

ARA 404

MODERN ARABIC POETRY

الرمزية الحديثة



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Course code: ARA 404

Course title: Modern Arabic Poetry

Course credit load: 2 Units

Series 1: Development Of Major Modern Schools Of Arabic Poetry

Part 1.1 Historical emergence of modern Arabic poetry (النشأة التاريخية للشعر العربي الحديث)

- 1.1.1 Early influences and break from classical forms (التأثيرات الأولى والانفصال عن الأشكال التقليدية)
- 1.1.2 Social and political contexts shaping modern poetry (السياقات الاجتماعية والسياسية التي شكلت الشعر الحديث)

Part 1.2 Major schools of modern Arabic poetry (المدارس الكبرى للشعر العربي الحديث)

- 1.2.1 The Romantic school (مدرسة الرومانسية)
- 1.2.2 The Symbolist school (مدرسة الرمزية)
- 1.2.3 The Realist school (مدرسة الواقعية)
- 1.2.4 The Free verse movement (حركة الشعر الحر)

Part 1.3 Representative poets and selections (الشعراء البارزون والاختيارات)

- 1.3.1 Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني) and themes of love and revolution
- 1.3.2 Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب) and the rise of free verse
- 1.3.3 Nāzik Al-Malāīkah (نازك الملائكة) and poetic innovation

Part 1.4 Intellectual and cultural impact (الأثر الفكري والثقافي)

- 1.4.1 Influence on Arab identity and modern thought (تأثيره على الهوية العربية والفكر الحديث)
- 1.4.2 Contribution to global literary dialogue (مساهمته في الحوار الأدبي العالمي)



Introduction

Modern Arabic poetry (الشعر العربي الحديث) represents one of the most dynamic transformations in Arabic literature. For centuries, Arabic poetry followed classical structures and themes, but the twentieth century witnessed a remarkable shift as poets began to experiment with new forms, ideas, and expressions. This Series will help you trace the development of major modern schools of Arabic poetry, showing how they emerged from historical, social, and cultural contexts, and why they remain central to understanding Arabic literary heritage today.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the historical emergence and evolution of modern Arabic poetry, and to equip you with the ability to analyse the major schools and their representative poets.

We shall commence this Series by examining the historical emergence of modern Arabic poetry, focusing on early influences and the social and political contexts that shaped its development. Next, we will explore the major schools of modern Arabic poetry, including Romanticism, Symbolism, Realism, and the Free Verse movement. Following that, we will study representative poets such as Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني), Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب), and Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازيك الملائكة), highlighting their contributions and innovations. Finally, we will conclude by considering the intellectual and cultural impact of these schools, particularly their influence on Arab identity and their contribution to global literary dialogue.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 1.1** define the historical emergence of modern Arabic poetry (الشعر العربي الحديث) and explain the early influences that shaped its development,
- **SLO 1.2** analyse the social and political contexts (السياقات الاجتماعية والسياسية) that contributed to the transformation of Arabic poetic forms,
- **SLO 1.3** describe the distinctive features of the Romantic school (مدرسة الرومانسية) in modern Arabic poetry,



- **SLO 1.4** explain the stylistic characteristics of the Symbolist school (مدرسة الرمزية),
- **SLO 1.5** evaluate the contributions of the Realist school (مدرسة الواقعية) to Arabic literary expression,
- **SLO 1.6** demonstrate knowledge of the Free Verse movement (حركة الشعر الحر) and its role in reshaping poetic structure,
- **SLO 1.7** examine selected works of Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني), Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكِر السيّاب), and Nāzik Al-Malāīkah (نازك الملائكة), identifying their innovations and themes,
- **SLO 1.8** assess the intellectual and cultural impact (الأثر الفكري والثقافي) of modern Arabic poetry on Arab identity and thought, and
- **SLO 1.9** evaluate the contribution of modern Arabic poetry to global literary dialogue.

1.1 Historical Emergence Of Modern Arabic Poetry (النشأة التاريخية للشعر العربي الحديث)

1.1.1 Early influences and break from classical forms (التأثيرات الأولى والانفصال عن الأشكال التقليدية)

Modern Arabic poetry (الشعر العربي الحديث) began to take shape in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Traditionally, Arabic poetry followed strict **classical forms** (الأشكال التقليدية) such as the **qasīda** (قصيدة), which was characterised by a single rhyme and metre throughout. However, as Arab societies encountered new cultural and intellectual currents, poets began to experiment with structure and theme. This marked a gradual break from rigid classical conventions and opened the way for innovation.

Fill in the blank: The traditional Arabic poetic form characterised by a single rhyme and metre is called _____.



THE EVOLUTION OF ARABIC POETRY: FROM CLASSICAL QASĪDA TO MODERN FORMS

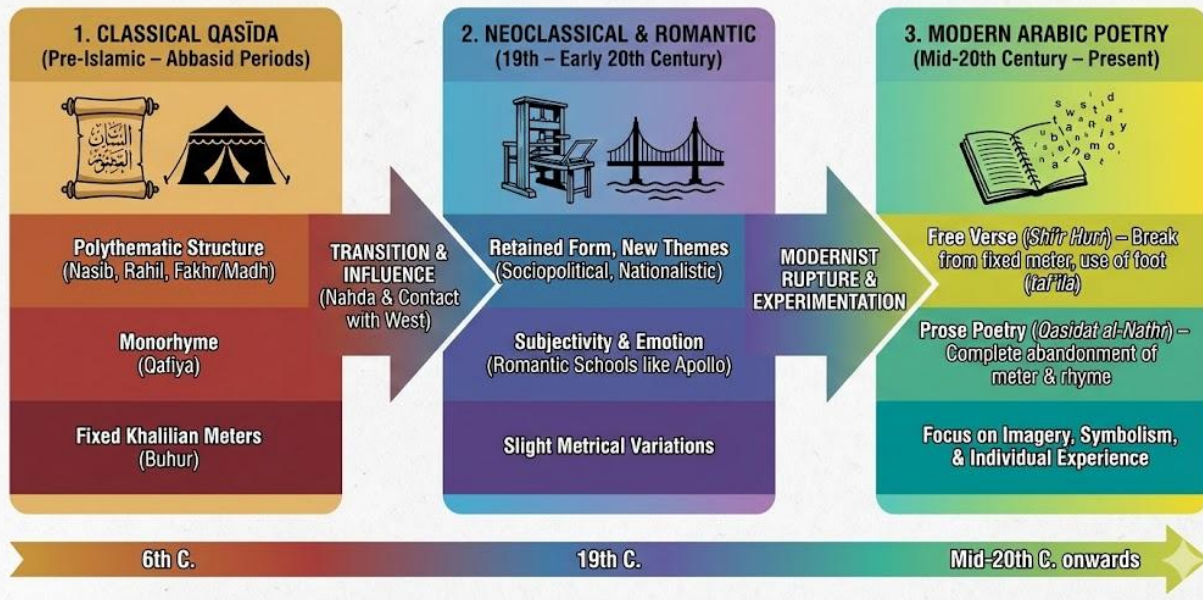


Figure 1.1: Transition from classical to modern Arabic poetry

1.1.2 Social and political contexts shaping modern poetry (السياقات الاجتماعية والسياسية التي شكلت الشعر الحديث)

The rise of modern Arabic poetry was deeply influenced by **social and political contexts** (السياقات الاجتماعية والسياسية). The decline of the Ottoman Empire, the rise of Arab nationalism, and exposure to European ideas created fertile ground for literary change. Poets responded to colonialism, identity struggles, and calls for reform by adopting new themes such as freedom, justice, and love. These themes resonated with ordinary people and gave poetry a renewed role as a voice of society.

Fill in the blank: The decline of the _____ Empire influenced the rise of modern Arabic poetry.





Plate 1.1: Poetry shaped by social and political contexts

Pilot questions 1.1

1. What is the traditional Arabic poetic form characterised by a single rhyme and metre?
2. Which historical period marked the beginning of modern Arabic poetry?
3. Name one social or political factor that influenced the rise of modern Arabic poetry.
4. Fill in the blank: The decline of the _____ Empire influenced the rise of modern Arabic poetry.
5. What new themes did poets adopt to reflect societal change?

1.2 Major Schools Of Modern Arabic Poetry (المدارس الكبرى للشعر العربي الحديث)

1.2.1 The Romantic school (مدرسة الرومانسية)

The **Romantic school** (مدرسة الرومانسية) in modern Arabic poetry was inspired by European Romanticism, yet it developed its own distinctive features. Poets emphasised themes of nature, love, and individual emotion, often using imagery to express longing and personal freedom. This



school marked a departure from collective and traditional themes, giving voice to the inner world of the poet.

Fill in the blank: The Romantic school in modern Arabic poetry emphasised themes of _____ and individual emotion.



Plate 1.2: Romantic themes in modern Arabic poetry

1.2.2 The Symbolist school (مدرسة الرمزية)

The **Symbolist school** (مدرسة الرمزية) introduced abstract imagery and symbolism into Arabic poetry. Poets used metaphors and symbols to convey deeper meanings, often leaving interpretation open to the reader. This style encouraged readers to engage actively with the text, searching for hidden layers of meaning. Symbolism allowed poets to address complex themes such as spirituality, identity, and existential questions.

Fill in the blank: The Symbolist school relied heavily on _____ and metaphors to convey meaning.



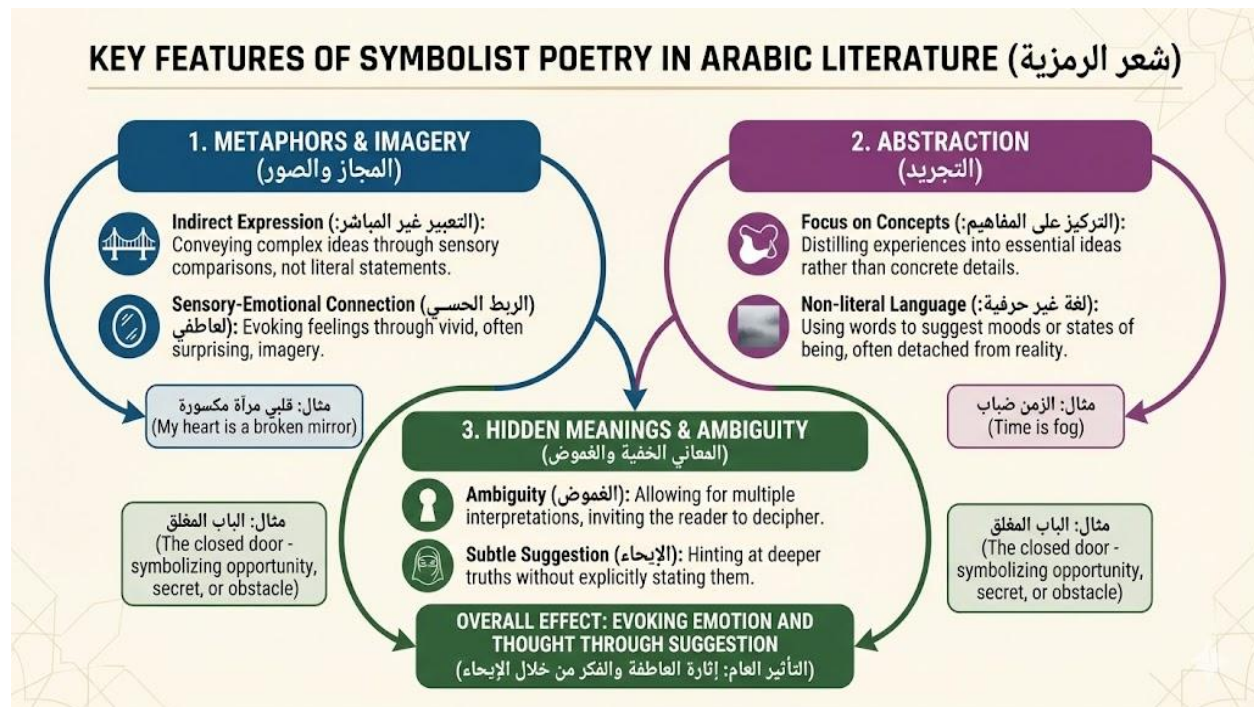


Figure 1.2: Features of Symbolist poetry

1.2.3 The Realist school (مدرسة الواقعية)

The **Realist school (مدرسة الواقعية)** focused on social issues, everyday struggles, and political realities. Poets sought to reflect life as it was, using straightforward language and imagery. Realist poetry became a tool for social critique, addressing poverty, injustice, and colonial oppression. This school gave poetry a strong connection to the lived experiences of ordinary people.

Fill in the blank: The Realist school in Arabic poetry often addressed poverty, injustice, and _____ oppression.

Theme	Focus
Poverty (الفقر)	Highlighting social inequality
Injustice (الظلم)	Critiquing unfair systems
Colonialism (الاستعمار)	Resistance and identity



Box 1.2: Themes of Realist poetry

1.2.4 The Free Verse movement (حركة الشعر الحر)

The **Free Verse movement (حركة الشعر الحر)** revolutionised Arabic poetry by breaking away from strict metre and rhyme. Poets such as Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب) and Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة) pioneered this style, allowing greater flexibility and creativity. Free verse opened the door for modern themes and experimental structures, making poetry more accessible and expressive.

Fill in the blank: The Free Verse movement broke away from strict _____ and rhyme.



Plate 1.3: Pioneers of the Free Verse movement

Pilot questions 1.2

1. What themes did the Romantic school emphasise?
2. Which school relied heavily on symbolism and metaphors?
3. What social issues were addressed by the Realist school?
4. Fill in the blank: The Free Verse movement broke away from strict _____ and rhyme.



5. Name two poets associated with the Free Verse movement.

1.3 Representative Poets And Selections (الشعراء البارزون والاختيارات)

1.3.1 Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني) and themes of love and revolution

Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني) is one of the most celebrated modern Arab poets. His poetry is characterised by themes of **love** (الحب), **beauty** (الجمال), and **revolution** (الثورة). He used simple yet powerful language to express emotions that resonated with ordinary readers. Qabāni also addressed political issues, particularly the struggles of Arab societies, making his poetry both personal and national in scope.

Fill in the blank: Nazār Qabāni's poetry combined themes of love, beauty, and _____.



Plate 1.4: Nazār Qabāni's themes of love and revolution

1.3.2 Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب) and the rise of free verse

Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب) is widely recognised as a pioneer of the **Free Verse movement** (حركة الشعر الحر). His poetry broke away from traditional metre and rhyme, allowing



for greater flexibility and creativity. Assayyāb's works often reflected themes of **suffering** (المعاناة), **hope** (الأمل), and **social struggle** (الصراع الاجتماعي). His innovative style influenced generations of poets and marked a turning point in Arabic literary history.

Fill in the blank: Badr Shākir Assayyāb is recognised as a pioneer of the _____ movement.

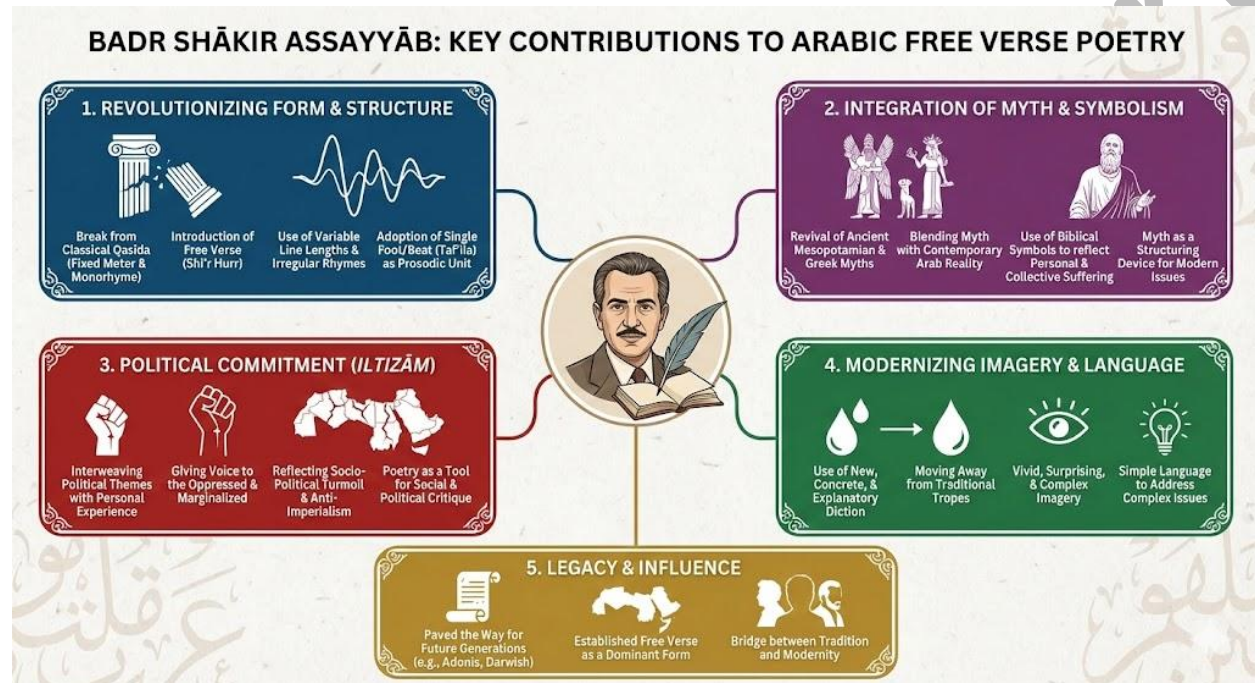


Figure 1.3: Contributions of Badr Shākir Assayyāb

1.3.3 Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة) and poetic innovation

Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة) was another pioneer of modern Arabic poetry, particularly in the development of free verse. She introduced new rhythms and structures, challenging traditional poetic conventions. Her poetry often explored themes of **alienation** (الاغتراب), **identity** (الهوية), and **social change** (التغيير الاجتماعي). Al-Malāikah's contributions established her as a leading figure in modern Arabic literature and a role model for women poets.

Fill in the blank: Nāzik Al-Malāikah's poetry often explored themes of alienation, identity, and _____ change.





Plate 1.5: Nāzik Al-Malāikah's poetic innovation

Pilot questions 1.3

1. What themes did Nazār Qabāni emphasise in his poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Badr Shākir Assayyāb is recognised as a pioneer of the _____ movement.
3. What themes are commonly found in Assayyāb's works?
4. Which poet introduced new rhythms and structures to Arabic poetry?
5. Fill in the blank: Nāzik Al-Malāikah's poetry often explored themes of alienation, identity, and _____ change.

