

1. Ibleh u Poeta

X'hin twelidt jiena
tal-karnival il-ghana
kienu qed jghannu
f'hanut taht id-dar t'ommi:
kbirt ibleh u poeta.

2. Lil Wordsworth

Int bkejt, ja Wordsworth,
xhin rajt x'ghamel il-bniedem
lill-bniedem siehbu;
jien nibki x'kellu l-hila
li jagħmel lin-Natura.

3. Fil-ghaxija

Ghasafar jghannu
fis-sigar; tfal jilagħbu
taħthom fil-pjazza;
kulhadd jixtieq bħal issa
ikun ghasfur jew tifel.

4. Bejjiegha tal-fjuri

Gonna mill-isbaħ
fl-ikħal ta' qiegh il-baħar ...
ma' kantuniera
min jaf issibx sirena
li tbigh il-fjuri f'qoffa?

5. Il-gharusa

L-gharusa harġet
mill-knisja bil-kuruna
taż-żahar fuq rasha;
il-hajja hatfithielha
u tax-xewk tatha waħda.

6. Sant Antnin

1. A Fool and a Poet

*At the hour I was born
people were singing
carnival songs
in a shop under my mother's house:
I grew up a fool and a poet.*

2. To Wordsworth

*Wordsworth when you saw
what man has made of man
you shed tears;
I cry when I see
what man has made of Nature.*

3. During the hour of evening

*Birds singing
in the trees, under them children
playing in the square;
at this hour everybody wishes
to be a bird or a child.*

4. The flower vendor

*Most beautiful gardens
on the sea-bed;
you may find
a siren at a corner
selling flowers from a basket.*

5. The bride

*The bride came out
of church with an orange blossom
crown on her head;
life snatched it away from her,
and gave her one of thorns.*

6. St. Anthony

Fix-xellugija
qed jerfa' l-Iben t'Alla;
bil-leminija
qed jaghti l-hobz lill-foqra;
Mulej, liem' id thobb l-izjed?

*On his left arm
he bears the Son of God;
with his right arm
he gives bread to the poor;
O Lord which arm do you like best?*

7. Il-volum

Volum itemm
kif darba kien hemm sigra,
u baqra taħtha:
is-sigra saret folji,
il-baqra saret qoxra.

7. The volume

*Says the volume:
there was once a tree,
and a cow under it;
the tree became pages
and the cow became the binding.*

8. Ulissi

Tghajjat Calypso:
“Jekk hawn int tibqa' miegħi
int tghix għal dejjem.”
Ulissi jkompli jaqdef
lejn daru u lejn pajjizu.

8. Ulysses

*Calypso shouts out:
“If you remain here with me
you shall never die!”
Ulysses keeps on rowing
towards his home and country.*

9. L-omm*

Tarbija rieqda
f'ħogorha; għajnejn ommha
il bghid iharsu
fiż-żmien u tghid “x'għad jigr
min jaf minn din il-ħlejqa?”

** Imnebbħa minn statwa tal-bronż
tal-iskultur Samuel Bugeja li huwa
rregalali gentilment.*

9. The Mother*

*A baby sleeping
in her lap; its mother's eyes
look far out
into the future asking “who knows
what shall become of this creature?”*

** Inspired by a bronze statue by sculptor
Samuel Bugeja, a statue which he kindly
gifted me.*

10. Ir-Rih

Sraqt, ja rih qawwi,
ir-raxx tax-xita, il-weraq,
lehen il-qanpiena;
ħallejt id-dmugh fuq wiċċi,
ħallejt l-ilfiq go qalbi.

10. The Wind

*O heavy wind, you
carried away the raindrops
and the leaves,
the voices of the bells,
but you left the tears on my face*

and the sobs in my heart.

11. Li kelli nerga' nitwieled

Le, mhux gawwija
irrid inkun, jekk nerga'
mill-gdid nitwieled,
'mma bniedem li l-gid jagħmel,
mgħobbi b'salib fuq dahru.

11. If I were to be reborn

*If I were to be
reborn, I would not like
to be born a seagull,
but a man with a cross on his
shoulders performing good deeds.*

12. L-atju

Disgħin u disgħa
ħarġu flimkien ipokriti
minn ġewwa l-knisja;
atju magħhom mar jiltaqa'
u saru mitt ipokrita.

12. The atheist

*Ninety nine
hypocrites came out of
church together;
an atheist mixed with them
they became one hundred.*

13. Il-baħar

Daw'l-jiem il-baħar
lill-art xtaq kieku jibla';
izda llum sebaħ
jitbissem blu u jtenni:
"Le, le, teħdux għalija!"

13. The sea

*During the last days
the sea wanted to devour the land;
but today he woke up
with a blue smile saying:
"Oh no! don't take me seriously!"*

14. Lil binti li se tizzewweġ

Binti, mur ara
kif sejra thoss din qalbi
l-imqass taż-żabra
li jaqtgħek minn ma' miegħi
ħa jħawwel sigra ġdida!

14. To my daughter on her marriage

*My daughter, who knows
how my heart is going to feel
the pruning scissors,
when it cuts you away from me
to plant a new tree!*

15. Appartamenti

Appartamenti
eluf ta' gaġeġ ċkejtna
waħda fuq l-oħra;
il-ħajja tieħu ħsiebhom,
u tarmi lil dawk li jmutu.

15. Apartments

*Apartments ...
thousands of small cages
one upon the other;
life takes care of them,
and throws away those who die.*

16. L-astronawti *

Mulej fid-dinja
poġġejt in-nies għasafar
ġo gaġġa kbira;
'mma llum tlieta ħarbulek
u marru hdejn il-qamar.

** Milied 1968 meta l-ewwel
astronawti marru hdejn il-qamar.*

17. Weraq tal-imħabba

Iz-zokk ta' qalbi
il-weraq tal-imħabba
kull darba jarmi;
izda d-destin tal-ħajja
iqacċat kull nibbieta.

18. Ommi

Shabiet ahna erbgħa
madwar ix-xemx li niezla,
fi tmiem xjuħitek,
Ma, jien u t-tliet uliedi;
kif tghib int, dlam u kesħa.

19. Lill-qamar

Dawwalt, ja Qamar,
ta' Raleigh u ta' Kolombu
it-toroq fl-ibħra;
qatt hlomt li għad jitwiieldu
Armstrong, Aldrich u Collins?

** Fil-lejl 20/21 ta' Lulju 1969*

20. Jien Kanarin

Jiena kanarin,

16. The Astronauts*

*O Lord you put men
in the world like birds
in a big cage;
but today three of them escaped
and went near the moon.*

** On Christmas day 1968 the first astronauts
went close to the moon.*

17. Leaves of love

*The trunk of my heart
grows the buds
of love;
but life's destiny
nips each one.*

18. My mother

*Four clouds around
the setting sun, we are, o mother,
during your old days,
myself and my three children;
when you set, there will be cold
and darkness.*

19. To the Moon

*O moon, you shone
on the sea routs for Raleigh
and for Colombo;
did you ever dream of the birth
of Armstrong, Aldrich and Collins?*

** On the night of 20/21 July 1969*

20. I am a canary

I am a canary,

Mulej, fil-gagġa tieghek,
thobbni u titmani;
meta mmut jisghobbik,
u ġġib ieħor minn floki.

*Lord in your cage;
you love me and feed me;
when I die you will feel regret,
and then will bring another canary.*