

151. Farfett idakkar;
il-warda mbissma toghxa
ta' omm bil-ferh.

151. *A butterfly pollinating...
the smiling flower rejoices
with the joy of a mother.*

152. Demm tar-rebbiegħa
fil-vini dhalt tat-twieqi
u l-galleriji.

152. *O blood of spring
you have run into the veins
of windows and balconies.*

153. Il-warda tisma'
lehen missirijietha:
"lewwen u fewwah".

153. *The rose hears
the voice of her forefathers:
"shed colours and perfume".*

154. Id-dlam fit-trejqa
ghaddej fanal jixxengel
taht karettun.

154. *A road at nighttime;
a lantern passes by
realing under a cart.*

155. Qatt qatt f' mixjietu
iċ-ċentipied ma tfixkel
b'liema sieq jibda.

155. *The centipede in his
walk never got mixed minded
with which foot to start.*

156. Ġo din il-mejda*
inzerghet iż-zerriegħa
tat-tieni gwerra.

156. *In this table*
the seed was sown
of the second world war.*

** Il-mejda li fuqha gie ffirmat it-
Trattat ta' Versailles.*

** The table on which the Versailles Treaty
was signed.*

157. Ix-xita thabbat
fil-bieb tal-bidwi hienja
bir-rigal f'idha.

157. *Rain knocks at the door
of the farmer, happy
with a present in her hand.*

158. Naqbar din qalbi;
taht kull salib hemm xewqa
li mhix mitmuma.

158. *My heart is a graveyard;
under every cross there is a wish
which remained unsatisfied.*

159. Waslet huttafa
b'ittra m'ghand ir-rebbiegħa

159. *A swallow has arrived
with a letter from spring saying*

li dalwaqt tasal.

she is soon arriving.

160. Il-bilbla tgħanni
ħdejn bieb is-sema: “ifthuli,
jien anġlu bħalkom”.

160. *The skylark sings
beside heaven’s door: “open to me,
I am an angel too”.*

161. Xaġhra t’għesieleg;
taħt kull għasluġ hemm basla
bis-semm mimlija.

161. *A waste full of the flowers
of the squill-under each flower
a bulb full of poison.*

162. Haġar Qim jixhed
li nżul ix-xemx bħal iehor
ma deherx fix-xefaq.

162. *Haġar Qim testifies
that there never was one sunset
like another.*

163. L-ikħal tas-sema;
il-wiċċ musfar ta’ xwejha
mit-tieqa thares.

163. *A blue sky;
the pale face of an old woman
looking from a window.*

164. Qabel il-bniedem
il-qasba kienet tgħanni,
kienet poeta.

164. *Before Adam
the reed used to sing
and was a poet.*

165. Prinċep ta’ mħabba,
’mma l-kastell tiegħi waqa’
ġebbla fuq ġebbla.

165. *I was a prince of love;
but my castle has crumbled
stone upon stone.*

LILL-QAMAR
fil-lejl 20/21 ta’ Lulju 1969

TO THE MOON
on the night 20/21 July 1969

166. (1) Nadurak, Qamar
il-lejla għax fik rieqda
hemm l-astronawti.

166. (1) *O moon I adore you
tonight, for in you
the astronauts are sleeping.*

167. (2) Lil min thobb l-izjed,
ja Qamar, lill-poeti
jew l-astronawti?

167. (2) *Whom do you like best,
O moon, the poets
or the astronauts?*

168. (3) Stagħnejt, ja Qamar,
dal-lejl bil-poeżija
tar-realtà.
169. (4) Ja qamar ħlejj
il-lejla int il-benniena
tal-Astronawti.
170. Mulej, kif rajtu,
lil Armstrong fuq il-qamar?
Bit-television?
171. 'Il fuq qed jibku
iż-żewġ widnejn bil-ferħ
u denbu 'l isfel.
172. Waqgħet id-dalma;
l-aħħar trespisa qattret
tal-ġnien mis-siġra.
173. Manuvri fl-eqqel;
jitriegħdu qishom qasab
tal-gwerra s-slaleb.
174. Il-vjola f'idi
fid-dawl tax-xemx – kemm kiber
u żdied dak ġmielha.
175. Ghidli, ja warda,
tixtieq fil-vażett toqgħod
jew fuq il-mixtla.
176. Almenu triqti
tispiċċa qalb is-siġar
taċ-ċimiterju.

168. (3) Tonight, o moon,
you enriched yourself with
the poetry of reality.
169. (4) O sweet moon,
tonight you are the cradle
of the astronauts.
170. O Lord how did you
see Armstrong on the moon?
On television?
171. The two ears of the
foal are growing upwards,
his tail downwards.
172. Darkness has fallen;
the last warble has dropped
from the garden's trees.
173. The manoeuvres at their height;
the crosses in the war cemetery
shake like reeds.
174. A violet in my hand
under the sun's rays – how enhanced
became its beauty.
175. Tell me, flower
where do you prefer to be,
on your plant or in a vase?
176. A least my road
ends up amongst the trees
of the graveyard.