1.4 Intellectual And Cultural Impact (الأثر الفكري والثقافي)

1.4.1 Influence on Arab identity and modern thought (تأثيره على الهوية العربية والفكر الحديث)

Modern Arabic poetry (الشعر العربي الحديث) played a vital role in shaping **Arab identity** (الهوية العربية) and modern intellectual thought. By addressing themes of nationalism, freedom, and cultural renewal, poets gave voice to the aspirations of Arab societies during times of political



and social change. Poetry became a medium through which collective identity was expressed, reinforcing pride in language and heritage while also embracing modernity.

Fill in the blank: Modern Arabic poetry reinforced pride in _____ and heritage while embracing modernity.

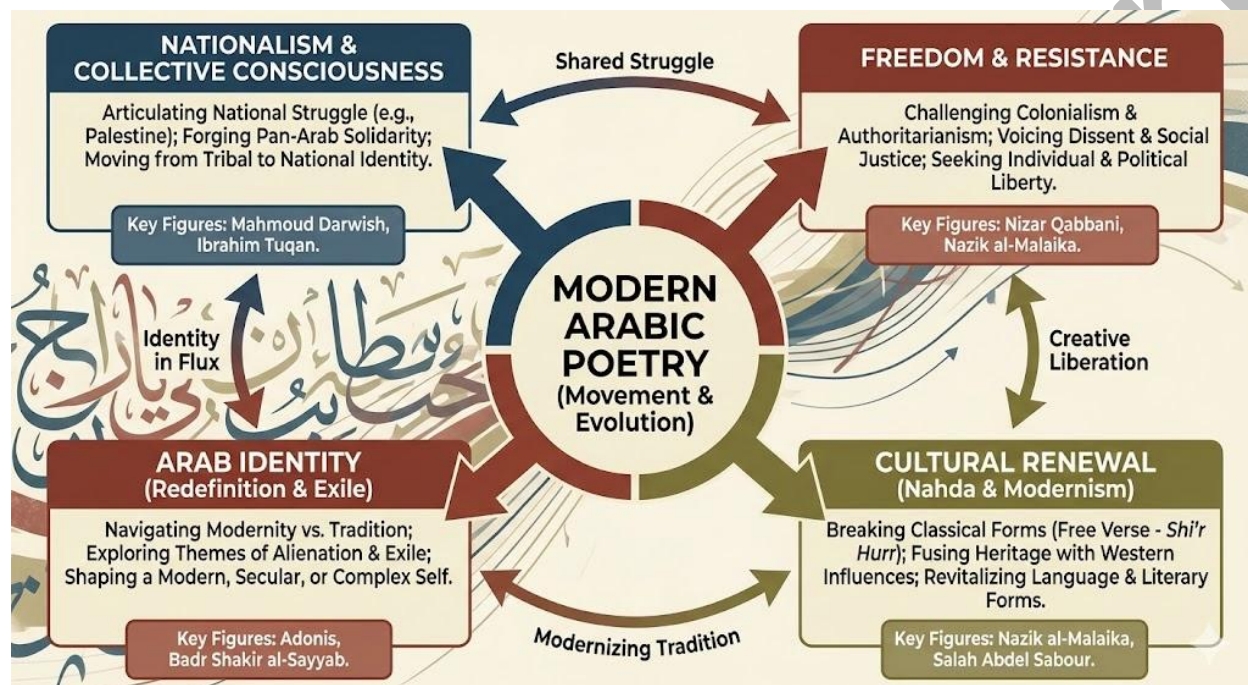


Figure 1.4: Influence of modern Arabic poetry on Arab identity

1.4.2 Contribution to global literary dialogue (مساهمته في الحوار الأدبي العالمي)

Modern Arabic poetry also contributed significantly to the **global literary dialogue** (الحوار الأدبي العالمي). By adopting new forms such as free verse and engaging with universal themes, Arab poets positioned themselves within the wider world of literature. Their works were translated into many languages, allowing international audiences to appreciate the richness of Arabic poetic traditions. This exchange fostered cross-cultural understanding and highlighted the relevance of Arabic poetry in global contexts.

Fill in the blank: Modern Arabic poetry contributed to the _____ literary dialogue by engaging with universal themes.





Plate 1.6: Arabic poetry in global literary dialogue

Pilot questions 1.4

1. How did modern Arabic poetry influence Arab identity?
2. Fill in the blank: Modern Arabic poetry reinforced pride in _____ and heritage while embracing modernity.
3. What role did modern Arabic poetry play in global literary dialogue?
4. Fill in the blank: Modern Arabic poetry contributed to the _____ literary dialogue by engaging with universal themes.
5. Why is translation important in the global appreciation of Arabic poetry?



Series Summary

This Series has introduced you to the historical emergence and development of modern Arabic poetry (الشعر العربي الحديث), showing how poets gradually moved away from classical forms such as the *qasīda* (قصيدة) and responded to new social and political realities. We explored the major schools of modern Arabic poetry, including Romanticism, Symbolism, Realism, and the Free Verse movement, each with its distinctive themes and stylistic contributions. We then examined representative poets such as Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني), Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب), and Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازيك الملائكة), highlighting their innovations and influence. Finally, we considered the intellectual and cultural impact of modern Arabic poetry, focusing on its role in shaping Arab identity and contributing to global literary dialogue.

By completing this Series, you should now be able to define the historical emergence of modern Arabic poetry, analyse the social and political contexts that shaped it, describe and explain the features of its major schools, examine the works of key poets, and evaluate its intellectual and cultural significance. These abilities align directly with the Series Learning Outcomes (SLOs), ensuring that you can critically engage with modern Arabic poetry and appreciate its enduring role in both Arab and global literary traditions.

Glossary of Terms

- **Alienation** (الاغتراب): A sense of isolation or estrangement, often explored in modern Arabic poetry to reflect personal and social disconnection.
- **Arab identity** (الهوية العربية): The collective cultural pride and belonging expressed through language, heritage, and shared values, reinforced by modern Arabic poetry.
- **Classical forms** (الأشكال التقليدية): Traditional structures of Arabic poetry, such as the *qasīda* (قصيدة), characterised by strict rhyme and metre.
- **Free Verse movement** (حركة الشعر الحر): A modern poetic style that abandoned strict metre and rhyme, pioneered by poets like Badr Shākir Assayyāb and Nāzik Al-Malāikah.
- **Love** (الحب): A central theme in Nazār Qabāni's poetry, used to express both personal emotion and wider social ideals.



- **Nationalism (القومية):** A recurring theme in modern Arabic poetry, reflecting pride in Arab identity and the struggle for independence and unity.
- **Realist school (مدرسة الواقعية):** A school of modern Arabic poetry focusing on social issues, everyday struggles, and political realities, often using direct and simple language.
- **Romantic school (مدرسة الرومانسية):** A school of modern Arabic poetry emphasising nature, love, and individual emotion, inspired by European Romanticism but adapted to Arab contexts.
- **Social and political contexts (السياقات الاجتماعية والسياسية):** The historical and cultural conditions, such as colonialism, reform movements, and nationalism, that shaped the development of modern Arabic poetry.
- **Symbolist school (مدرسة الرمزية):** A school of modern Arabic poetry that used metaphors and symbols to convey deeper meanings, encouraging readers to interpret hidden layers.
- **Translation (الترجمة):** The rendering of Arabic poetry into other languages, enabling its contribution to global literary dialogue.
- **Revolution (الثورة):** A theme in modern Arabic poetry, particularly in the works of Nazār Qabāni, reflecting political struggle and calls for change.



Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective questions

1. Which traditional Arabic poetic form is characterised by a single rhyme and metre? (Linked to SLO 1.1)
2. The decline of which empire influenced the rise of modern Arabic poetry? (Linked to SLO 1.2)
3. Which school of modern Arabic poetry emphasised nature, love, and individual emotion? (Linked to SLO 1.3)
4. Who is recognised as a pioneer of the Free Verse movement? (Linked to SLO 1.6)
5. Which poet explored themes of alienation, identity, and social change? (Linked to SLO 1.7)

Short-answer questions

6. Explain one way in which social and political contexts shaped modern Arabic poetry. (Linked to SLO 1.2)
7. Describe one distinctive feature of the Symbolist school in Arabic poetry. (Linked to SLO 1.4)
8. Identify one theme commonly found in the works of Badr Shākir Assayyāb. (Linked to SLO 1.7)
9. How did modern Arabic poetry reinforce Arab identity? (Linked to SLO 1.8)
10. What role did translation play in the global literary dialogue of Arabic poetry? (Linked to SLO 1.9)

Long-answer questions

11. Analyse the contributions of Nazār Qabāni to modern Arabic poetry, focusing on both personal and political themes. (Linked to SLO 1.7)



12. Evaluate the intellectual and cultural impact of modern Arabic poetry on Arab identity and global literature. (Linked to SLO 1.8, SLO 1.9)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective questions

1. Qasīda (قصيدة).
2. Ottoman Empire.
3. Romantic school (مدرسة الرومانسية).
4. Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب).
5. Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة).

Short-answer questions

6. Social and political contexts such as colonialism and nationalism encouraged poets to adopt themes of freedom, justice, and reform.
7. The Symbolist school relied on metaphors and abstract imagery to convey hidden meanings.
8. Assayyāb's works often reflected suffering, hope, and social struggle.
9. Modern Arabic poetry reinforced Arab identity by expressing pride in language, heritage, and collective aspirations.
10. Translation allowed Arabic poetry to reach international audiences, contributing to global literary dialogue.

Long-answer questions

11. *Basic response:* Nazār Qabāni wrote poetry that combined themes of love and beauty with political struggle, making his work both personal and national.

Value-added response: Beyond these themes, Qabāni's poetry challenged social norms,



advocated for women's rights, and became a symbol of cultural resistance, influencing Arab intellectual discourse.

12. *Basic response:* Modern Arabic poetry shaped Arab identity by reinforcing cultural pride and addressing social change, while also contributing to global literature through translation and universal themes.

Value-added response: In addition, it created a platform for cross-cultural dialogue, influenced literary movements beyond the Arab world, and demonstrated the adaptability of Arabic poetic traditions in a modern global context.



Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 1]

Part 1.1 Historical emergence of modern Arabic poetry (النشأة التاريخية للشعر العربي الحديث)

1. Qasīda (قصيدة).
2. Late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
3. The decline of the Ottoman Empire.
4. Ottoman Empire.
5. Freedom, justice, and love.

Part 1.2 Major schools of modern Arabic poetry (المدارس الكبرى للشعر العربي الحديث)

1. Nature and individual emotion.
2. Symbolist school (مدرسة الرمزية).
3. Poverty, injustice, and colonial oppression.
4. Metre.
5. Badr Shākir Assayyāb and Nāzik Al-Malāikah.

Part 1.3 Representative poets and selections (الشعراء البارزون والاختيارات)

1. Love, beauty, and revolution.
2. Free Verse movement (حركة الشعر الحر).
3. Suffering, hope, and social struggle.
4. Nāzik Al-Malāikah.
5. Social change.

Part 1.4 Intellectual and cultural impact (الأثر الفكري والثقافي)

1. It shaped Arab identity by expressing nationalism, freedom, and cultural renewal.
2. Language.



3. It positioned Arabic poetry within global literature by adopting universal themes.
4. Global.
5. Translation makes Arabic poetry accessible to international audiences.

References and Attributions [Series 1]

General References (APA style)

- Hiskett, M. (1973). *The Sword of Truth: The Life and Times of the Shehu Usman dan Fodio*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Jayyusi, S. K. (1987). *Modern Arabic Poetry: An Anthology*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- OER Commons. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.oercommons.org>
- JSTOR. (n.d.). *Academic journals and research databases*. Retrieved from <https://www.jstor.org>

Figures

- *Figure 1.1: Transition from classical to modern Arabic poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing the transition from classical qasīda to modern Arabic poetic forms.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource qasida classical Arabic poetry modern transition.”
- *Figure 1.2: Features of Symbolist poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing key features of Symbolist poetry in Arabic literature, including metaphors, abstraction, and hidden meanings.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Symbolist school Arabic poetry features.”
- *Figure 1.3: Contributions of Badr Shākir Assayyāb* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing key contributions of Badr Shākir Assayyāb to free verse poetry.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Badr Shākir Assayyāb free verse Arabic poetry.”



- *Figure 1.4: Influence of modern Arabic poetry on Arab identity* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing how modern Arabic poetry influenced Arab identity and modern thought, including nationalism, freedom, and cultural renewal.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource modern Arabic poetry Arab identity nationalism.”

Plates

- *Plate 1.1: Poetry shaped by social and political contexts* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Arab poets writing in the context of social and political change, with symbols of nationalism and reform.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource modern Arabic poetry nationalism colonialism.”
- *Plate 1.2: Romantic themes in modern Arabic poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing an Arab poet writing about nature and love in a Romantic style.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Romantic school modern Arabic poetry.”
- *Plate 1.3: Pioneers of the Free Verse movement* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Badr Shākir Assayyāb and Nāzik Al-Malāikah presenting free verse poetry.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Free Verse movement Arabic poetry Assayyab Malāikah.”
- *Plate 1.4: Nazār Qabāni’s themes of love and revolution* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Nazār Qabāni reciting poetry with symbols of love and revolution.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Nazār Qabāni modern Arabic poetry love revolution.”
- *Plate 1.5: Nāzik Al-Malāikah’s poetic innovation* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Nāzik Al-Malāikah presenting her poetry to an audience.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Nāzik Al-Malāikah modern Arabic poetry innovation.”
- *Plate 1.6: Arabic poetry in global literary dialogue* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Arabic poetry being read alongside world literature in



translation, symbolising global literary dialogue.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Arabic poetry global literary dialogue translation.”

Boxes

- *Box 1.2: Themes of Realist poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a simple table listing themes of Realist poetry in Arabic literature, including poverty, injustice, and colonialism.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Realist school Arabic poetry themes.”



Series 2: Contributions Of Arabs In Diaspora To Modern Arabic Poetry

Part 2.1 Historical background of Arab diaspora poetry (الخلفية التاريخية لشعر المهجر)

- 2.1.1 Early migration and cultural contexts (الهجرة المبكرة والسيقات الثقافية)
- 2.1.2 Emergence of diaspora literary circles (نشوء الحلقات الأدبية في المهجر)

Part 2.2 Major themes in diaspora poetry (الموضوعات الكبرى في شعر المهجر)

- 2.2.1 Nostalgia and longing for homeland (الحنين إلى الوطن)
- 2.2.2 Identity and cultural hybridity (الهوية والتداخل الثقافي)
- 2.2.3 Freedom and reform (الحرية والإصلاح)

Part 2.3 Representative diaspora poets (الشعراء البارزون في المهجر)

- 2.3.1 Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران) and philosophical poetry
- 2.3.2 Mīkhā'il Na'imah (ميخائيل نعيمة) and literary criticism
- 2.3.3 Elia Abu Madi (إيليا أبو ماضي) and themes of optimism

Part 2.4 Influence of diaspora poetry on modern Arabic literature (تأثير شعر المهجر على الأدب العربي الحديث)

- 2.4.1 Contribution to stylistic innovation (الإسهام في التجديد الأسلوبي)
- 2.4.2 Role in bridging East and West (دور في وصل الشرق بالغرب)

Introduction

Throughout history, migration has shaped the cultural and literary identity of many nations, and the Arab world is no exception. The Arab diaspora (المهجر) produced a remarkable body of poetry that reflected both nostalgia for the homeland and engagement with new cultural environments.

These poets, living far from their native lands, became voices of longing, reform, and philosophical reflection, contributing significantly to the development of modern Arabic poetry (الشعر العربي الحديث).



The aim of this Series is to examine the contributions of Arabs in diaspora to modern Arabic poetry, highlighting their historical background, thematic concerns, representative figures, and the broader influence of their works on Arabic literature and global dialogue.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the historical background of Arab diaspora poetry, focusing on early migration and the emergence of literary circles abroad. Next, we will consider the major themes in diaspora poetry, such as nostalgia, identity, and freedom. Following that, we will study representative poets including Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران), Mīkhā'īl Na'īmāh (ميخائيل نعيمة), and Elia Abu Madi (إيليا أبو ماضي), examining their distinctive contributions. Finally, we will conclude by assessing the influence of diaspora poetry on modern Arabic literature, particularly its role in stylistic innovation and bridging East and West.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 2.1** define the historical background of Arab diaspora poetry (الخلفية التاريخية لشعر المهجر), including early migration and the emergence of literary circles,
- **SLO 2.2** explain the theme of nostalgia and longing for homeland (الحنين إلى الوطن) as expressed in diaspora poetry,
- **SLO 2.3** analyse the role of identity and cultural hybridity (الهوية والتداخل الثقافي) in shaping diaspora poetic expression,
- **SLO 2.4** describe how themes of freedom and reform (الحرية والإصلاح) appear in the works of diaspora poets,
- **SLO 2.5** examine the contributions of Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران) to philosophical poetry,
- **SLO 2.6** evaluate the literary criticism of Mīkhā'īl Na'īmāh (ميخائيل نعيمة) and its impact on modern Arabic poetry,
- **SLO 2.7** identify the themes of optimism in the works of Elia Abu Madi (إيليا أبو ماضي),



- **SLO 2.8** assess the influence of diaspora poetry on stylistic innovation (الإسهام في التجديد) (الأسلوبي) in modern Arabic literature, and
- **SLO 2.9** evaluate the role of diaspora poetry in bridging East and West (دور في وصل) (الشرق بالغرب).

2.1 Historical Background Of Arab Diaspora Poetry (الخلفية التاريخية لشعر المهجر)

2.1.1 Early migration and cultural contexts (الهجرة المبكرة والسياقات الثقافية)

The **Arab diaspora** (المهجر) refers to communities of Arabs who migrated and settled outside their homelands, particularly in the Americas during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This migration was driven by economic hardship, political instability, and the search for new opportunities. In these new environments, Arab poets encountered diverse cultures and ideas, which influenced their literary expression. The blending of traditional Arabic poetic heritage with foreign cultural contexts gave rise to a distinctive style of diaspora poetry.

Fill in the blank: The Arab diaspora refers to communities of Arabs who migrated and settled particularly in the _____ during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



Figure 2.1: Early migration of Arabs to the Americas



2.1.2 Emergence of diaspora literary circles (نشوء الحلقات الأدبية في المهجر)

As Arab communities settled abroad, they established **literary circles** (الحلقات الأدبية) and cultural associations. These circles became platforms for poets and writers to share their works, debate ideas, and preserve their heritage. One of the most influential groups was the **Pen League** (الرابطة القلمية), founded in New York in 1920 by figures such as Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران) and Mīkhā'il Na'imah (ميخائيل نعيمة). The Pen League promoted innovation in Arabic literature, encouraging poets to explore philosophical themes, social reform, and stylistic experimentation.

Fill in the blank: The Pen League (الرابطة القلمية) was founded in _____ in 1920 by Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān and Mīkhā'il Na'imah.

