
MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

[Share on Twitter, click here.](#)

Hello Subscriber First Name!

Today is Giving Tuesday and based on our shared values, we hope you will support [The Markaz Review](#) with [a year-end contribution](#), so we can continue having an impact.

There's only one Markaz Review and one of you, but today every donation will be matched by a donor who's asked to remain anonymous, so your contribution will have twice the impact.

The Last Four Years

As Ayad Akhtar makes clear in his important new novel *Homeland Elegies* (featured now on both 10 Best Books of 2020 lists of the NY Times & Wash Post) and in [our Zoom interview](#), a great of damage has been done:

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.

Our Readers Are Around the Corner and Around the World

The Markaz Review—which as the [LA Times reported](#), replaced the former Levantine Cultural Center/The Markaz after we closed our brick-and-mortar operations in May in part as a result of the pandemic—addresses this vacuum with carefully-curated essays, reviews, interviews and other content that we publish both in our monthly and weekly editions. In our first three months we've already begun reaching readers around the world. Here are 4 new stories:

[SUPPORT THE MARKAZ REVIEW](#)

:: Racism continues to diminish us all wherever it proliferates, including in the Arab community. Columnist Banah Al Ghadbanah reveals [The Unbearable Affront 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.

:: 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, 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 Yusef 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?](#)



Emphasizing Culture and Arts, not Politics

The Markaz Review or TMR is not overly political. We emphasize a cultural and literary approach. We are indeed 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](#). Thank you from TMR

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.

Donate to TMR

T M R

Subscribe

The Markaz, 1626 Wilcox Ave, Los Angeles, United States

[Unsubscribe](#)