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|------|--|------|---|
| 177. | Jien żmien niftakar
meta mill-bjut jittajru
xi mitejn tajra. | 177. | <i>I remember the time
when a hundred kites
used to fly from the roofs.</i> |
| 178. | Irgiel hemm ħamsa
u dellijiet hemm ħamsa
jimxu warajhom. | 178. | <i>Five men
and five shadows
walking behind them.</i> |
| 179. | Lill-blat il-baħar
għamlu niggieži; iż-żiffa
bix-xewk imlietu. | 179. | <i>The waves made the rocks
prickly; the wind
surrounded them with thistles.</i> |
| 180. | Mar-riħ antinni;
ħamrana tal-ponsettja,
bojod tal-miħna. | 180. | <i>Antennae with the wind
red are those of the poinsettia,
white are those of the windmill.</i> |
| 181. | L-art il-mewġ jiekol;
il-festa tat-tempesta!
li kont imħara! | 181. | <i>Sea billows on the shore;
the fast of the storm;
if I were a limpet!</i> |
| 182. | Fix-xemx ileqqu
il-għajnejn tal-lelluxa
u dawk tal-lifa. | 182. | <i>Gleaming in the sun
the eyes of the crown daisy
and those of the viper.</i> |
| 183. | Il-weraq niexef niexef
ingabar gozz jistenna
xi ħadd jaħarqu. | 183. | <i>The dried leaves
gathered in a pile waiting
for some body to burn them.</i> |
| 184. | Ix-xewk iħares
il-fjuri tiegħu tajjeb:
'mma min iridhom? | 184. | <i>The thistles protect
their flowers very strongly:
but who wants them?</i> |
| 185. | Ir-riħ ivenven;
il-qasab aktar tħaxken
waħda mal-oħra. | 185. | <i>The wind is blowing strongly;
the reeds drew closer
one to the other.</i> |

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| <p>186. L-aħħar tas-sena;
tas-sajf il-werqa aħħara
waqgħet mid-dielja.</p> | <p>186. <i>The end of the year;
the last leaf of summer
fell from the vine.</i></p> |
| <p>187. Nixtieq nittajjar,
u qalbi tħossha żgura
li għad tittajjar.</p> | <p>187. <i>I wish to fly;
and my heart feels certain
that one day I shall fly.</i></p> |
| <p>188. Għanqu banana,
tnejn tnejn qiegħed isajjar,
ma jridx joqtolni.</p> | <p>188. <i>A bunch of banana
ripening its fruit two at a time
so as not to kill me.</i></p> |
| <p>189. Mhux par imsielet
il-moda tal-ħarruba,
iżda bil-qabda.</p> | <p>189. <i>The vogue of the carob tree
is not to wear a pair of earrings,
but a heap.</i></p> |
| <p>190. Tursin il-bir
kuntent fid-dlam iżejjen
dar is-sallura.</p> | <p>190. <i>The maiden hair
is happy in the darkness of the well
embellishing the home of the eel.</i></p> |
| <p>191. Sieket ta' dejjem
ja sema; u jekk titkellem,
rghad u sajjetti.</p> | <p>191. <i>Eternally silent
o sky you are; if you open your mouth
it's thunder and lightnings.</i></p> |
| <p>192. Langas mill-friegħi,
bozoz mill-fili jerdgħu
id-dawl u l-ħajja.</p> | <p>192. <i>Like pears from the branches,
the electric lamps from the wires
suck light and life.</i></p> |
| <p>193. Ix-xmara miexja,
ma' tulha ġewwa l-fili
miexi l-elettriku.</p> | <p>193. <i>The river flows;
along its banks through wires
flows electricity.</i></p> |
| <p>194. Gost kbir int tieħu
ja baħar mat-tfal tilgħab
ħobża u sardina!</p> | <p>194. <i>What a pleasure it is
for you, o sea, to play with children
duck and drakes.</i></p> |

195. Jalla bġad-dudu
nidhol tal-art fil-fosdqa
u farfett nohroġ.

196. Ċmieni li l-arja
timlew bis-swied, hawn bosta
nies eħžen minnkom.

197. Bdilt il-ferlija
fi Christmas Tree; tgħid smajtha
“qatt qatt ma bsart” ...

198. Fil-bitha tal-palazz;
kerrejja tal-għasafar
kull siġra tiegħu.

199. Ja qara twila,
bħal-ilsien twil ta’ qanpiena,
doqq qed nobsrok.

200. Tgħallaq fiċ-ċella;
ilsienu barra jgħajjeb
lid-dinja kiefra.

195. *May I like a caterpillar
enter the earth’s chrysalis
and come out a butterfly.*

196. *O chimneys who fill
the air with blackness, how many
people there are more wicked than you!*

197. *I turned the ferule
into a Christmas tree; I heard it
saying “I never imagined”...*

198. *The palace courtyard,
every tree in it is for the birds
a common tenement.*

199. *O long marrow,
like the long tongue of a bell,
I imagine you are ringing.*

200. *He hanged himself in the prison
cell; his tongue full out cops
a snook at the cruel world.*