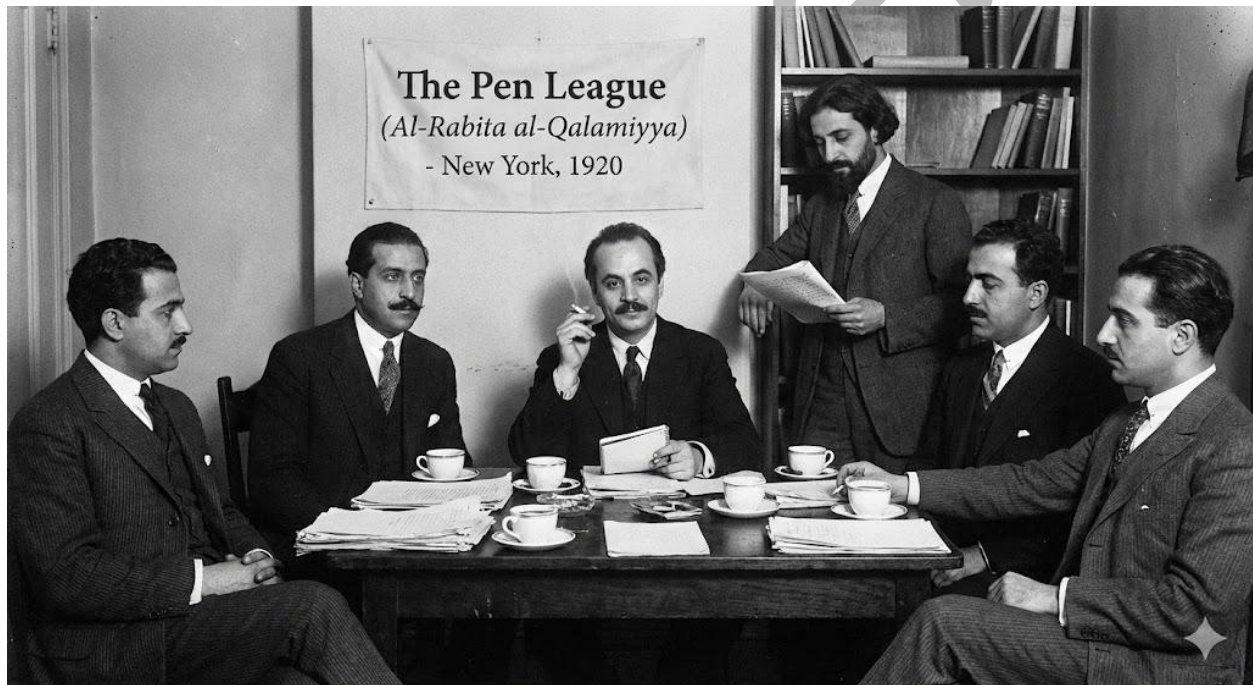


Plate 2.1: The Pen League in New York, 1920

Pilot questions 2.1

1. What does the term Arab diaspora (المهجر) refer to?
2. Fill in the blank: The Arab diaspora refers to communities of Arabs who migrated and settled particularly in the _____ during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



3. What were some reasons for Arab migration during this period?
4. What role did literary circles (الحلقات الأدبية) play in diaspora communities?
5. Fill in the blank: The Pen League (الرابطة القلمية) was founded in _____ in 1920 by Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān and Mīkhā'īl Na'īmah.

2.2 Major Themes In Diaspora Poetry (الموضوعات الكبرى في شعر المهجر)

2.2.1 Nostalgia and longing for homeland (الحنين إلى الوطن)

One of the most prominent themes in Arab diaspora poetry is **nostalgia** (الحنين), the deep emotional longing for the homeland. Poets expressed feelings of separation, exile, and yearning for familiar landscapes, traditions, and communities. This theme gave their poetry a powerful emotional resonance, connecting personal experience with collective memory.

Fill in the blank: A central theme in Arab diaspora poetry is _____, reflecting the emotional longing for homeland.



Plate 2.2: Nostalgia and longing for homeland



2.2.2 Identity and cultural hybridity (الهوية والتداخل الثقافي)

Diaspora poets often grappled with questions of **identity** (الهوية) and **cultural hybridity** (التداخل الثقافي). Living between two worlds, they sought to balance their Arab heritage with the influences of Western culture. This dual identity enriched their poetry, allowing them to explore themes of belonging, alienation, and cultural dialogue. Their works often reflected the tension between preserving tradition and embracing modernity.

Fill in the blank: Diaspora poets balanced their Arab heritage with influences of _____ culture, creating a sense of cultural hybridity.

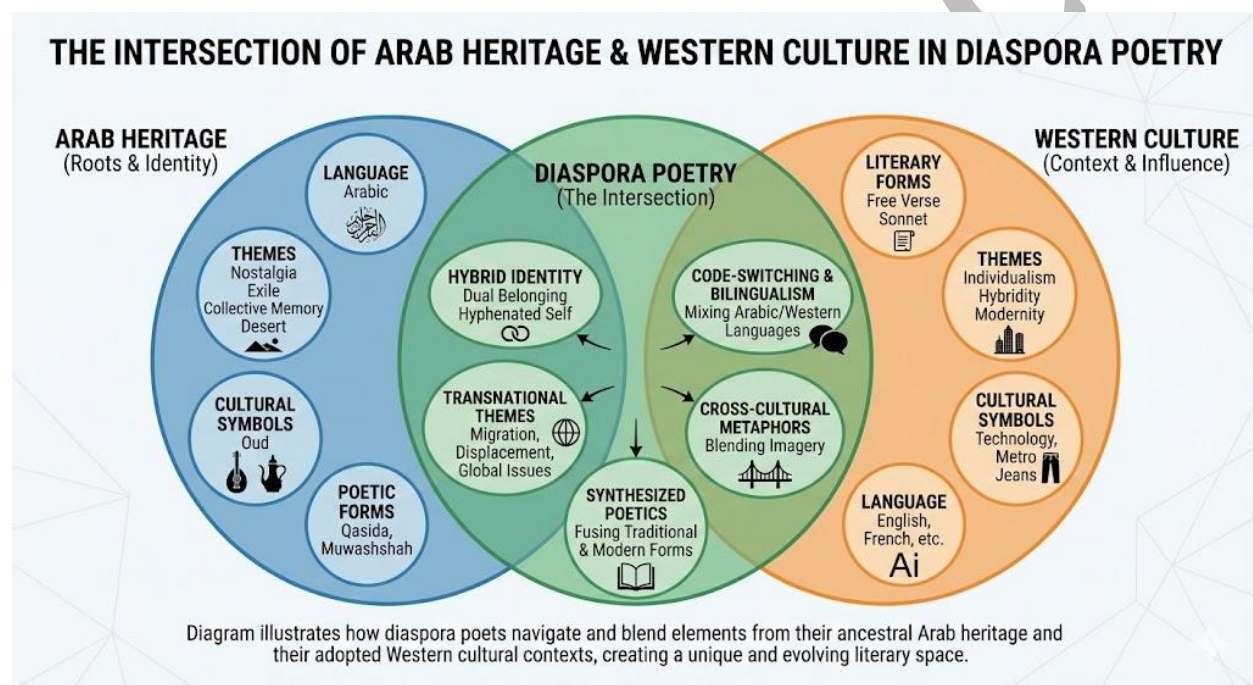


Figure 2.2: Identity and cultural hybridity in diaspora poetry

2.2.3 Freedom and reform (الحرية والإصلاح)

Another recurring theme in diaspora poetry is **freedom** (الحرية) and **reform** (الإصلاح). Living in societies that valued free expression, Arab poets in diaspora used their works to critique oppression, advocate for social justice, and call for reform in their homelands. Poetry became a tool for liberation, reflecting both personal independence and collective aspirations for change.



Fill in the blank: Diaspora poets often used their poetry to advocate for social justice and _____ in their homelands.

Theme	Focus
Freedom (الحرية)	Expression of individuality and liberation
Reform (الإصلاح)	Calls for social and political change
Justice (العدالة)	Advocacy for fairness and equality

Box 2.1: Themes of freedom and reform in diaspora poetry

Pilot questions 2.2

1. What is one of the most prominent themes in Arab diaspora poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Diaspora poets balanced their Arab heritage with influences of _____ culture.
3. What tension did diaspora poets often reflect in their works?
4. Fill in the blank: Diaspora poets often used their poetry to advocate for social justice and _____ in their homelands.
5. How did living in societies that valued free expression influence diaspora poetry?

2.3 Representative Diaspora Poets (الشعراء البارزون في المهجر)

2.3.1 Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران) and philosophical poetry

Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران) is one of the most influential figures of Arab diaspora literature. His poetry and prose combined **philosophical reflection** (التأمل الفلسفي) with spiritual themes, often addressing love, freedom, and the human condition. Jibrān's works, such as *The Prophet* (النبي), reached global audiences and demonstrated how diaspora poets could bridge Arabic literary traditions with universal concerns.



Fill in the blank: Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān's most famous work, *The Prophet*, reflects themes of love, freedom, and the _____ condition.

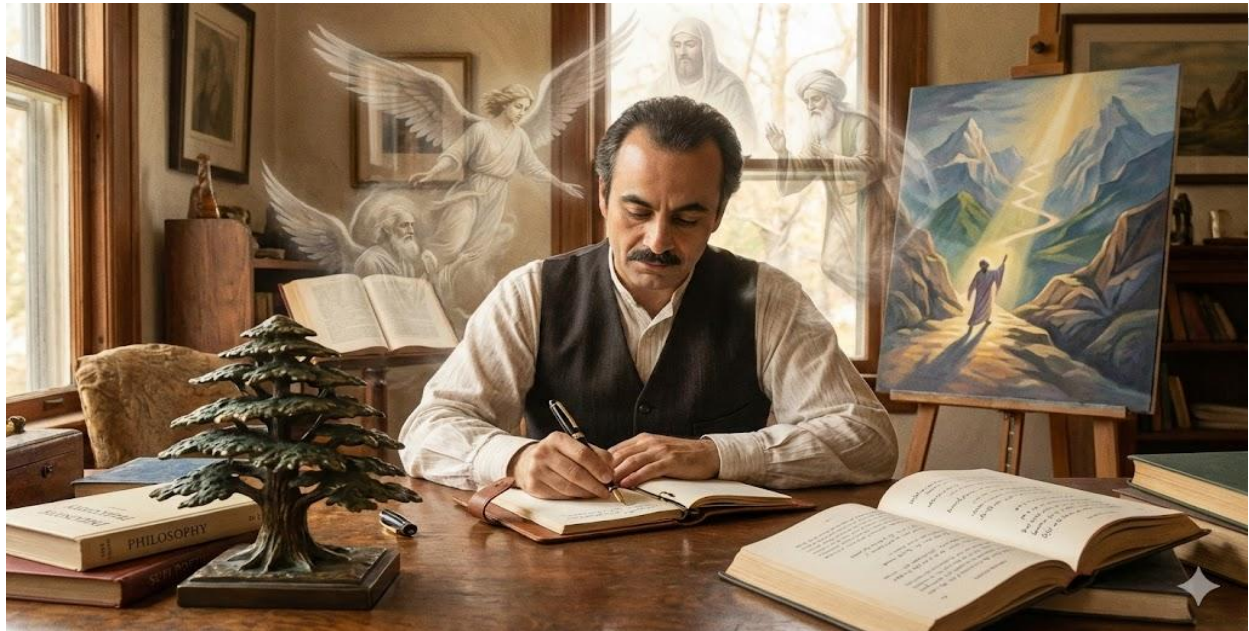


Plate 2.3: Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān and philosophical poetry

2.3.2 Mīkhā'īl Na'īmah (ميخائيل نعيمة) and literary criticism

Mīkhā'īl Na'īmah (ميخائيل نعيمة) was a central figure in the Pen League and a pioneer of **literary criticism** (النقد الأدبي) in modern Arabic literature. His writings challenged traditional forms and encouraged innovation, urging poets to embrace new styles and deeper philosophical themes. Na'īmah's critical essays provided a framework for evaluating modern Arabic poetry and helped shape its evolution in diaspora communities.

Fill in the blank: Mīkhā'īl Na'īmah was a pioneer of _____ criticism in modern Arabic literature.



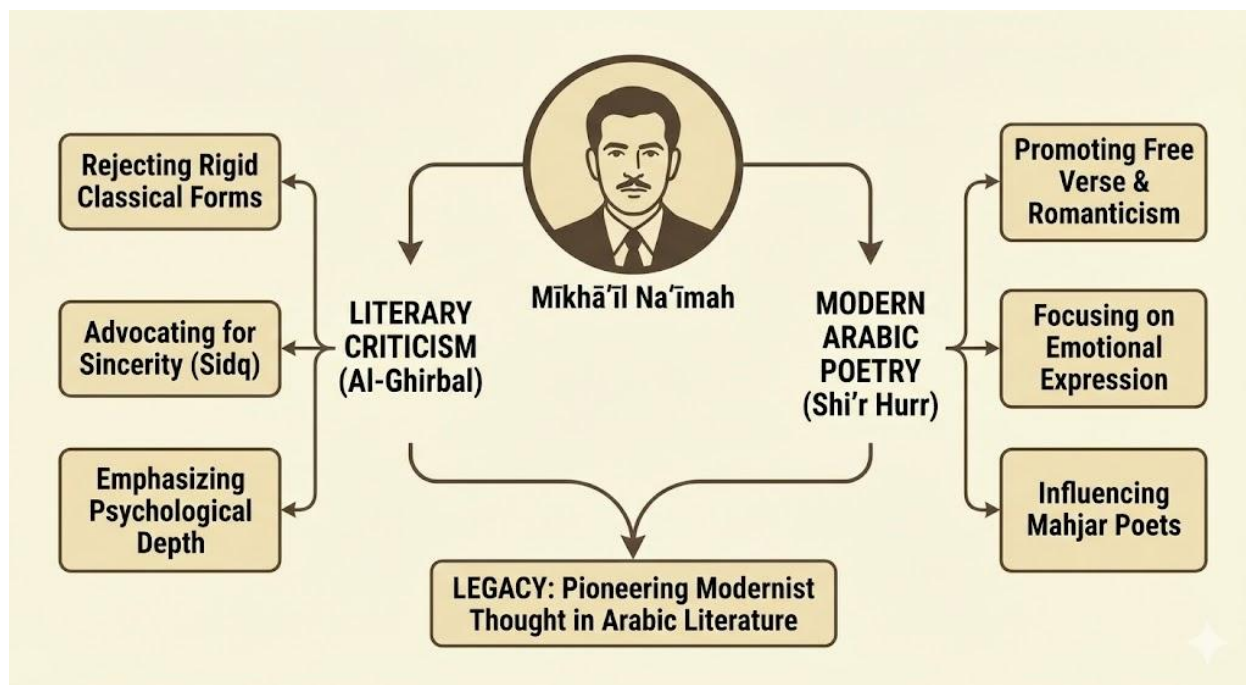


Figure 2.3: Contributions of Mīkhā'il Na'īmah

2.3.3 Elia Abu Madi (إيليا أبو ماضي) and themes of optimism

Elia Abu Madi (إيليا أبو ماضي) is remembered for his poetry that emphasised **optimism** (التفاؤل), hope, and joy in life. His verses often encouraged readers to embrace positivity and resilience despite hardship. Abu Madi's accessible style and uplifting themes made his poetry widely popular, both within diaspora communities and across the Arab world.

Fill in the blank: Elia Abu Madi's poetry is best known for its emphasis on _____ and joy in life.





Plate 2.4: Elia Abu Madi and themes of optimism

Pilot questions 2.3

1. What themes did Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān explore in his poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān's most famous work, *The Prophet*, reflects themes of love, freedom, and the _____ condition.
3. What was Mīkhā'il Na'īmah's main contribution to modern Arabic literature?
4. Fill in the blank: Mīkhā'il Na'īmah was a pioneer of _____ criticism in modern Arabic literature.
5. What themes are most associated with Elia Abu Madi's poetry?
6. Fill in the blank: Elia Abu Madi's poetry is best known for its emphasis on _____ and joy in life.



2.4 Influence Of Diaspora Poetry On Modern Arabic Literature (تأثير شعر المهجر على الأدب العربي الحديث)

2.4.1 Contribution to stylistic innovation (الإسهام في التجديد الأسلوبي)

Arab diaspora poetry introduced significant **stylistic innovation** (التجديد الأسلوبي) into modern Arabic literature. By blending traditional Arabic forms with Western literary techniques, diaspora poets expanded the expressive possibilities of poetry. They experimented with free verse, symbolism, and philosophical themes, which challenged classical conventions and inspired new generations of poets in the Arab world. This innovation helped modern Arabic poetry evolve into a more flexible and globally relevant art form.

Fill in the blank: Diaspora poets expanded the expressive possibilities of poetry by blending traditional Arabic forms with _____ literary techniques.

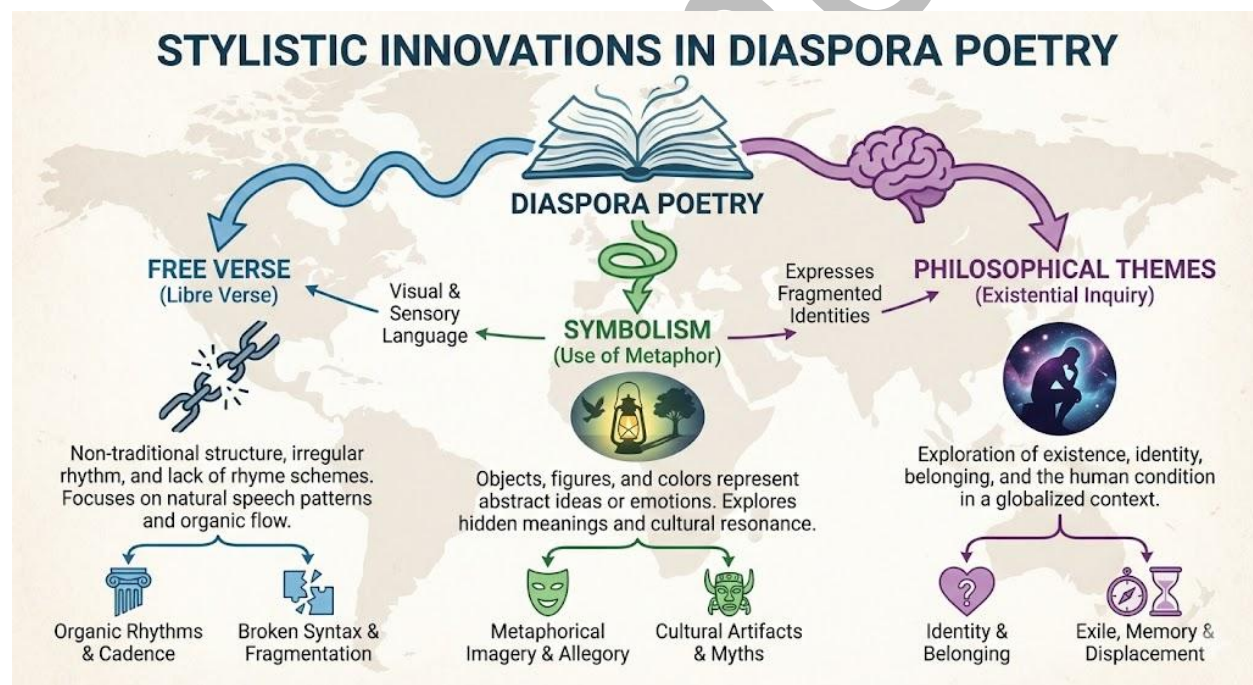


Figure 2.4: Stylistic innovations in diaspora poetry

2.4.2 Role in bridging East and West (دور في وصل الشرق بالغرب)

Diaspora poetry also played a crucial role in **bridging East and West** (وصل الشرق بالغرب). By writing in Arabic while engaging with Western ideas, diaspora poets created a cultural dialogue



that enriched both traditions. Their works were often translated, allowing Western audiences to appreciate Arabic poetic heritage, while Arab readers encountered new perspectives shaped by global experiences. This bridging role positioned diaspora poetry as a vital link in the exchange of literary and cultural values.

