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| <p>1. Serduq b'munqaru
il-bieb tal-lejl iħabbat:
"Ja dawl fis oħroġ!"</p> | <p>1. <i>The door of the night;
a cock knocks with his beak:
come forth, o light!</i></p> |
| <p>2. Qatt qatt ma jixbġu
żewġ peprinet jitbewsu
fit-tarf tal-ġhalqa.</p> | <p>2. <i>Never, never tired!
Two poppies kissing each other
at the edge of the field.</i></p> |
| <p>3. Żarġun mid-dielja
miżbur u fuq ħajt mormi
ħareġ nibbieta.</p> | <p>3. <i>The stems pruned
from the vine thrown away on the field wall
are budding again.</i></p> |
| <p>4. Vjola ċekjkuna
li qtajt – rebbieġha sħiħa
inti f'idejja!</p> | <p>4. <i>Little violet
that I picked – you are a whole
spring in my hands.</i></p> |
| <p>5. Weraq imwaqqa' ...
il-ħaxix ġdid minn bejnu
itella rasu.</p> | <p>5. <i>Fallen leaves ...
the new grass lifts its head
from amongst them</i>
.</p> |
| <p>6. Bejta tal-lifa
taħt ġebbla, kollha sħana
u kollha mħabba.</p> | <p>6. <i>A viper's nest
under a stone – full of warmth,
full of love.</i></p> |
| <p>7. Fuq komodina
żewġ tuffihiet misjura
qed jistennewni.</p> | <p>7. <i>On my bed table
two apples waiting
for me to wake up.</i></p> |
| <p>8. It-tfajjel nefaġ
żewġ soldi u xtara tajra,
u tela' s-sema.</p> | <p>8. <i>A boy spent two pence,
on a kite,
and ascended into the sky.</i></p> |
| <p>9. Baħar tal-biża',
fuq ras ta' ħalla ġholja
hemm tapp tas-sufra.</p> | <p>9. <i>A terrific sea
on the crest of a huge billow
a cork bobs.</i></p> |

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| <p>10. Qatgħa ta' gawwi,
bħal żigarella bajda
fuq il-mewġ tperper.</p> | <p>10. <i>A small flock of seagulls:
a white ribbon
fluttering on the waves.</i></p> |
| <p>11. Biss sitt kewbiet
fis-sema; ġewwa r-raħal
biss sitt fanali.</p> | <p>11. <i>Only six stars
in the sky; only six lamps
in the village.</i></p> |
| <p>12. F'kull post ta' Malta
il-wiċċ tal-pal tal-bajtar
iħares lejja.</p> | <p>12. <i>In every place in Malta
the faces of the prickly pears
stares at me.</i></p> |
| <p>13. Madonna sbejħa
bl-għanqbut nofsha mgħottija
ġewwa dar fqira.</p> | <p>13. <i>A beautiful Madonna
half covered with cobwebs
in a poor house.</i></p> |
| <p>14. F'siġra bla weraq
għasfur qed jgħanni l-għanja:
"Darba kien hemm ..."</p> | <p>14. <i>On a leafless tree
a bird is singing the song:
"There was once"...</i></p> |
| <p>15. O narcis ikber!
it-tfal jistennewk ħafna
lilek ha jbigħuk.</p> | <p>15. <i>Grow up, narcissus!
the boys are waiting for you
to pick you and sell you.</i></p> |
| <p>16. Dalma tal-biża',
inbiħ ta' klieb imgħaddba:
poeti żgħażaġħ.</p> | <p>16. <i>A terrible darkness
the barking of angry dogs:
young poets.</i></p> |
| <p>17. Tgħid il-ġurdiena:
"għaliex bil-fors iridu
joqtlu 'l uliedi?"</p> | <p>17. <i>Says the female rat:
"why are they always trying
to kill my children?"</i></p> |
| <p>18. Il-ħmar fix-xita ...
u kull ma seta' jagħmel
widnejh idendel.</p> | <p>18. <i>The donkey in the rain
the only thing he could do was
to hang down his ears.</i></p> |

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| <p>19. Ġiet ir-rebbiegħa
imdejqa u kelha tiehu
il-purple heart pills.</p> | <p>19. <i>Spring arrived
full of dejection, and had to take
the purple heart pills.</i></p> |
| <p>20. Mulej minn flokok
għandna biex ifarrġuna
is-sedattivi.</p> | <p>20. <i>Instead of you, o Lord,
to comfort us we have
the tranquillisers.</i></p> |
| <p>21. Sema xebbieni
biex juri li lwien għandu
għamel qawsalla.</p> | <p>21. <i>The grey sky,
to show that he has colours,
put forth a rainbow.</i></p> |
| <p>22. Biex it-tfal jiġu
hdejk, baħar, toqgħod tagħmel
iċ-ċgħaq imlewwen.</p> | <p>22. <i>To entice children
towards you, o sea, you make
colourful pebbles.</i></p> |
| <p>23. L-arloġġ int tqisu
ja żmien, bħal għadu tiegħek
int ukoll tkissru.</p> | <p>23. <i>O time you spate
the clock is your enemy
you destroy it too!</i></p> |
| <p>24. L-arloġġ inkiser
ja żmien, ieqaf almenu
kemm lilu nsewwi.</p> | <p>24. <i>I broke my watch;
o time, stop at least
until I repair it!</i></p> |
| <p>25. Il-lejl qattajna
ja żmien, nimxu weħidna
it-tnejn bil-krozzi.</p> | <p>25. <i>O time we spent
the night walking together,
both of us on crutches.</i></p> |
| <p>26. Le, mhux biżżejjed
ja ġewża l-ġewż tagħtini,
ġib biex inkissru!</p> | <p>26. <i>It is not enough
o nut tree, to give me your fruit
give me a nut-cracker too!</i></p> |
| <p>27. Tbid il-patata
go l-għalqa bħat-tiġieġa,
’mma bla ma tqaqi.</p> | <p>27. <i>The potato plant
lays eggs in the field like a hen,
but without cackling.</i></p> |

