

**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 jilaghbu  
taħthom fil-pjazza;  
kulhadd jixtieq bħal issa  
ikun ghasfur jew tifel.

**4. Bejjiegħa 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 ħarġet  
mill-knisja bil-kuruna  
taż-żahar fuq rasha;  
il-ħajja ħatfithielha  
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 jagħti l-ħobż lill-foqra;  
Mulej, liem' id tħobb l-iżjed?

*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 siġra,  
u baqra taħtha:  
is-siġra 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**

Tgħajjat Calypso:  
“Jekk hawn int tibqa’ miegħi  
int tgħix għal dejjem.”  
Ulissi jkompli jaqdef  
lejn daru u lejn pajjiżu.

**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'ħoġorha; għajnejn ommha  
il bghid iħarsu  
fiż-żmien u tgħid “x’għad jigr  
min jaf minn din il-ħlejqa?”

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

**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-dmugħ 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-ġdid nitwieled,  
'mma bniedem li l-ġid 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  
ħargu 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 tħoss din qalbi  
l-imqass taż-żabra  
li jaqtgħek minn ma' miegħi  
ħa jħawwel siġra 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 tiegħu 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  
għo għagħa kbira;  
‘mma llum tlieta ħarbulek  
u marru hdejn il-qamar.

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

**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. Weraq tal-imħabba**

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

**17. Leaves of love**

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

**18. Ommi**

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

**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. 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*

**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. Jien Kanarin**

Jiena kanarin,

**20. I am a canary**

*I am a canary,*

Mulej, fil-gagġa tiegħek,  
thobbni u titmani;  
meta mmut jisgħobbik,  
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.*