Fill in the blank: Diaspora poetry created a cultural dialogue that enriched both Arabic and _____ literary traditions.



Plate 2.5: Diaspora poetry bridging East and West

Pilot questions 2.4

1. How did diaspora poets contribute to stylistic innovation in modern Arabic poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Diaspora poets expanded the expressive possibilities of poetry by blending traditional Arabic forms with _____ literary techniques.
3. What role did diaspora poetry play in bridging East and West?
4. Fill in the blank: Diaspora poetry created a cultural dialogue that enriched both Arabic and _____ literary traditions.



5. Why is translation important in the global appreciation of diaspora poetry?



Series Summary

This Series has explored the contributions of Arabs in diaspora (المهجر) to modern Arabic poetry, showing how migration shaped literary identity and enriched Arabic literature. We began with the historical background, examining early migration and the emergence of literary circles such as the Pen League. We then moved on to the major themes of diaspora poetry, including nostalgia for homeland, identity and cultural hybridity, and calls for freedom and reform. Following that, we studied representative poets such as Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران), Mīkhā'il Na'imah (ميخائيل نعيمة), and Elia Abu Madi (إيليا أبو ماضي), highlighting their distinctive contributions. Finally, we assessed the influence of diaspora poetry on modern Arabic literature, focusing on stylistic innovation and its role in bridging East and West.

By completing this Series, you should now be able to define the historical background of Arab diaspora poetry, explain its major themes, analyse the works of key diaspora poets, and evaluate the broader intellectual and cultural impact of their contributions. These abilities align directly with the Series Learning Outcomes (SLOs), ensuring that you can critically engage with diaspora poetry and appreciate its enduring role in shaping modern Arabic literature and fostering global cultural dialogue.

Glossary of Terms

- **Alienation (الاجتراب):** A sense of isolation or estrangement, often expressed in diaspora poetry to reflect the experience of living away from homeland.
- **Arab diaspora (المهجر):** Communities of Arabs who migrated and settled outside their homelands, particularly in the Americas during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- **Cultural hybridity (التداخل الثقافي):** The blending of Arab heritage with influences from Western culture, creating a dual identity reflected in diaspora poetry.
- **Freedom (الحرية):** A recurring theme in diaspora poetry, representing both personal independence and collective aspirations for liberation.



- **Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران):** A leading Arab diaspora poet and philosopher, best known for his work *The Prophet* (النبي), which explores universal themes of love, freedom, and spirituality.
- **Literary circles (الحلقات الأدبية):** Groups formed by Arab diaspora communities to share poetry, preserve heritage, and promote innovation, such as the Pen League.
- **Mīkhā'īl Na'īmāh (ميخائيل نعيمة):** A diaspora poet and critic, recognised for pioneering literary criticism and encouraging stylistic innovation in modern Arabic poetry.
- **Nostalgia (الحنين):** Emotional longing for homeland, a central theme in diaspora poetry that connects personal feelings with collective memory.
- **Optimism (التفاؤل):** A theme strongly associated with Elia Abu Madi's poetry, encouraging positivity and resilience despite hardship.
- **Pen League (الرابطة القلمية):** A literary association founded in New York in 1920 by Arab diaspora poets, including Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān and Mīkhā'īl Na'īmāh, which promoted innovation in Arabic literature.
- **Reform (الإصلاح):** Calls for social and political change expressed in diaspora poetry, often inspired by exposure to freer societies.
- **Stylistic innovation (التجديد الأسلوبي):** The introduction of new poetic forms and techniques, such as free verse and symbolism, by diaspora poets into modern Arabic literature.
- **Translation (الترجمة):** The rendering of Arabic poetry into other languages, enabling diaspora works to reach global audiences and foster cultural dialogue.



Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

Objective questions

1. Which region did many Arab diaspora communities settle in during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? (Linked to SLO 2.1)
2. The Pen League (الرابطة القلمية) was founded in which city in 1920? (Linked to SLO 2.1)
3. Which central theme in diaspora poetry reflects emotional longing for homeland? (Linked to SLO 2.2)
4. Who is the author of *The Prophet* (النبي)? (Linked to SLO 2.5)
5. Which diaspora poet is best known for themes of optimism and joy in life? (Linked to SLO 2.7)

Short-answer questions

6. Explain how cultural hybridity (التداخل الثقافي) influenced the identity of diaspora poets. (Linked to SLO 2.3)
7. Describe one way in which freedom (الحرية) and reform (الإصلاح) were expressed in diaspora poetry. (Linked to SLO 2.4)
8. What was Mikhā'il Na'imah's main contribution to modern Arabic literature? (Linked to SLO 2.6)
9. How did stylistic innovation (التجديد الأسلوبي) introduced by diaspora poets affect modern Arabic poetry? (Linked to SLO 2.8)
10. Why was translation (الترجمة) important in the global appreciation of diaspora poetry? (Linked to SLO 2.9)

Long-answer questions

11. Analyse the contributions of Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران) to philosophical poetry and global literature. (Linked to SLO 2.5)



12. Evaluate the overall influence of diaspora poetry on modern Arabic literature, focusing on stylistic innovation and cultural bridging. (Linked to SLO 2.8, SLO 2.9)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

Objective questions

1. The Americas.
2. New York.
3. Nostalgia (الحنين).
4. Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران).
5. Elia Abu Madi (إيليا أبو ماضي).

Short-answer questions

6. Cultural hybridity influenced diaspora poets by blending Arab heritage with Western culture, creating a dual identity reflected in their poetry.
7. Freedom and reform were expressed through critiques of oppression and calls for justice and change in Arab homelands.
8. Mīkhā'īl Na'īmāh pioneered literary criticism, encouraging innovation and providing frameworks for evaluating modern Arabic poetry.
9. Stylistic innovation introduced free verse, symbolism, and philosophical themes, making modern Arabic poetry more flexible and globally relevant.
10. Translation allowed diaspora poetry to reach international audiences, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and appreciation.

Long-answer questions

11. *Basic response:* Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān contributed philosophical and spiritual themes to diaspora poetry, with *The Prophet* becoming a globally recognised work.
Value-added response: Beyond this, Jibrān's writings bridged Arabic and Western



traditions, promoted universal values of love and freedom, and influenced both Arab intellectual thought and world literature.

12. *Basic response:* Diaspora poetry influenced modern Arabic literature by introducing stylistic innovation and creating cultural dialogue between East and West.

Value-added response: In addition, it reshaped literary identity, inspired reformist movements, and demonstrated how Arabic poetry could adapt to global contexts while preserving its heritage.

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 2]

Part 2.1 Historical background of Arab diaspora poetry (الخلفية التاريخية لشعر المهجر)

1. Communities of Arabs who migrated and settled outside their homelands.
2. The Americas.
3. Economic hardship, political instability, and search for new opportunities.
4. They provided platforms for poets to share works, debate ideas, and preserve heritage.
5. New York.

Part 2.2 Major themes in diaspora poetry (الموضوعات الكبرى في شعر المهجر)

1. Nostalgia and longing for homeland.
2. Western culture.
3. The tension between preserving tradition and embracing modernity.
4. Reform.
5. It encouraged poets to critique oppression and express themselves freely.

Part 2.3 Representative diaspora poets (الشعراء البارزون في المهجر)

1. Love, freedom, and the human condition.
2. Human condition.



3. He pioneered literary criticism and encouraged innovation.
4. Literary criticism.
5. Optimism, hope, and joy in life.
6. Optimism.

Part 2.4 Influence of diaspora poetry on modern Arabic literature (تأثير شعر المهجر على الأدب العربي الحديث)

1. They introduced free verse, symbolism, and philosophical themes.
2. Western.
3. It bridged Arabic and Western traditions, creating cultural dialogue.
4. Western.
5. Translation made diaspora poetry accessible to global audiences.



References and Attributions [Series 2]

General References (APA style)

- Jayyusi, S. K. (1987). *Modern Arabic Poetry: An Anthology*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- OER Commons. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.oercommons.org>
- JSTOR. (n.d.). *Academic journals and research databases*. Retrieved from <https://www.jstor.org>
- Gibran, K. (1923). *The Prophet*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Na‘īmah, M. (1956). *Al-Ghirbal* (الغربال). Beirut: Dar al-‘Ilm lil-Malayin.

Figures

- *Figure 2.1: Early migration of Arabs to the Americas* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing migration routes of Arab communities to the Americas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Arab diaspora migration routes Americas.”
- *Figure 2.2: Identity and cultural hybridity in diaspora poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing the intersection of Arab heritage and Western culture in diaspora poetry.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Arab diaspora poetry identity hybridity.”
- *Figure 2.3: Contributions of Mīkhā’īl Na‘īmah* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing Mīkhā’īl Na‘īmah’s contributions to literary criticism and modern Arabic poetry.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Mikhail Naimy literary criticism Arabic poetry.”
- *Figure 2.4: Stylistic innovations in diaspora poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing stylistic innovations in diaspora poetry, including free verse, symbolism, and philosophical themes.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource stylistic innovation diaspora Arabic poetry.”

Plates



- *Plate 2.1: The Pen League in New York, 1920* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing members of the Pen League gathered in New York in 1920, including Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān and Mīkhā’īl Na‘īmah.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Pen League Arab diaspora poetry New York 1920.”
- *Plate 2.2: Nostalgia and longing for homeland* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing an Arab poet gazing towards the horizon with imagery of homeland in the background.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Arab diaspora poetry nostalgia homeland.”
- *Plate 2.3: Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān and philosophical poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān writing with symbolic imagery of philosophy and spirituality.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān The Prophet Arabic poetry.”
- *Plate 2.4: Elia Abu Madi and themes of optimism* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Elia Abu Madi reciting poetry with symbols of hope and optimism.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Elia Abu Madi optimism Arabic poetry.”
- *Plate 2.5: Diaspora poetry bridging East and West* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Arab diaspora poets presenting their works to both Arab and Western audiences, symbolising cultural dialogue.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource diaspora Arabic poetry East West cultural dialogue.”

Boxes

- *Box 2.1: Themes of freedom and reform in diaspora poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a simple table listing themes of freedom, reform, and justice in Arab diaspora poetry.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Arab diaspora poetry freedom reform justice.”



Series 3: Influence Of European Poetry On Modern Arabic Poetry

Part 3.1 Historical background of European influence (الخلفية التاريخية للتأثير الأوروبي)

- 3.1.1 Early cultural exchanges between Arabs and Europeans (التبادلات الثقافية المبكرة بين العرب والأوروبيين)
- 3.1.2 Translation movements and literary contact (حركات الترجمة والاتصال الأدبي)

Part 3.2 Major themes influenced by European poetry (الموضوعات الكبرى المتأثرة بالشعر الأوروبي)

- 3.2.1 Romanticism and nature (الرومانسية والطبيعة)
- 3.2.2 Symbolism and abstraction (الرمزية والتجريد)
- 3.2.3 Realism and social critique (الواقعية والنقد الاجتماعي)

Part 3.3 Representative Arab poets influenced by Europe (الشعراء العرب المتأثرون بأوروبا)

- 3.3.1 Ahmad Shawqi (أحمد شوقي) and Romantic tendencies
- 3.3.2 Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب) and Symbolist influence
- 3.3.3 Nazik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة) and Free Verse inspired by European modernism

Part 3.4 Broader impact on modern Arabic literature (الأثر الأوسع على الأدب العربي الحديث)

- 3.4.1 Stylistic innovation and experimentation (التجديد الأسلوبي والتجريب)
- 3.4.2 Integration into global literary dialogue (الاندماج في الحوار الأدبي العالمي)

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the contributions of Arabs in diaspora and how their poetry enriched modern Arabic literature through themes of nostalgia, identity, and reform. Building on that foundation, this Series turns our attention to the influence of European poetry (تأثير الشعر الأوروبي) on modern Arabic poetry. The interaction between Arab and European literary traditions created new possibilities for style, theme, and cultural dialogue, making this topic essential for understanding the evolution of Arabic poetry in the modern era.



The aim of this Series is to examine how European poetic movements shaped modern Arabic poetry, highlighting the historical background, thematic influences, representative Arab poets, and the broader impact on Arabic literature.

We shall commence this Series by studying the historical background of European influence, focusing on early cultural exchanges and translation movements. Next, we will explore major themes influenced by European poetry, including Romanticism, Symbolism, and Realism. Following that, we will examine representative Arab poets such as Ahmad Shawqi (أحمد شوقي), Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب), and Nazik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة), noting how European traditions shaped their works. Finally, we will conclude by assessing the broader impact of European influence on modern Arabic literature, particularly in terms of stylistic innovation and integration into global literary dialogue.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 3.1** define the historical background of European influence (الخلفية التاريخية للتأثير) (الأوروبي) on modern Arabic poetry, including cultural exchanges and translation movements,
- **SLO 3.2** explain how Romanticism (الرومانسية) shaped themes of nature and emotion in Arabic poetry,
- **SLO 3.3** analyse the impact of Symbolism (الرمزية) and abstraction on Arab poetic expression,
- **SLO 3.4** describe the role of Realism (الواقعية) in introducing social critique into modern Arabic poetry,
- **SLO 3.5** examine the Romantic tendencies in the works of Ahmad Shawqi (أحمد شوقي),
- **SLO 3.6** evaluate the Symbolist influence on Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب),
- **SLO 3.7** identify how European modernism inspired Nazik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة) in her Free Verse poetry,



- **SLO 3.8** assess the contribution of European influence to stylistic innovation (التجديد الأسلوبي) in modern Arabic literature, and
- **SLO 3.9** evaluate the role of European influence in integrating Arabic poetry into global literary dialogue (الاندماج في الحوار الأدبي العالمي).

3.1 Historical Background Of European Influence (الخلفية التاريخية للتأثير الأوروبي)

3.1.1 Early cultural exchanges between Arabs and Europeans (التبادلات الثقافية المبكرة بين العرب والأوروبيين)

The **cultural exchanges** (التبادلات الثقافية) between Arabs and Europeans began centuries before the modern era, through trade, travel, and intellectual dialogue. These interactions laid the foundation for later literary influence. Arab scholars translated European works, while European thinkers engaged with Arabic philosophy and science. By the nineteenth century, increased contact through colonial encounters and education abroad exposed Arab poets to European literary traditions, particularly Romanticism and Symbolism.

Fill in the blank: By the nineteenth century, Arab poets were increasingly exposed to European literary traditions through _____ encounters and education abroad.



Figure 3.1: Early cultural exchanges between Arabs and Europeans



3.1.2 Translation movements and literary contact (حركات الترجمة والاتصال الأدبي)

The **translation movements** (حركات الترجمة) of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries played a crucial role in transmitting European poetry into Arabic. Arab intellectuals translated works of Romantic and Symbolist poets, introducing new themes and styles to Arabic literature. These translations were not mere linguistic exercises but cultural bridges, allowing Arab poets to experiment with new forms while retaining their heritage. Literary contact also occurred through Arab students studying in Europe, who returned home with fresh ideas that reshaped Arabic poetry.

Fill in the blank: Translation movements introduced Romantic and _____ poetry into Arabic literature, influencing themes and styles.

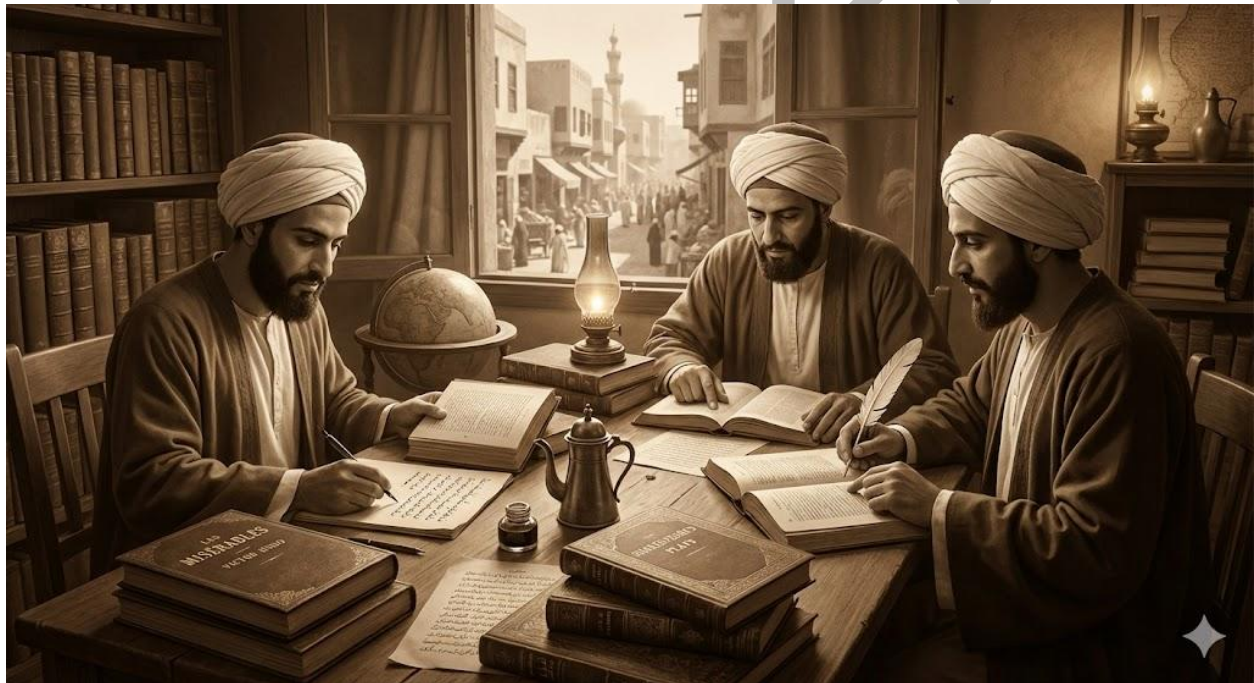


Plate 3.1: Translation movements and literary contact

Pilot questions 3.1

1. What forms of early cultural exchange connected Arabs and Europeans?
2. Fill in the blank: By the nineteenth century, Arab poets were increasingly exposed to European literary traditions through _____ encounters and education abroad.