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| <p>28. Għalfejn qed tħabbat,
ja xita fuq it-tieqa?
ma rridx niftaħlek!</p> | <p>28. <i>Why are you knocking,
o rain, at my window?
I won't let you in!</i></p> |
| <p>29. Raħal bi ġrajja
waħda kull jum: fil-ġhaxra
il-merħla tghaddi.</p> | <p>29. <i>A hamlet with a
daily event: when
a flock pass by.</i></p> |
| <p>30. Ix-xemx fix-xefaġ;
tliet shabiet qed iqimu
bħas-Slaten Maġi.</p> | <p>30. <i>The sun setting;
three clouds adore
like the three Magi.</i></p> |
| <p>31. Sabiħa żzejjed
ja warda; ma flaħtx ġmielek,
u ġejt u qtajtek.</p> | <p>31. <i>Unbearably beautiful
o flower; I couldn't
but come and pick you.</i></p> |
| <p>32. Idea t'Alla
il-ġnien, b'idea għamilt
lill-ewwel wieħed.</p> | <p>32. <i>You should know that garden
is God's idea;
He made the first one.</i></p> |
| <p>33. Il-kaktus fqajjar
lir-riħ qed jgħid fix-xtajta:
"xi trid teħodli?"</p> | <p>33. <i>The poor cactus
on the sea rocks says to the wind:
what can you take from me?</i></p> |
| <p>34. Taç-çentufolju
ir-riħ għadd il-mitt folja
qabel ma rmiehom.</p> | <p>34. <i>The wind counted
the hundred petals of the Mayrose
before throwing them away.</i></p> |
| <p>35. Ir-riħ ivenven;
għaliex tistaqsi lilu;
ħallih ivenven!</p> | <p>35. <i>The wind is blowing;
don't ask it why:
just let it blow.</i></p> |
| <p>36. Mara maħmuġa
u kerha quddiem niçça:
xi ħlew ta' talba!</p> | <p>36. <i>A shabby ugly
woman before a shrine;
what a beautiful prayer!</i></p> |

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| <p>37. Kemm huma bojod
qalb iċ-ċipress is-slaleb!
kemm huma bojod!</p> | <p>37. <i>How white are the crosses
among the cypress tree!
how white they are!</i></p> |
| <p>38. Feġġejt, ja qamar
bil-wieċ ta' tifel ċkejken;
għalaqthom l-għaxra?</p> | <p>38. <i>O moon, you looked out
with the face of a young boy:
how old are you?</i></p> |
| <p>39. Għand il-barbier:
il-mus fil-leġja jobwa,
u kanar jgħanni.</p> | <p>39. <i>At the barber's shop:
razors and scissors,
and a canary singing.</i></p> |
| <p>40. Sema tad-deheb:
li kelli narak ġejja
minnu għal hdejja!</p> | <p>40. <i>A golden sky:
oh! if I could see you coming
back from it!</i></p> |
| <p>41. Mara pastasa,
in-naspla traxxax fuqha
izzejjed fwieħa.</p> | <p>41. <i>A rude woman:
the medlar showers upon herself
too much perfume.</i></p> |
| <p>42. Qalbi bħal pupa:
qdiemet, imma baqgħet dejjem
bil-wieċ ta' pupa.</p> | <p>42. <i>My heart is like a dool:
they both got old
but kept a young face.</i></p> |
| <p>43. Fin-nofs ta' siġra
mimlija weraq aħdar
hemm bejta vojta.</p> | <p>43. <i>In the midst of a tree
full of green leaves
there is an empty nest.</i></p> |
| <p>44. Żomm ieqaf stenna!
id-dar ha' nerga' lura
għax insejt snieni!</p> | <p>44. <i>Stop and wait for me:
I must go back home
for I gorgot my teeth.</i></p> |
| <p>45. Immut nixtieqha
bħax-xemx waqt illi nisma'
lill-bilbla tgħanni.</p> | <p>45. <i>I wish to die
like the sun whilst listening
to the song of the skylark.</i></p> |

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| <p>46. Għolja miksija
bil-pin ilkoll ighajtu
f'rivoluzzjoni.</p> | <p>46. <i>A hill covered
with pine trees all shouting
in a revolution.</i></p> |
| <p>47. Aġhtuni mrewwaħ
impittra tnejn, u nagħmel
farfett mill-isbaħ.</p> | <p>47. <i>Give me two painted
ladies' fans and I'll make
a beautiful butterfly.</i></p> |
| <p>48. Farfett li ntilef
għol-belt bil-herqa jfittex
it-triq għall-beraħ.</p> | <p>48. <i>A butterfly lost
in the city eagerly searching
for a road to the country.</i></p> |
| <p>49. Fin-nofs il-knisja
il-mejjet; tifel jilgħab
bil-gugarelli.</p> | <p>49. <i>A corpse in the middle
of the church; a child playing
beside with a toy.</i></p> |
| <p>50. Ta' 'U' fil-forma
b'ras naħa u denbu fl-oħra,
is-serduk jgħanni.</p> | <p>50. <i>"U" shaped, with his head
on one side, his tail on the other,
the cock crows.</i></p> |