

1. L-Ghambaqra

L-Ghambaqra libset
libsa bizzilla bajda,
qisha l-gharusa,
u tbissmet lejn is-sema:
Mulej! inti l-gharus?

2. Ir-Rebbiegħa

Fil-ghodwa r-rebbiegħa
feġġet ġewwa l-lvant tonfoħ
in-nifs tal-hlewwa;
kull nifs li fewweġ fl-arja
inbidel u sar warda.

3. It-Tfal

Alla mis-sema
lemaħ id-dar tal-bniedem
bit-tfal mimlija
jilgħabu fl-innoċenza,
u gher u holoq l-angli.

4. Marija

Ġo dar imwarrba
Marija tghix wehidha;
izda r-rebbiegħa
imxiet sal-bitha tagħha.
u l-qsari mliet bil-fjuri.

5. Il-Werzieq

Il-werzieq daħal
b'qima jsaffar fit-tempju,
u waqt il-għanja
quddiem il-mejda t'Alla
qassis hasqu taħt siequ.

6. Il-Qniepen ta' Malta

1. The Plumtree

*The plumtree put on
a frock of white lace,
just like a bride,
and smiled towards heaven:
God! are you the bridegroom?*

2. Spring

*Spring at dawn
appeared in the east
gently breathing;
every breath
turned into a flower.*

3. Children

*God from heaven
saw the home of man
full of children
playing in innocence;
He envied him and created the angels.*

4. Maria

*Maria lives alone
in a house out of the way;
but spring
walked to her courtyard
and filled her pots with flowers.*

5. The Cricket

*The cricket entered
the temple to chirp in reverence;
during the song
before the altar of God
a priest trampled upon him.*

6. The Bells of Malta

Ta' Malta l-qniepen,
bħan-nisa lsienhom twil
idejqu n-nies;
iżda min jista' jaqta'
biċċa mill-lsien tat-tnejn?

*The Bells of Malta.
like women with long tongues
annoy people;
but who can cut a piece
off the tongue of either?*

7. Warda Ġdida

Fuq l-art Maltija
bdiet tidher warda ġdida
lix-xtut issebbah:
it-tfajla bil-bikini!
in-nies tiskrupla u tħares!

7. A New Flower

*On the Maltese mainland
a new flower made its appearance
adding beauty to the beaches:
the girl with the bikini!
people are scandalised but look!*

8. It-Trab

Ix-xita nieżla...
il-qiegħa tat-trab tifraħ...
u bħalha mhenni
jien nifraħ il-ferħ tagħha,
ghaliex jiena trab bħalha.

8. The Dust

*The rain is falling...
the soil is full of merriment...
as happy as it is
I enjoy the same joy
as I am dust like it.*

9. Il-Qalb tax-Xħih

Alla mar jidħol
fil-qalb tax-xħih, u sabha
bil-flus imfawra,
ma sabx rokna fejn jidħol,
u qagħad iterter barra.

9. The Heart of the Miser

*God tried to enter
into the heart of the miser, but
He found it full up with money,
and could not find a corner where to take
cover and had to stay out shivering with cold.*

10. L-Arloġġ

Bil-qasba f'idu
l-arloġġ dejjem ikejje
taż-żmien il-pezza;
il-qniepen b'lehen għoli
il-kejl lin-nies ixandru.

10. The Clock

*With a yardstick in his hand
the clock is always measuring
the cloth of time;
the bells with a shrill voice
announce the measure to the people.*

11. Libsa Minxura

Qalbi bħall-libsa
minxura fuq il-ħabel

11. Like a Washing

*My heart's like washing
hanging from the rope*

waqt it-tempesta:
tlebleb, tperper imwerwra
u tghajjat lill-ħassielā.

*during a storm;
terrified it flutters
and calls for the washer-woman.*

12. Ward u Weraq

In-narċis jgħanni
il-għanja tas-sbuħija
flimkien mal-weraq,
hekk kif għannej iġħanni
imsieheb mill-kitarra.

12. Flowers and Leaves

*The narcissus sings
the song of beauty
together with its leaves
just as a singer sings
accompanied by the guitar.*

13. Univers t'Għajnejn

Mulej nistħajjel
meta fid-dinja thares
quddiemek jidhru
għajnejn il-bnedmin kollha
bħal univers ta' kwiekeb.

13. A Universe of Eyes

*Oh Lord I fancy
that when you look at the world
there appear before you
the eyes of all human beings
like a universe of stars.*

14. Qasba mar-Rih

Qasba tixxejjer
mar-riħ jien kont fil-ħajja;
qatt ma kissirni
ir-riħ! 'mma tghidx kemm għaħalni
nilgħaq it-trab tal-art.

14. A Reed in the Wind

*A reed fluttering
in the wind I was in life;
the wind never did
break me, but don't tell how many times
he made me lick the dust of the earth!*

15. Il-Bugonvilla

L-arazzi l-ħomor
tifrex mas-swar imqita,
ja bugonvilla,
donnu ġo demmek fadal
l-ispirtu tal-Gran Mastri.

15. The Bougainvillea

*The red tapestries
you spread along the bastions,
bougainvillea,
it seems that in your blood there
remains the spirit of the Grand Masters.*

16. L-Istella Maris

Għall-purċissjoni
sabiħa tar-rebbiegħa
l-istella maris
dendlet mal-gallerija

16. The Stella Maris

*For the beautiful
procession of spring
the stella maris
hung from the balcony*

tapit aħdar u roża.

a green and rose-coloured carpet.

17. Is-Sigra tat-Tin

Tat-tin is-sigra
żegħdet bil-frott f'kull fergħa,
u libset libsa
ta' weraq kbir ħadrani
bħal omm biex tghatti t-tqala.

17. The fig-tree

*The fig-tree
was pregnant with fruits in every branch,
and put on a dress
of big green leaves
like a mother to hide her pregnancy.*

18. Il-Mewt

Il-ħuta tilgħeg
u tmut fgata fid-dghajsa;
is-sajjed hieni
jitpaxxa jħares lejha;
ja Mewt, hekk tagħmel int?

18. Death

*The fish is dying
short of breath in the boat;
the happy fisherman
rejoices looking at her;
oh death, do you act likewise?*

19. Dinja ta' Mħabba

Bistek eluf,
u ġo kull bewsa dinja
kien hemm ta' mħabba,
kif hemm f'kull tluġħ ix-xemx
dinja ta' ġmiel u dija.

19. A World of Love

*I kissed you a thousand times,
and in every kiss there was
a world of love,
just as in every sunrise
there is a world of beauty and light.*

20. Ir-Riħ ta' Mejju

Ir-riħ ta' Mejju
tal-kampanella l-qniepen
idoqq bla ħniena,
bħat-tfal lejlet il-festa;
ja riħ! tifel ta' dejjem!

20. The May Wind

*The May wind
rings relentlessly
the bells of the bluebell,
like children on the eve of the village feast;
Oh! wind! eternal child!*