3. What role did translation movements play in the transmission of European poetry into Arabic?
4. Fill in the blank: Translation movements introduced Romantic and _____ poetry into Arabic literature.
5. How did Arab students studying in Europe contribute to literary contact?

3.2 Major Themes In Diaspora Poetry (الموضوعات الكبرى المتأثرة بالشعر الأوروبي)

3.2.1 Romanticism and nature (الرومانسية والطبيعة)

The **Romantic movement** (الرومانسية) in European poetry emphasised emotion, imagination, and the beauty of nature. Arab poets influenced by Romanticism adopted similar themes, celebrating landscapes, personal feelings, and the power of creativity. This influence encouraged Arabic poetry to move beyond rigid classical forms and embrace more personal and expressive styles.

Fill in the blank: Romanticism in European poetry emphasised emotion, imagination, and the beauty of _____.

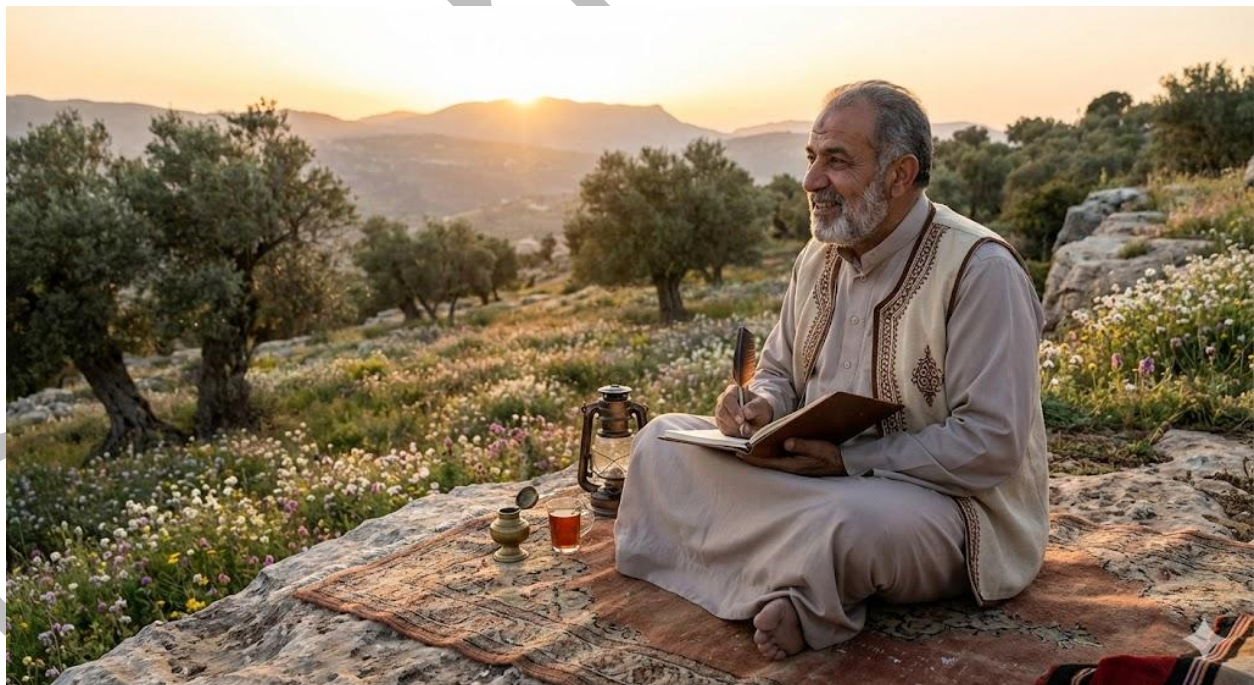


Plate 3.2: Romanticism and nature in Arabic poetry



3.2.2 Symbolism and abstraction (الرمزية والتجريد)

Symbolism (الرمزية) in European poetry focused on metaphor, imagery, and hidden meanings. Arab poets influenced by Symbolism began to use abstract language and symbolic references to express complex emotions and philosophical ideas. This style allowed Arabic poetry to explore deeper layers of meaning and move away from purely descriptive forms.

Fill in the blank: Symbolism in European poetry encouraged Arab poets to use _____ language and hidden meanings.

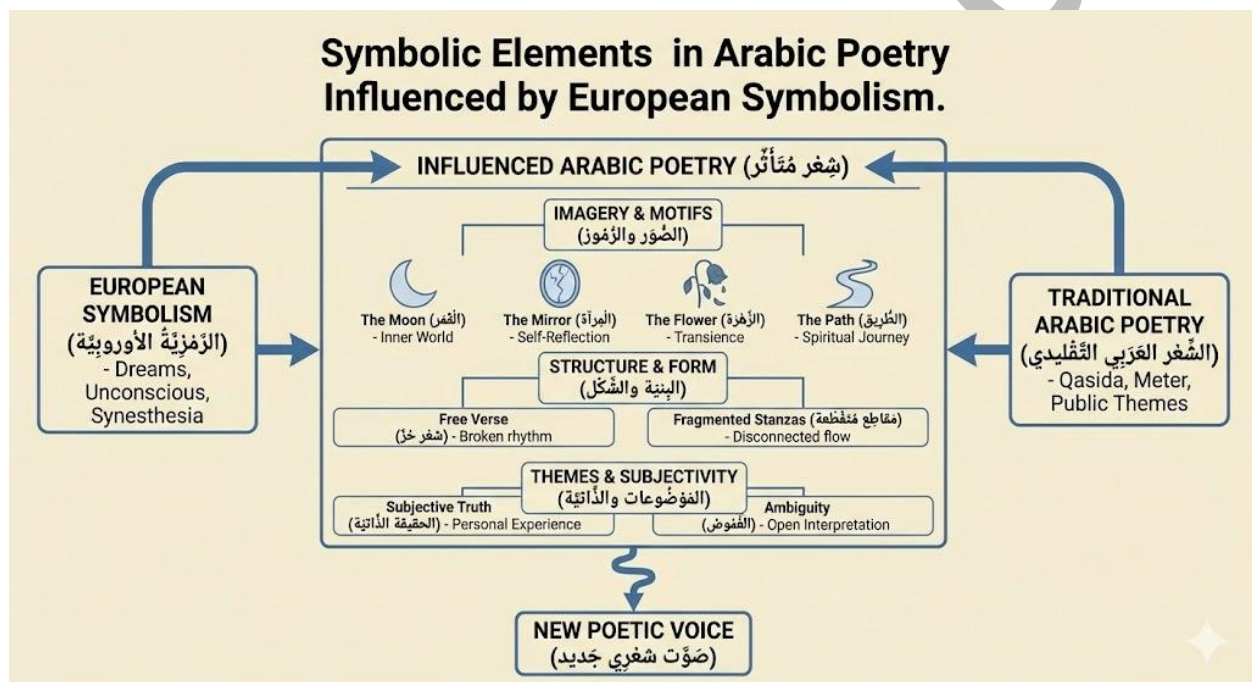


Figure 3.2: Symbolism and abstraction in Arabic poetry

3.2.3 Realism and social critique (الواقعية والنقد الاجتماعي)

The **Realist movement** (الواقعية) in European poetry emphasised everyday life, social issues, and critique of injustice. Arab poets influenced by Realism adopted similar approaches, writing about poverty, inequality, and political oppression. This gave Arabic poetry a stronger social function, turning it into a tool for reform and awareness.



Fill in the blank: Realism in European poetry inspired Arab poets to write about everyday life and _____ issues.

Theme	Focus
Poverty (الفقر)	Highlighting economic hardship
Injustice (الظلم)	Critiquing social and political oppression
Everyday life (الحياة اليومية)	Depicting ordinary experiences

Box 3.1: Themes of Realism in Arabic poetry

Pilot questions 3.2

1. What themes did Romanticism introduce into Arabic poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Romanticism in European poetry emphasised emotion, imagination, and the beauty of _____.
3. How did Symbolism influence the style of Arab poets?
4. Fill in the blank: Symbolism in European poetry encouraged Arab poets to use _____ language and hidden meanings.
5. What social issues did Realism inspire Arab poets to address?
6. Fill in the blank: Realism in European poetry inspired Arab poets to write about everyday life and _____ issues.

3.3 Representative Arab Poets Influenced By Europe (الشعراء العرب المتأثرون بأوروبا)

3.3.1 Ahmad Shawqi (أحمد شوقي) and Romantic tendencies

Ahmad Shawqi (أحمد شوقي), often called the “Prince of Poets” (أمير الشعراء), was deeply influenced by **Romanticism** (الرومانسية) during his exposure to European literature. His poetry reflected themes of nature, emotion, and imagination, blending classical Arabic forms with Romantic



ideals. Shawqi's works demonstrated how Arab poets could adapt European styles while maintaining their cultural identity.

Fill in the blank: Ahmad Shawqi was often called the “Prince of _____” because of his mastery of poetry.



Plate 3.3: Ahmad Shawqi and Romantic tendencies

3.3.2 Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب) and Symbolist influence

Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب) is recognised as a pioneer of modern Arabic poetry. He was influenced by **Symbolism** (الرمزية) and European modernist movements, which encouraged him to use metaphor, imagery, and abstraction. Assayyāb's poetry often conveyed deep emotions and philosophical reflections, marking a shift from traditional descriptive styles to symbolic and layered meanings.

Fill in the blank: Badr Shākir Assayyāb is recognised as a pioneer of _____ Arabic poetry.



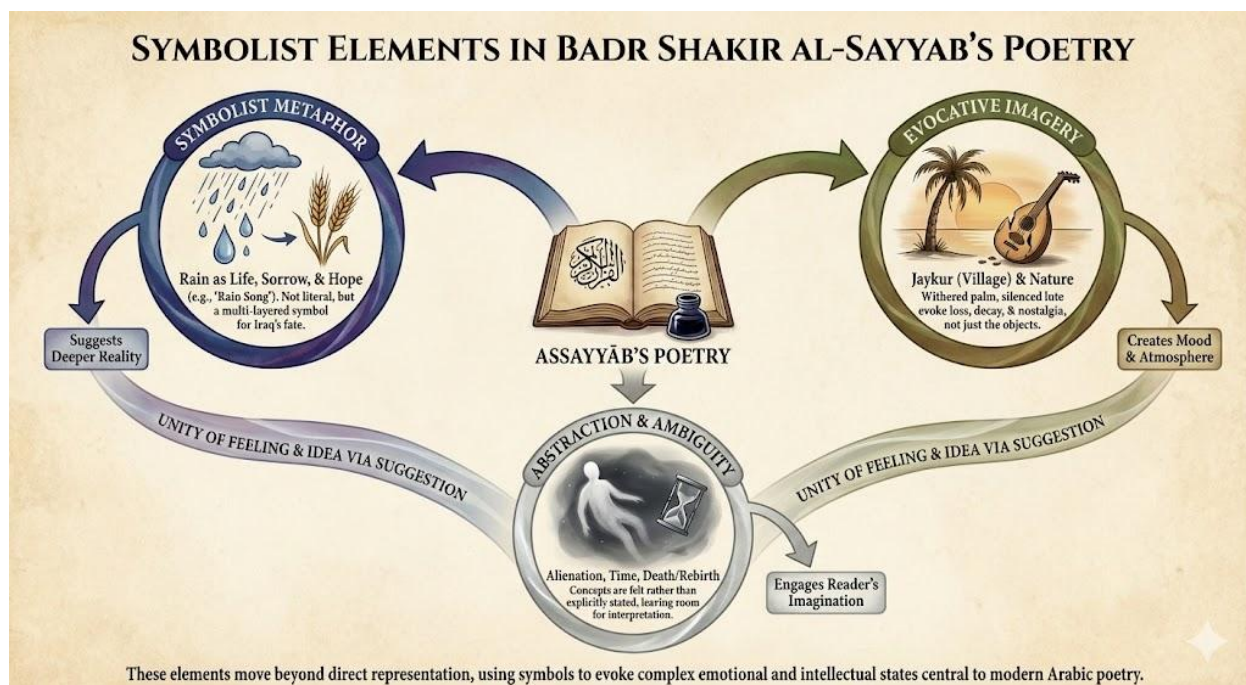


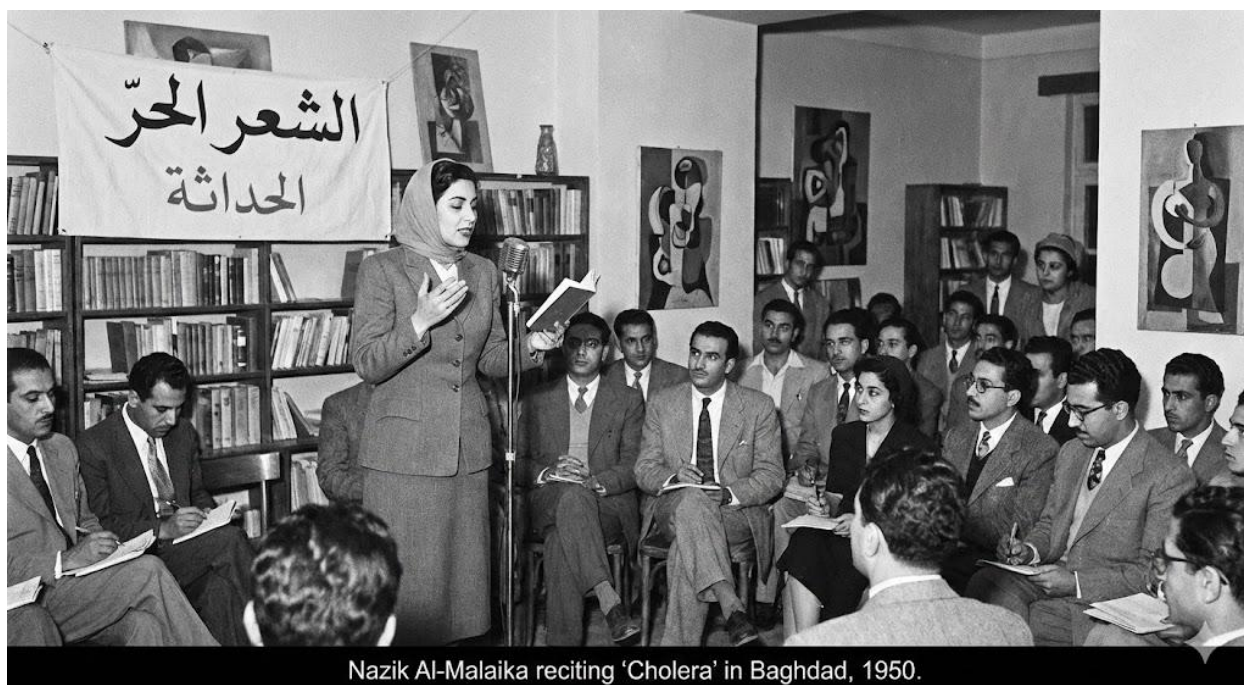
Figure 3.3: Symbolist influence on Assayyāb

3.3.3 Nazik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة) and Free Verse inspired by European modernism

Nazik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة) was one of the first Arab poets to introduce **Free Verse** (الشعر الحر), inspired by European modernist poetry. Her works broke away from strict classical metre, allowing greater flexibility and creativity. This innovation opened the door for modern Arabic poetry to experiment with new forms, making her a central figure in the transformation of Arabic literature.

Fill in the blank: Nazik Al-Malāikah was one of the first Arab poets to introduce _____ Verse into Arabic poetry.





Nazik Al-Malaika reciting 'Cholera' in Baghdad, 1950.

Plate 3.4: Nazik Al-Malāikah and Free Verse

Pilot questions 3.3

1. What Romantic themes influenced Ahmad Shawqi's poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Ahmad Shawqi was often called the "Prince of _____."
3. What Symbolist techniques did Badr Shākir Assayyāb adopt in his poetry?
4. Fill in the blank: Badr Shākir Assayyāb is recognised as a pioneer of _____ Arabic poetry.
5. How did Nazik Al-Malāikah transform Arabic poetry through Free Verse?
6. Fill in the blank: Nazik Al-Malāikah was one of the first Arab poets to introduce _____ Verse into Arabic poetry.

3.4 Broader Impact On Modern Arabic Literature (الأثر الأوسع على الأدب العربي الحديث)



3.4.1 Stylistic innovation and experimentation (التجديد الأسلوبي والتجريب)

The influence of European poetry encouraged Arab poets to embrace **stylistic innovation** (التجديد الأسلوبي) and experimentation. Exposure to Romanticism, Symbolism, and Modernism inspired poets to break away from rigid classical metres and adopt new techniques such as free verse, imagery-driven language, and philosophical abstraction. This experimentation allowed Arabic poetry to evolve into a more flexible and expressive art form, capable of addressing both personal and societal concerns.

Fill in the blank: Exposure to Romanticism, Symbolism, and Modernism encouraged Arab poets to adopt new techniques such as _____ verse and imagery-driven language.

