

*Ahibaii **

For
Qusai Hamamra
Maha Zaateri
Mohamed Zakarna
Abdullah Srouf
Amjad al-Fayyed.
Motaseem Atalla and
Ra'ad Hazem

a few among the many.

She says
One more for the revolution.

That Gazan mother,
etched lines
in her face,
fingers
a victory V.

One more for the revolution.

Ahibaii

from
Khalil
to
Al Quds
Haifa to
to Jenin
Jaffa
to
Gaza

you
make revolution

day after day

you,
who stand like trees,
hold the roots
of our past,
and push

tomorrow
into being

you,
whose blood
washes the land

you
who choose

when choosing
means death.

We search the news
for your stories
hungry for a detail
but find only slander.

How do we grieve
the loss of you
how do we make ourselves
worthy?

Here,
speaking truth
is considered
an act,

but what shall we do
now that the words
have dried up?

What shall we do
when we are left with
you
and
the terrifying
stillness.

I grow tired.
of empty rituals,
parades
and the lies
we tell ourselves
to sleep.

our land grieves.

she knows
who loves her

knows what you have given for her
and for us

knows
the suffering
of our mothers--
the torn hair
the endless wailing.

and now that the price of dignity
has been paid

what will we do?

they are not coming back.
they will not laugh tomorrow

but they pointed the way
to the stars

and on the horizon,

a mountain
fit for scaling.

*The title *Ahibaii* is borrowed from a resistance song by Lebanese singer Julia Boutros. If you love resistance music, I encourage you to check out this song on youtube (with English subtitles) and witness thousands of people singing the song with her, a song that is about and for the resistance in Lebanon.

Ahibaii in Arabic means my beloved ones.

This poem is dedicated to our beloved ones in Palestine, Ahibaii-- those who fight and resist every day throughout historic Palestine.

Palestinians right now are defending their land and villages from settlers and soldiers. They are bringing the war back to settlers and soldiers who have been waging colonial war on us.

In Jenin, Gaza, al Quds, Nablus, Jaffa, Haifa, and all of historic Palestine--

Palestinian are fighting back by any means necessary and available: sometimes with guns, sometimes with drones, sometimes with their bodies, and sometimes with just a kitchen knife. Palestinians resisting know that when they choose to fight, that they are risking their lives for their community's and land's liberation.

We must honor that resistance and sacrifice in the work we do here.