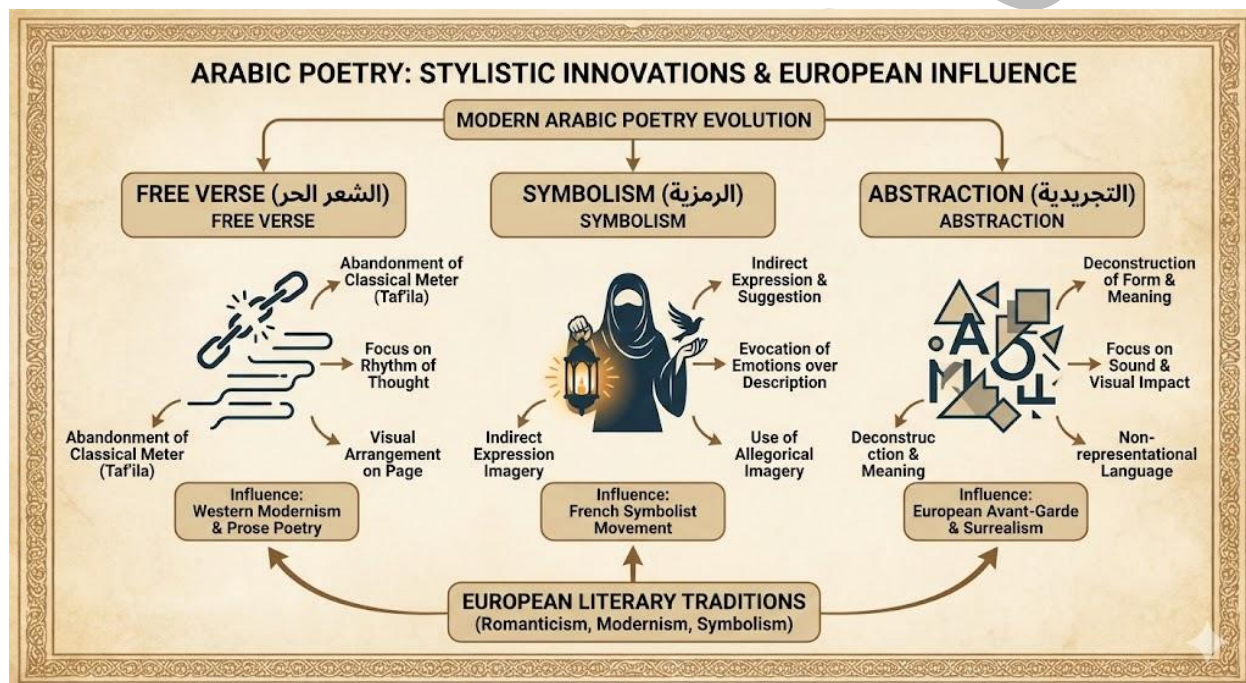


Figure 3.4: Stylistic innovation and experimentation in Arabic poetry

3.4.2 Integration into global literary dialogue (الاندماج في الحوار الأدبي العالمي)

European influence also helped integrate Arabic poetry into the **global literary dialogue** (الحوار الأدبي العالمي). Through translation and cross-cultural exchange, Arab poets gained international recognition, while Arabic readers encountered new perspectives shaped by European traditions.



This integration positioned modern Arabic poetry as part of a wider literary conversation, bridging East and West and enriching world literature.

Fill in the blank: Translation and cross-cultural exchange helped integrate Arabic poetry into the _____ literary dialogue.



Plate 3.5: Integration of Arabic poetry into global literary dialogue

Pilot questions 3.4

1. How did European influence encourage stylistic innovation in Arabic poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Exposure to Romanticism, Symbolism, and Modernism encouraged Arab poets to adopt new techniques such as _____ verse.
3. What role did translation and cross-cultural exchange play in integrating Arabic poetry globally?
4. Fill in the blank: Translation and cross-cultural exchange helped integrate Arabic poetry into the _____ literary dialogue.



5. Why is the integration of Arabic poetry into global literary dialogue significant for world literature?



Series Summary

This Series has examined the influence of European poetry (تأثير الشعر الأوروبي) on modern Arabic poetry, highlighting how cultural exchanges and translation movements shaped literary development. We began with the historical background, considering early contact and the role of translation in transmitting European ideas. We then explored major themes such as Romanticism, Symbolism, and Realism, showing how they enriched Arabic poetic expression. Following that, we studied representative Arab poets including Ahmad Shawqi (أحمد شوقي), Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب), and Nazik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة), each of whom demonstrated distinctive European influences. Finally, we assessed the broader impact of these influences, focusing on stylistic innovation and the integration of Arabic poetry into global literary dialogue.

By completing this Series, you should now be able to define the historical background of European influence, explain the major themes it introduced, analyse the works of key Arab poets shaped by European traditions, and evaluate the broader impact on modern Arabic literature. These abilities align directly with the Series Learning Outcomes (SLOs), ensuring that you can critically engage with the role of European poetry in transforming Arabic poetic identity and situating it within a global literary context.

Glossary of Terms

- **Abstraction (التجريد):** A poetic technique that uses indirect or non-literal language to convey deeper meanings and emotions.
- **Ahmad Shawqi (أحمد شوقي):** Known as the “Prince of Poets” (أمير الشعراء), he blended classical Arabic forms with Romantic themes of nature and imagination.
- **Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب):** A pioneer of modern Arabic poetry, influenced by Symbolism and European modernism, noted for his use of metaphor and imagery.
- **Free Verse (الشعر الحر):** A form of poetry that does not follow strict classical metre, allowing flexibility and creativity, introduced into Arabic poetry by Nazik Al-Malāikah.
- **Literary contact (الاتصال الأدبي):** Direct interaction between Arab and European literary traditions through study, travel, and intellectual exchange.



- **Nazik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة)**: One of the first Arab poets to introduce Free Verse, inspired by European modernist movements.
- **Realism (الواقعية)**: A European literary movement that influenced Arab poets to write about everyday life, social issues, and injustice.
- **Romanticism (الرومانسية)**: A European poetic movement emphasising emotion, imagination, and nature, which inspired Arab poets to adopt more personal and expressive styles.
- **Symbolism (الرمزية)**: A European movement that encouraged the use of metaphor, imagery, and hidden meanings, influencing Arab poets to explore abstract and philosophical themes.
- **Translation movements (حركات الترجمة)**: Efforts in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to translate European literary works into Arabic, introducing new themes and styles.
- **Stylistic innovation (التجديد الأسلوبي)**: The adoption of new poetic techniques such as free verse, symbolism, and abstraction, which transformed modern Arabic poetry.
- **Global literary dialogue (الحوار الأدبي العالمي)**: The integration of Arabic poetry into international literary conversations through translation and cultural exchange.

Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective questions

1. Which century saw increased Arab exposure to European literary traditions through colonial encounters and education abroad? (Linked to SLO 3.1)
2. The translation movements introduced Romanticism and which other European poetic movement into Arabic literature? (Linked to SLO 3.1)
3. Which European movement emphasised emotion, imagination, and nature? (Linked to SLO 3.2)
4. Who is recognised as the “Prince of Poets” (أمير الشعراء)? (Linked to SLO 3.5)



5. Which Arab poet pioneered Free Verse (الشعر الحر) inspired by European modernism?
(Linked to SLO 3.7)

Short-answer questions

6. Explain how Symbolism (الرمزية) influenced Arab poets' use of language and imagery.
(Linked to SLO 3.3)
7. Describe one way Realism (الواقعية) shaped Arabic poetry. (Linked to SLO 3.4)
8. What was Badr Shākir Assayyāb's main contribution to modern Arabic poetry? (Linked to SLO 3.6)
9. How did stylistic innovation (التجديد الأسلوبي) transform modern Arabic poetry? (Linked to SLO 3.8)
10. Why was translation (الترجمة) important for integrating Arabic poetry into global literary dialogue? (Linked to SLO 3.9)

Long-answer questions

11. Analyse Ahmad Shawqi's Romantic tendencies and their significance for Arabic poetry.
(Linked to SLO 3.5)
12. Evaluate the overall influence of European poetry on modern Arabic literature, focusing on stylistic innovation and global integration. (Linked to SLO 3.8, SLO 3.9)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective questions

1. The nineteenth century.
2. Symbolism.
3. Romanticism.
4. Ahmad Shawqi (أحمد شوقي).
5. Nazik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة).



Short-answer questions

6. Symbolism encouraged Arab poets to use abstract language, metaphor, and hidden meanings to express complex emotions and philosophical ideas.
7. Realism shaped Arabic poetry by introducing themes of everyday life, poverty, and social critique.
8. Assayyāb pioneered modern Arabic poetry by adopting Symbolist techniques and creating layered, metaphorical works.
9. Stylistic innovation transformed Arabic poetry by introducing free verse, symbolism, and abstraction, making it more flexible and expressive.
10. Translation allowed European poetry to be transmitted into Arabic, enabling cultural exchange and positioning Arabic poetry within global literary conversations.

Long-answer questions

11. *Basic response:* Ahmad Shawqi's Romantic tendencies reflected themes of nature, imagination, and emotion, blending European Romantic ideals with classical Arabic forms.
Value-added response: Beyond this, Shawqi's adaptation of Romanticism demonstrated how Arab poets could modernise traditional structures, paving the way for future experimentation and enriching Arabic poetry with universal themes.
12. *Basic response:* European poetry influenced modern Arabic literature by introducing stylistic innovation and integrating it into global literary dialogue.
Value-added response: In addition, it reshaped Arabic poetic identity, encouraged reformist and philosophical exploration, and established Arabic poetry as a participant in world literature, bridging East and West in meaningful ways.



Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 3]

Part 3.1 Historical background of European influence (الخلفية التاريخية للتأثير الأوروبي)

1. Trade, travel, and intellectual dialogue.
2. Colonial encounters.
3. They transmitted European poetic traditions into Arabic, introducing new themes and styles.
4. Symbolist.
5. They brought back fresh ideas and literary perspectives that reshaped Arabic poetry.

Part 3.2 Major themes influenced by European poetry (الموضوعات الكبرى المتأثرة بالشعر الأوروبي)

1. Emotion, imagination, and nature.
2. Nature.
3. It encouraged Arab poets to use abstract language, metaphor, and hidden meanings.
4. Abstract.
5. Poverty, inequality, and political oppression.
6. Social.

Part 3.3 Representative Arab poets influenced by Europe (الشعراء العرب المتأثرون بأوروبا)

1. Nature, imagination, and emotion.
2. Poets.
3. He adopted Symbolist techniques such as metaphor, imagery, and abstraction.
4. Modern.
5. She introduced Free Verse, breaking away from strict classical metre.
6. Free.

Part 3.4 Broader impact on modern Arabic literature (الأثر الأوسع على الأدب العربي الحديث)



1. It encouraged poets to adopt free verse, symbolism, and abstraction.
2. Free.
3. Translation and cross-cultural exchange gave Arabic poetry international recognition.
4. Global.
5. It positioned Arabic poetry within world literature, bridging East and West.

References and Attributions [Series 3]

General References (APA style)

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- Na‘īmah, M. (1956). *Al-Ghirbal (الغربال)*. Beirut: Dar al-‘Ilm lil-Malayin.
- OER Commons. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.oercommons.org>
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Figures

- *Figure 3.1: Early cultural exchanges between Arabs and Europeans* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing early cultural exchanges between Arabs and Europeans through trade, travel, and intellectual dialogue.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Arab European cultural exchanges poetry.”
- *Figure 3.2: Symbolism and abstraction in Arabic poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing symbolic elements in Arabic poetry influenced by European Symbolism.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Symbolism abstraction Arabic poetry influence.”



- *Figure 3.3: Symbolist influence on Assayyāb* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing Symbolist elements in Assayyāb’s poetry, including metaphor, imagery, and abstraction.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Badr Shakir Assayyab Symbolism Arabic poetry.”
- *Figure 3.4: Stylistic innovation and experimentation in Arabic poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing stylistic innovations in Arabic poetry influenced by European traditions, including free verse, symbolism, and abstraction.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource stylistic innovation Arabic poetry European influence.”

Plates

- *Plate 3.1: Translation movements and literary contact* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Arab scholars translating European literary works in the nineteenth century.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Arab scholars translation European poetry.”
- *Plate 3.2: Romanticism and nature in Arabic poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing an Arab poet inspired by nature, writing in a Romantic style.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Romanticism nature Arabic poetry influence.”
- *Plate 3.3: Ahmad Shawqi and Romantic tendencies* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Ahmad Shawqi writing poetry inspired by Romantic themes of nature and imagination.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Ahmad Shawqi Romanticism Arabic poetry.”
- *Plate 3.4: Nazik Al-Malāikah and Free Verse* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Nazik Al-Malāikah reciting Free Verse poetry with modernist inspiration.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Nazik Al-Malaikah Free Verse Arabic poetry.”
- *Plate 3.5: Integration of Arabic poetry into global literary dialogue* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Arab and European poets in dialogue, symbolising



cultural exchange and global literary integration.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Arabic poetry European influence global literary dialogue.”

Boxes

- *Box 3.1: Themes of Realism in Arabic poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a simple table listing themes of Realism in Arabic poetry, including poverty, injustice, and everyday life.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Realism social critique Arabic poetry influence.”



Series 4: Selected Works Of Nazār Qabāni, Badr Shākir Assayyāb, And Nāzik Al-Malāikah

Part 4.1 Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني): Themes of love and revolution

- 4.1.1 Romantic imagery and personal emotion (الصورة الرومانسية والعاطفة الشخصية)
- 4.1.2 Political and social critique (النقد السياسي والاجتماعي)
- 4.1.3 Selected poems and analysis (نماذج مختارة وتحليلها)

Part 4.2 Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب): Symbolism and modernist vision

- 4.2.1 Symbolist techniques and imagery (الأساليب الرمزية والصور الشعرية)
- 4.2.2 Themes of exile and suffering (موضوعات المنفى والمعاناة)
- 4.2.3 Selected poems and analysis (نماذج مختارة وتحليلها)

Part 4.3 Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازيك الملائكة): Free Verse and innovation

- 4.3.1 Introduction of Free Verse (إدخال الشعر الحر)
- 4.3.2 Themes of modernity and identity (موضوعات الحداثة والهوية)
- 4.3.3 Selected poems and analysis (نماذج مختارة وتحليلها)

Part 4.4 Comparative impact on modern Arabic poetry (الأثر المقارن على الشعر العربي الحديث)

- 4.4.1 Shared innovations and differences (الابتكارات المشتركة والاختلافات)
- 4.4.2 Influence on later generations (التأثير على الأجيال اللاحقة)
- 4.4.3 Position within global literary dialogue (المكانة في الحوار الأدبي العالمي)

Introduction

In the last Series, we examined how European poetry influenced modern Arabic poetry, shaping themes, styles, and innovations. Building on that foundation, this Series focuses on three towering figures of modern Arabic literature: Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني), Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب), and Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازيك الملائكة). Their selected works represent milestones in the evolution of Arabic poetry, combining personal emotion, political critique, symbolism, and



stylistic innovation. Studying their contributions will help you appreciate how individual voices transformed Arabic poetry into a modern and global art form.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to selected works of these three poets and to equip you with the ability to analyse their themes, techniques, and impact on Arabic literature.

We shall commence this Series by exploring Nazār Qabāni's poetry, focusing on his themes of love and revolution. Next, we will move on to Badr Shākir Assayyāb, examining his Symbolist techniques and modernist vision. Following that, we will study Nāzik Al-Malāikah, highlighting her introduction of Free Verse and her exploration of modernity and identity. Finally, we will conclude by comparing their collective impact on modern Arabic poetry, considering their shared innovations, differences, and influence on later generations, as well as their position within global literary dialogue.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 4.1** analyse the themes of love and revolution in selected works of Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني),
- **SLO 4.2** evaluate the use of Romantic imagery and political critique in Qabāni's poetry,
- **SLO 4.3** describe the Symbolist techniques and imagery employed by Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب),
- **SLO 4.4** explain how themes of exile and suffering are reflected in Assayyāb's selected works,
- **SLO 4.5** demonstrate how Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازيك الملائكة) introduced Free Verse (الشعر الحر) into Arabic poetry,
- **SLO 4.6** analyse the themes of modernity and identity in Al-Malāikah's selected poems,
- **SLO 4.7** compare the shared innovations and differences among Qabāni, Assayyāb, and Al-Malāikah,
- **SLO 4.8** assess their collective influence on later generations of Arab poets, and



- SLO 4.9 evaluate their position within the global literary dialogue (الحوار الأدبي العالمي).

4.1 Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني): Themes Of Love And Revolution

4.1.1 Romantic imagery and personal emotion (الصورة الرومانسية والعاطفة الشخصية)

Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني) is renowned for his use of **romantic imagery** (الصورة الرومانسية), which refers to poetic expressions that highlight beauty, love, and emotional depth. His poetry often draws upon everyday experiences of affection and longing, transforming them into universal themes. By focusing on personal emotion, Qabāni gave Arabic poetry a more intimate and relatable voice, moving away from purely classical or political subjects.

Fill in the blank: Nazār Qabāni's poetry gave Arabic literature a more _____ and relatable voice.



Plate 4.1: Romantic imagery in Qabāni's poetry



4.1.2 Political and social critique (النقد السياسي والاجتماعي)

Beyond love, Qabāni's poetry also engaged in **political critique** (النقد السياسي) and **social critique** (النقد الاجتماعي). These terms refer to the poet's use of verse to challenge injustice, oppression, and societal norms. His works often voiced frustration with political corruption and the struggles of Arab societies, making his poetry both personal and revolutionary. This duality of love and revolution gave his work a unique power, resonating with audiences across generations.

Fill in the blank: Qabāni's poetry combined themes of love with _____ critique, making his work revolutionary.

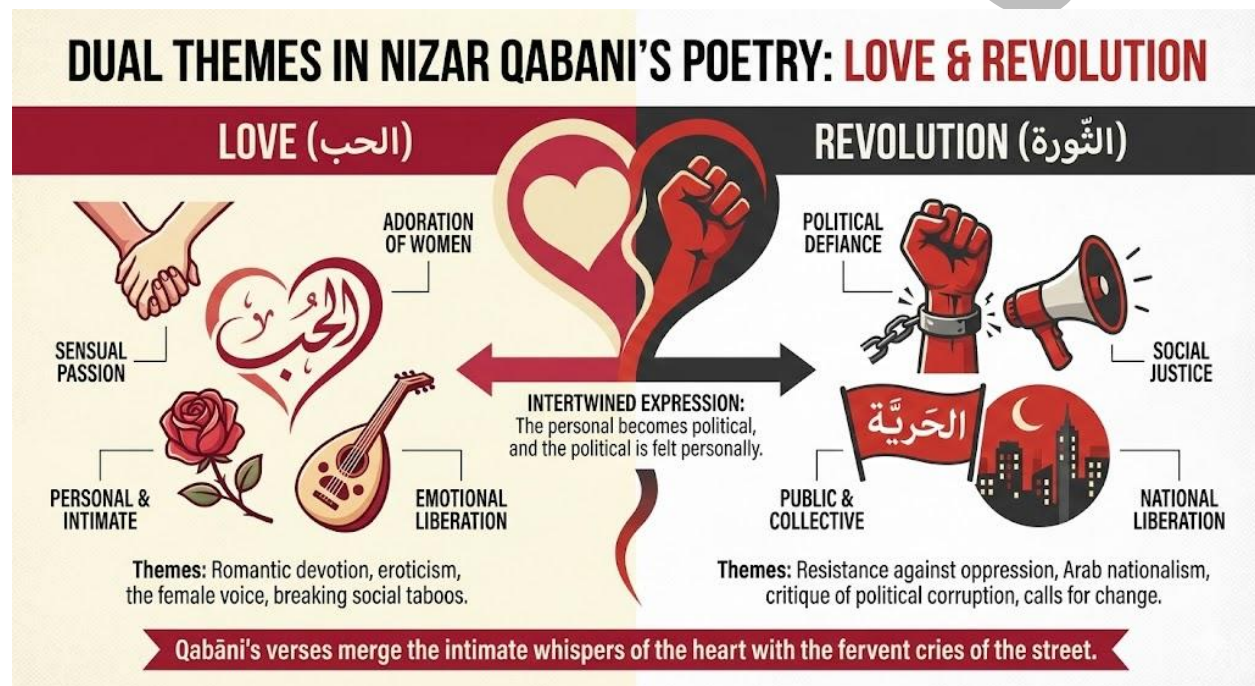


Figure 4.1: Dual themes in Qabāni's poetry

4.1.3 Selected poems and analysis (نماذج مختارة وتحليلها)

Qabāni's selected works illustrate the balance between personal and political themes. Poems such as *قصائد حب* (Love Poems) highlight his romantic style, while works like *هوامش على دفتر* (Margins on the Notebook of Defeat) reflect his political engagement after the 1967 Arab



defeat. Analysing these poems helps learners see how Qabāni used poetry as both a personal diary and a social commentary.

Fill in the blank: Qabāni's *هوامش على دفتر النكسة* reflects his _____ engagement after the 1967 Arab defeat.

Title (العنوان)	Theme (الموضوع)
قصائد حب	Romantic imagery and personal emotion
هوامش على دفتر النكسة	Political critique and social frustration
يوميات امرأة لا مبالية	Feminist and social critique

Box 4.1: Recommended selected works of Nazār Qabāni

Pilot questions 4.1

1. What type of imagery is Nazār Qabāni most famous for?
2. Fill in the blank: Nazār Qabāni's poetry gave Arabic literature a more _____ and relatable voice.
3. What themes did Qabāni combine to make his poetry revolutionary?
4. Fill in the blank: Qabāni's poetry combined themes of love with _____ critique.
5. Which poem reflected Qabāni's political engagement after the 1967 Arab defeat?
6. Fill in the blank: Qabāni's *هوامش على دفتر النكسة* reflects his _____ engagement after the 1967 Arab defeat.

4.2 Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب): Symbolism And Modernist Vision

4.2.1 Symbolist techniques and imagery (الأساليب الرمزية والصور الشعرية)

Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب) is recognised as a pioneer of modern Arabic poetry. He employed **Symbolist techniques** (الأساليب الرمزية), which involve the use of metaphor, imagery, and hidden meanings to convey complex emotions and philosophical ideas. His poetry often drew upon mythological references and symbolic language to express themes of suffering, hope,



and renewal. This style marked a departure from traditional descriptive poetry, giving Arabic literature a new depth and sophistication.

Fill in the blank: Assayyāb's poetry often used _____ references and symbolic language to express suffering and renewal.

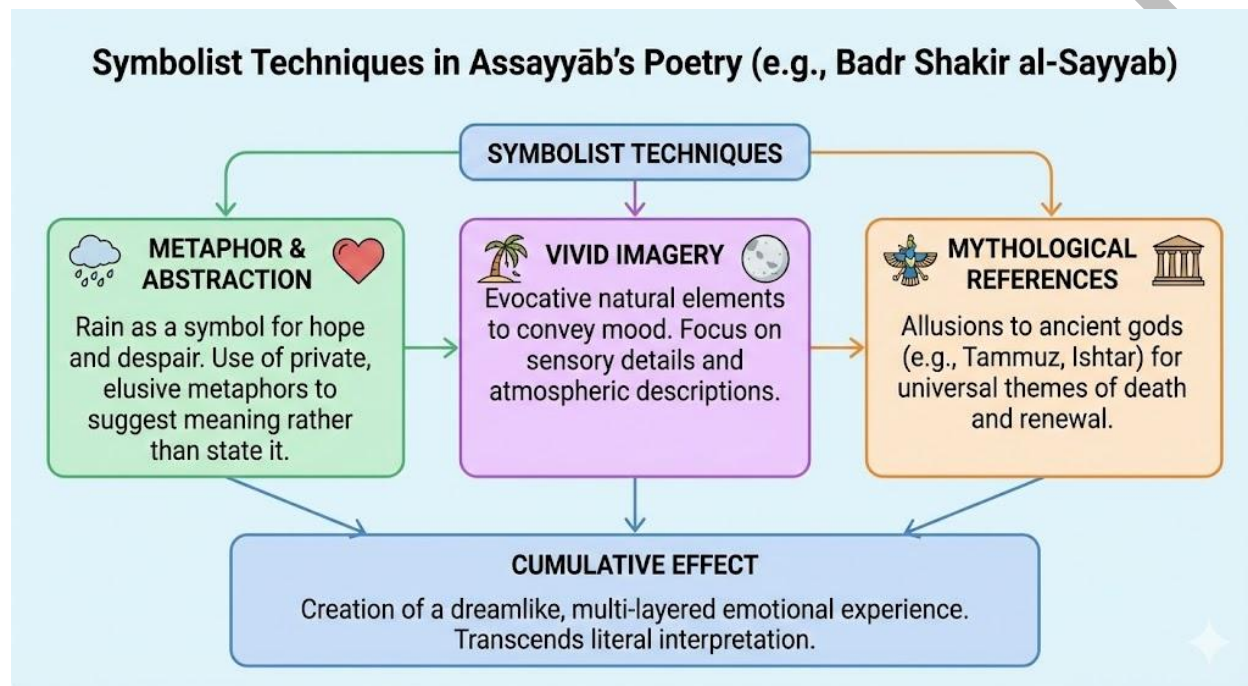


Figure 4.2: Symbolist techniques in Assayyāb's poetry

4.2.2 Themes of exile and suffering (موضوعات المنفى والمعاناة)

Assayyāb's poetry frequently reflected **exile** (المنفى) and **suffering** (المعاناة), themes that resonated with Arab audiences during times of political turmoil. His personal experiences of illness and displacement gave his poetry authenticity and emotional power. By linking personal suffering to collective struggles, Assayyāb created a voice that spoke both to individual pain and to broader social realities.

Fill in the blank: Assayyāb's poetry linked personal suffering to _____ struggles, giving his work authenticity.





Plate 4.2: Themes of exile and suffering in Assayyāb's poetry

4.2.3 Selected poems and analysis (نماذج مختارة وتحليلها)

Among Assayyāb's most famous works is *أنشودة المطر* (Song of Rain), which symbolises renewal and hope through natural imagery. Another significant poem, *المومس العمياء* (The Blind Prostitute), reflects social critique and human suffering. Analysing these works reveals how Assayyāb combined Symbolist techniques with themes of exile and pain, creating poetry that was both artistic and socially engaged.

Fill in the blank: Assayyāb's *أنشودة المطر* symbolises renewal and _____ through natural imagery.

العنوان (Title)	الموضوع (Theme)
أنشودة المطر	Renewal, hope, and symbolism
المومس العمياء	Social critique and human suffering



Title (العنوان)

Theme (الموضوع)

Exile and longing غريب على الخليج

Box 4.2: Recommended selected works of Badr Shākir Assayyāb

Pilot questions 4.2

1. What Symbolist techniques did Assayyāb use in his poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Assayyāb's poetry often used _____ references and symbolic language.
3. What themes of exile and suffering are reflected in Assayyāb's works?
4. Fill in the blank: Assayyāb's poetry linked personal suffering to _____ struggles.
5. Which poem symbolises renewal and hope through natural imagery?
6. Fill in the blank: Assayyāb's *نشودة المطر* symbolises renewal and _____.

4.3 Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازيك الملائكة): Free Verse And Innovation

4.3.1 Introduction of Free Verse (إدخال الشعر الحر)

Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازيك الملائكة) is celebrated as one of the first Arab poets to introduce **Free Verse (الشعر الحر)**, which refers to poetry that does not follow strict classical metre but instead allows flexibility in rhythm and structure. This innovation marked a turning point in Arabic literature, opening the door for experimentation and modernist expression. Her pioneering role gave Arabic poetry a new form that could better reflect contemporary realities and emotions.

Fill in the blank: Nāzik Al-Malāikah is celebrated as one of the first Arab poets to introduce _____ Verse into Arabic poetry.



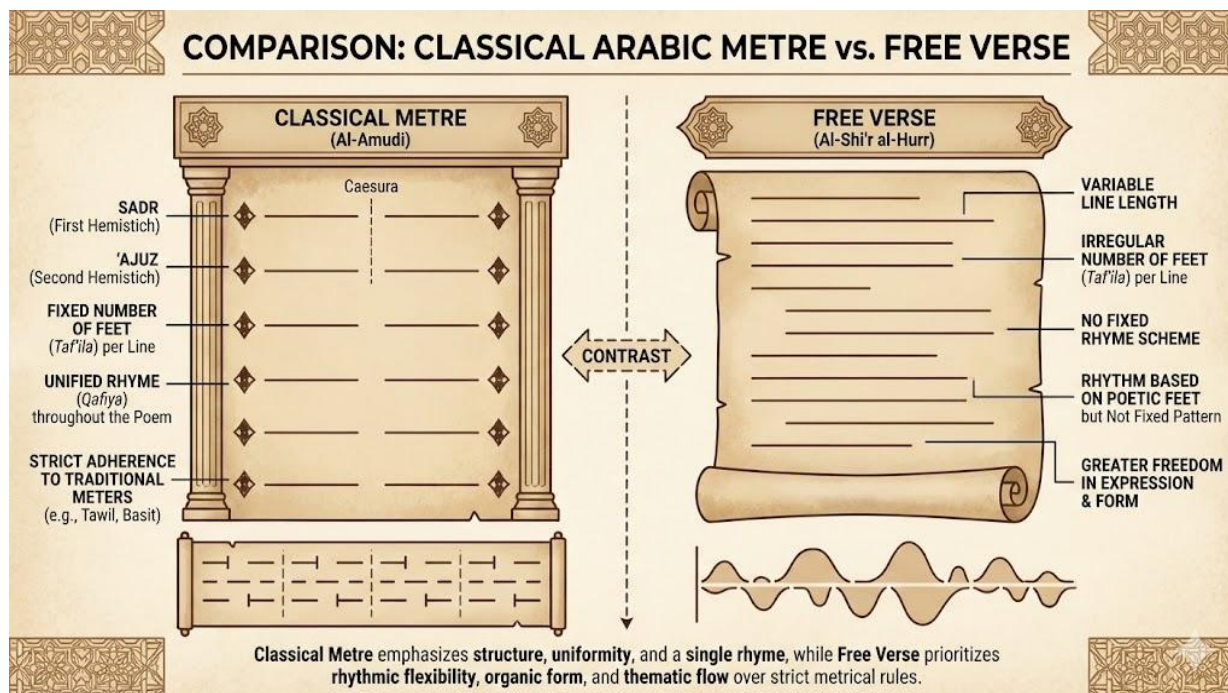


Figure 4.3: Classical metre versus Free Verse in Arabic poetry

4.3.2 Themes of modernity and identity (موضوعات الحداثة والهوية)

Al-Malāikah's poetry explored **modernity** (الحداثة) and **identity** (الهوية), reflecting the challenges of Arab societies in adapting to new cultural and political realities. Her works often addressed questions of individuality, gender roles, and the tension between tradition and progress. By weaving these themes into her poetry, she gave voice to the struggles of modern Arab identity, particularly from a female perspective.

Fill in the blank: Al-Malāikah's poetry explored themes of modernity and _____, reflecting cultural challenges.





Plate 4.3: Al-Malāikah's exploration of modernity and identity

4.3.3 Selected poems and analysis (نماذج مختارة وتحليلها)

Among her most influential works is *الكوليرا* (Cholera), which vividly depicts the suffering caused by disease and social crisis, using Free Verse to capture urgency and emotion. Another significant poem, *شظايا ورماد* (Fragments and Ashes), reflects themes of modernity and existential struggle. Analysing these works helps learners see how Al-Malāikah combined innovation in form with profound thematic exploration.

Fill in the blank: Al-Malāikah's *الكوليرا* vividly depicts suffering caused by _____ and social crisis.

Title (العنوان)	Theme (الموضوع)
الكوليرا	Disease, crisis, and Free Verse innovation
شظايا ورماد	Modernity, existential struggle
قرارة الموجة	Identity and reflection

Box 4.3: Recommended selected works of Nāzik Al-Malāikah



Pilot questions 4.3

1. What innovation did Nāzik Al-Malāikah introduce into Arabic poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Nāzik Al-Malāikah is celebrated as one of the first Arab poets to introduce _____ Verse.
3. What themes of modernity and identity are reflected in her poetry?
4. Fill in the blank: Al-Malāikah's poetry explored themes of modernity and _____.
5. Which poem vividly depicts suffering caused by disease and social crisis?
6. Fill in the blank: Al-Malāikah's *الكوليرا* vividly depicts suffering caused by _____.

4.4 Comparative Impact On Modern Arabic Poetry (الأثر المقارن على الشعر العربي الحديث)

4.4.1 Shared innovations and differences (الابتكارات المشتركة والاختلافات)

Nazār Qabāni, Badr Shākir Assayyāb, and Nāzik Al-Malāikah each introduced **innovations** (ابتكارات) that reshaped Arabic poetry. Qabāni brought intimacy and political critique, Assayyāb pioneered Symbolist techniques and modernist imagery, while Al-Malāikah introduced Free Verse and themes of modernity. Together, they expanded the boundaries of Arabic poetic expression. At the same time, their differences in style and focus highlight the diversity of modern Arabic literature.

Fill in the blank: While Qabāni focused on love and revolution, Assayyāb pioneered Symbolism, and Al-Malāikah introduced _____ Verse.



COMPARATIVE INNOVATIONS IN MODERN ARABIC POETRY: QABĀNĪ, ASSAYYĀB, & AL-MALĀĪKAH

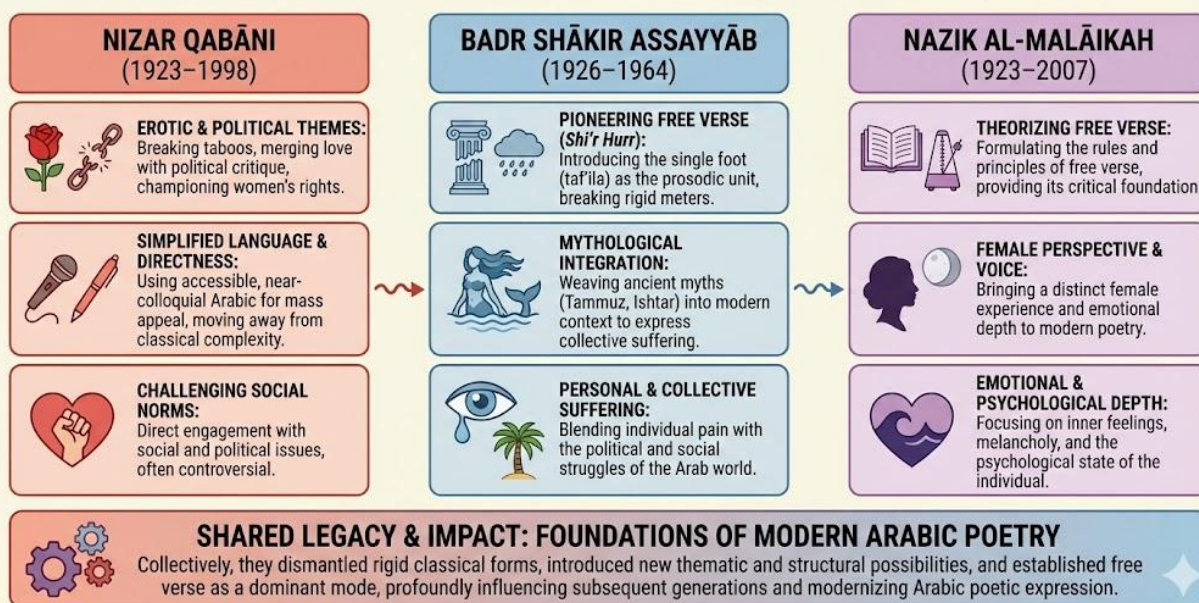


Figure 4.4: Shared innovations and differences among three poets

4.4.2 Influence on later generations (التأثير على الأجيال اللاحقة)

The collective contributions of these poets influenced later generations of Arab writers. Their innovations encouraged younger poets to experiment with form, explore personal and political themes, and engage with global literary currents. This influence is evident in the rise of contemporary Arab poetry that continues to blend tradition with modernity.

Fill in the blank: The contributions of Qabānī, Assayyāb, and Al-Malāīkah encouraged younger poets to _____ with form and themes.





Plate 4.4: Influence on later generations of Arab poets

4.4.3 Position within global literary dialogue (المكانة في الحوار الأدبي العالمي)

By integrating European influences and innovating within Arabic traditions, these poets positioned Arabic poetry within the **global literary dialogue** (الحوار الأدبي العالمي). Their works have been translated into multiple languages, allowing international audiences to engage with Arab perspectives. This global recognition underscores the role of modern Arabic poetry as part of world literature, bridging East and West.

Fill in the blank: Translation of their works into multiple languages positioned Arabic poetry within the _____ literary dialogue.

Poet (الشاعر)	Contribution (الإسهام)
نزار قباني	Romantic and political themes accessible to global audiences
بدر شاكر السياب	Symbolist imagery and modernist vision
نازك الملائكة	Free Verse innovation and feminist perspectives

Box 4.4: Contributions to global literary dialogue



Pilot questions 4.4

1. What innovations did Qabāni, Assayyāb, and Al-Malāikah each contribute to Arabic poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: While Qabāni focused on love and revolution, Assayyāb pioneered Symbolism, and Al-Malāikah introduced _____ Verse.
3. How did their contributions influence later generations of Arab poets?
4. Fill in the blank: The contributions of Qabāni, Assayyāb, and Al-Malāikah encouraged younger poets to _____ with form and themes.
5. What role did translation play in positioning Arabic poetry globally?
6. Fill in the blank: Translation of their works into multiple languages positioned Arabic poetry within the _____ literary dialogue.



Series Summary

This Series has focused on the selected works of Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني), Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاکر السياب), and Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازك الملائكة), three of the most influential figures in modern Arabic poetry. We began with Qabāni, examining his romantic imagery and themes of love alongside his political and social critique. We then moved to Assayyāb, exploring his Symbolist techniques, his use of myth and imagery, and his reflections on exile and suffering. Following that, we studied Al-Malāikah, highlighting her introduction of Free Verse and her exploration of modernity and identity. Finally, we considered their collective impact, comparing their innovations, assessing their influence on later generations, and situating their works within the global literary dialogue.

By completing this Series, you should now be able to analyse Qabāni's themes of love and revolution, explain Assayyāb's Symbolist techniques and his treatment of exile, demonstrate Al-Malāikah's innovation through Free Verse, and evaluate the shared and distinctive contributions of all three poets. These abilities align directly with the Series Learning Outcomes (SLOs), equipping you to critically engage with their selected works and to appreciate their lasting significance in modern Arabic poetry and world literature.



Glossary of Terms

- **Exile (المنفى):** A recurring theme in Assayyāb's poetry, referring to displacement and separation from one's homeland, often used to symbolise broader social and political struggles.
- **Free Verse (الشعر الحر):** A poetic form introduced by Nāzik Al-Malāikah that abandons strict classical metre, allowing flexibility in rhythm and structure to reflect modern realities.
- **Identity (الهوية):** A theme explored in Al-Malāikah's works, focusing on individuality, gender roles, and the tension between tradition and progress in Arab societies.
- **Innovation (الابتكار):** The creative introduction of new poetic forms and themes by modern Arab poets such as Qabāni, Assayyāb, and Al-Malāikah, which reshaped Arabic poetry.
- **Modernity (الحداثة):** A theme in Al-Malāikah's poetry, reflecting cultural and political changes in Arab societies and the challenges of adapting to new realities.
- **Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني):** A modern Arab poet known for romantic imagery and themes of love, as well as political and social critique.
- **Political critique (النقد السياسي):** The use of poetry to challenge political corruption, oppression, and injustice, a hallmark of Qabāni's revolutionary works.
- **Romantic imagery (الصورة الرومانسية):** Poetic expressions highlighting beauty, love, and emotion, often used by Qabāni to create intimacy and relatability.
- **Social critique (النقد الاجتماعي):** Poetry that questions societal norms and highlights social struggles, evident in the works of Qabāni and Assayyāb.
- **Symbolism (الرمزية):** A literary technique used by Assayyāb, involving metaphor, imagery, and hidden meanings to express complex emotions and philosophical ideas.



- **Suffering (المعاناة):** A central theme in Assayyāb's poetry, reflecting both personal hardship and collective struggles of Arab societies.
- **Translation (الترجمة):** The process of rendering Arabic poetry into other languages, which helped position modern Arabic literature within the global literary dialogue.



Concept Check Questions [Series 4]

Objective questions

1. Which poet is most associated with romantic imagery and themes of love? (Linked to SLO 4.1)
2. Which poem by Nazār Qabāni reflects his political engagement after the 1967 Arab defeat? (Linked to SLO 4.2)
3. Which Symbolist techniques did Badr Shākir Assayyāb employ in his poetry? (Linked to SLO 4.3)
4. Which poem by Assayyāb symbolises renewal and hope through natural imagery? (Linked to SLO 4.4)
5. Who introduced Free Verse into Arabic poetry? (Linked to SLO 4.5)
6. Which poem by Nāzik Al-Malāikah vividly depicts suffering caused by disease and social crisis? (Linked to SLO 4.6)

Short-answer questions

7. Explain how Qabāni combined themes of love and revolution in his poetry. (Linked to SLO 4.1, SLO 4.2)
8. Describe how Assayyāb's personal experiences influenced his themes of exile and suffering. (Linked to SLO 4.4)
9. What themes of modernity and identity are reflected in Al-Malāikah's poetry? (Linked to SLO 4.6)
10. Compare one innovation introduced by each of the three poets. (Linked to SLO 4.7)
11. How did their contributions influence later generations of Arab poets? (Linked to SLO 4.8)
12. Why is translation important for positioning Arabic poetry within the global literary dialogue? (Linked to SLO 4.9)

Long-answer questions



13. Analyse the significance of Nazār Qabāni's dual focus on love and political critique.
(Linked to SLO 4.1, SLO 4.2)
14. Evaluate the collective impact of Qabāni, Assayyāb, and Al-Malāikah on modern Arabic poetry, considering their innovations and global recognition. (Linked to SLO 4.7, SLO 4.8, SLO 4.9)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 4]

Objective questions

1. Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني).
2. هوامش على دفتر النكسة (Margins on the Notebook of Defeat).
3. Metaphor, imagery, and mythological references.
4. نشودة المطر (Song of Rain).
5. Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازيك الملائكة).
6. الكوليرا (Cholera).

Short-answer questions

7. Qabāni combined personal themes of love with political critique, making his poetry both intimate and revolutionary.
8. Assayyāb's illness and displacement gave authenticity to his poetry, linking personal suffering to collective struggles.
9. Al-Malāikah's poetry reflected modernity, gender roles, individuality, and the tension between tradition and progress.
10. Qabāni introduced romantic and political themes, Assayyāb pioneered Symbolism, and Al-Malāikah introduced Free Verse.
11. Their contributions encouraged younger poets to experiment with form and themes, blending tradition with modernity.
12. Translation allowed Arabic poetry to reach global audiences, integrating it into world literature.



Long-answer questions

13. *Basic response:* Qabāni's poetry is significant because it combined romantic imagery with political critique, giving his work both personal and revolutionary power.

Value-added response: Beyond this, his dual focus reflected the struggles of Arab societies, making his poetry a cultural bridge that resonated across generations and contexts.

14. *Basic response:* Collectively, the three poets reshaped Arabic poetry through innovations such as romantic themes, Symbolism, and Free Verse, while gaining global recognition.

Value-added response: In addition, their impact extended to inspiring later generations, positioning Arabic poetry within global literary dialogue, and enriching world literature by bridging East and West.



Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 4]

Part 4.1 Nazār Qabāni (نزار قباني): Themes of love and revolution

1. Romantic imagery.
2. Intimate.
3. Love and revolution.
4. Political.
5. (Margins on the Notebook of Defeat) هوامش على دفتر النكسة.
6. Political.

Part 4.2 Badr Shākir Assayyāb (بدر شاكر السياب): Symbolism and modernist vision

1. Metaphor, imagery, and hidden meanings.
2. Mythological.
3. Exile and suffering.
4. Collective.
5. (Song of Rain) نشودة المطر.
6. Hope.

Part 4.3 Nāzik Al-Malāikah (نازيك الملائكة): Free Verse and innovation

1. Free Verse.
2. Free.
3. Modernity and identity.
4. Identity.
5. (Cholera) الكوليرا.
6. Disease.

Part 4.4 Comparative impact on modern Arabic poetry (الأثر المقارن على الشعر العربي الحديث)

1. Qabāni introduced romantic and political themes, Assayyāb pioneered Symbolism, and Al-Malāikah introduced Free Verse.
2. Free.



3. They encouraged younger poets to experiment with form and themes.
4. Experiment.
5. Translation allowed Arabic poetry to reach global audiences.
6. Global.



References and Attributions [Series 4]

General References (APA style)

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- Qabbani, N. (1995). *Selected Poems of Nizar Qabbani*. Beirut: Dar al-Andalus.
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- Assayyāb, B. Sh. (1960). *Anshudat al-Matar* (أنشودة المطر). Beirut: Dar al-Adab.
- OER Commons. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.oercommons.org>
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Figures

- *Figure 4.1: Dual themes in Qabāni's poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing dual themes in Qabāni's poetry: love and revolution.”
Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Nizar Qabbani love revolution Arabic poetry.”
- *Figure 4.2: Symbolist techniques in Assayyāb's poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing Symbolist techniques in Assayyāb's poetry, including metaphor, imagery, and mythological references.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Badr Shakir Assayyab Symbolism Arabic poetry.”
- *Figure 4.3: Classical metre versus Free Verse in Arabic poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram comparing classical metre and Free Verse in Arabic poetry.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Nazik Al-Malaikah Free Verse Arabic poetry.”
- *Figure 4.4: Shared innovations and differences among three poets* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram comparing innovations of Qabāni, Assayyāb, and Al-Malāikah in modern Arabic poetry.” Suggested OER search string: “open



educational resource Nizar Qabbani Badr Shakir Assayyab Nazik Al-Malaikah innovations Arabic poetry.”

Plates

- *Plate 4.1: Romantic imagery in Qabāni’s poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Nazār Qabāni writing poetry with romantic imagery of roses and affection.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Nizar Qabbani romantic poetry Arabic.”
- *Plate 4.2: Themes of exile and suffering in Assayyāb’s poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Assayyāb writing poetry while reflecting on exile and suffering.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Badr Shakir Assayyab exile suffering Arabic poetry.”
- *Plate 4.3: Al-Malāikah’s exploration of modernity and identity* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Nāzik Al-Malāikah reciting poetry that reflects themes of modernity and identity.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Nazik Al-Malaikah modernity identity Arabic poetry.”
- *Plate 4.4: Influence on later generations of Arab poets* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing contemporary Arab poets inspired by Qabāni, Assayyāb, and Al-Malāikah.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource contemporary Arab poets influenced by modern pioneers.”

Boxes

- *Box 4.1: Recommended selected works of Nazār Qabāni* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a simple table listing selected works of Nazār Qabāni with their themes.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Nizar Qabbani selected works analysis Arabic poetry.”
- *Box 4.2: Recommended selected works of Badr Shākir Assayyāb* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a simple table listing selected works of Badr Shākir Assayyāb with their themes.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Badr Shakir Assayyab selected works analysis Arabic poetry.”



- *Box 4.3: Recommended selected works of Nāzik Al-Malāikah* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a simple table listing selected works of Nāzik Al-Malāikah with their themes.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Nazik Al-Malaikah selected works analysis Arabic poetry.”
- *Box 4.4: Contributions to global literary dialogue* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a simple table listing contributions of Qabāni, Assayyāb, and Al-Malāikah to global literary dialogue.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Arabic poetry global literary dialogue.”



Series 5: Selected Works Of Mahmūd Darwīsh And Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān

Part 5.1 Mahmūd Darwīsh (محمود درويش): Poetry of homeland and resistance

- 5.1.1 Themes of exile and identity (موضوعات المنفى والهوية)
- 5.1.2 National struggle and resistance (النضال الوطني والمقاومة)
- 5.1.3 Selected poems and analysis (نماذج مختارة وتحليلها)

Part 5.2 Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران): Spirituality and humanism

- 5.2.1 Philosophical and spiritual themes (الموضوعات الفلسفية والروحية)
- 5.2.2 Humanism and social critique (النزعة الإنسانية والنقد الاجتماعي)
- 5.2.3 Selected works and analysis (نماذج مختارة وتحليلها)

Part 5.3 Comparative themes and stylistic approaches (الموضوعات والأساليب المقارنة)

- 5.3.1 Shared concerns and differences (الهموم المشتركة والاختلافات)
- 5.3.2 Stylistic innovations (الابتكارات الأسلوبية)
- 5.3.3 Influence on modern Arabic literature (التأثير على الأدب العربي الحديث)

Part 5.4 Global impact and legacy (الأثر العالمي والإرث الأدبي)

- 5.4.1 Translation and reception worldwide (الترجمة والاستقبال العالمي)
- 5.4.2 Contribution to world literature (الإسهام في الأدب العالمي)
- 5.4.3 Enduring legacy in Arab and global contexts (الإرث المستمر في السياقين العربي والعالمي)

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the selected works of Nazār Qabāni, Badr Shākir Assayyāb, and Nāzik Al-Malāikah, focusing on their innovations and their collective impact on modern Arabic poetry. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to two other towering figures: Mahmūd Darwīsh (محمود درويش), the voice of homeland and resistance, and Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران), the philosopher-poet whose writings bridged spirituality and humanism. Their works



continue to inspire readers across the Arab world and beyond, making them essential to our study of modern Arabic literature.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to selected works of Darwīsh and Jibrān, enabling you to analyse their themes, stylistic approaches, and global impact. By the end, you should be able to critically engage with their poetry and prose, appreciating both their individual contributions and their shared legacy.

We shall commence this Series by examining Mahmūd Darwīsh's poetry, focusing on themes of exile, identity, and resistance. Next, we will move on to Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān, exploring his philosophical and spiritual writings alongside his humanist critique of society. Following that, we will compare their themes and stylistic approaches, highlighting both shared concerns and distinctive innovations. Finally, we will conclude by considering their global impact and enduring legacy, looking at how translation and reception positioned their works within world literature.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 5.1** analyse the themes of exile and identity in selected works of Mahmūd Darwīsh (محمود درويش),
- **SLO 5.2** evaluate how Darwīsh's poetry reflects national struggle and resistance,
- **SLO 5.3** describe the philosophical and spiritual themes in Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān's (جبران خليل جبران) writings,
- **SLO 5.4** explain the humanist and social critique present in Jibrān's selected works,
- **SLO 5.5** compare the shared concerns and differences between Darwīsh and Jibrān,
- **SLO 5.6** identify stylistic innovations introduced by both poets,
- **SLO 5.7** assess their influence on modern Arabic literature,
- **SLO 5.8** evaluate the global reception of their works through translation, and



- **SLO 5.9** appraise their enduring legacy within both Arab and world literary contexts.

5.1 Mahmūd Darwīsh (محمود درويش): Poetry Of Homeland And Resistance

5.1.1 Themes of exile and identity (موضوعات المنفى والهوية)

Mahmūd Darwīsh (محمود درويش) is often described as the voice of Palestine. His poetry reflects **exile (المنفى)**, meaning the painful experience of displacement from one's homeland, and **identity (الهوية)**, which refers to the sense of belonging and cultural self-definition. Through his verses, Darwīsh expressed the collective struggle of Palestinians while also exploring the personal dimensions of longing, memory, and belonging. His ability to weave personal identity with national exile made his poetry resonate deeply across the Arab world.

Fill in the blank: Darwīsh's poetry reflects the painful experience of _____ from one's homeland.

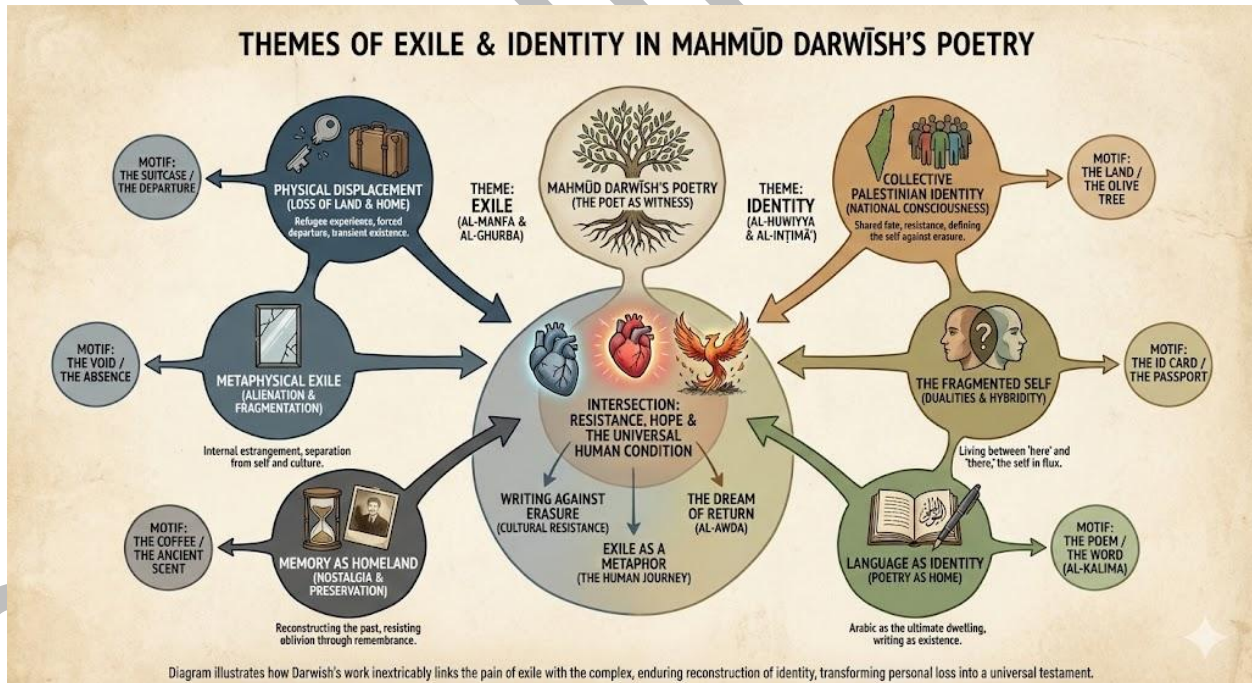


Figure 5.1: Themes of exile and identity in Darwīsh's poetry

5.1.2 National struggle and resistance (النضال الوطني والمقاومة)



Darwīsh's poetry also embodies **national struggle** (النضال الوطني) and **resistance** (المقاومة). These terms refer to the collective fight against occupation and oppression, expressed through poetic language that inspires resilience and hope. His works often became rallying cries for Palestinian identity, blending artistry with activism. By transforming political struggle into lyrical expression, Darwīsh gave voice to the aspirations of his people while maintaining universal appeal.

Fill in the blank: Darwīsh's poetry became a rallying cry for _____ identity and resistance.



Plate 5.1: Darwīsh's poetry as a voice of resistance

5.1.3 Selected poems and analysis (نماذج مختارة وتحليلها)

Darwīsh's selected works illustrate his dual focus on homeland and resistance. Poems such as *سجل أنا عربي* (Record, I Am an Arab) assert identity with defiance, while *على هذه الأرض ما يستحق* (On This Earth We Have What Deserves Life) reflects hope and beauty amidst struggle. Analysing these works shows how Darwīsh combined political resistance with lyrical artistry, creating poetry that was both deeply personal and profoundly national.

Fill in the blank: Darwīsh's *سجل أنا عربي* asserts identity with _____.



Title (العنوان)**Theme (الموضوع)**

سجل أنا عربي

Assertion of identity and defiance

على هذه الأرض ما يستحق الحياة Hope, beauty, and resistance

جدارية

Mortality, memory, and homeland

*Box 5.1: Recommended selected works of Mahmūd Darwīsh***Pilot questions 5.1**

1. What themes of exile and identity are reflected in Darwīsh's poetry?
2. Fill in the blank: Darwīsh's poetry reflects the painful experience of _____ from one's homeland.
3. What collective struggle is expressed through Darwīsh's national poetry?
4. Fill in the blank: Darwīsh's poetry became a rallying cry for _____ identity and resistance.
5. Which poem asserts Arab identity with defiance?
6. Fill in the blank: Darwīsh's *سجل أنا عربي* asserts identity with _____.

5.2 Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران): Spirituality And Humanism**5.2.1 Philosophical and spiritual themes (الموضوعات الفلسفية والروحية)**

Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران) is widely known for his exploration of **philosophical themes** (الموضوعات الفلسفية) and **spiritual themes** (الموضوعات الروحية). His writings often reflect universal questions about life, death, love, and the human soul. Through works such as *النبي* (The Prophet), Jibrān expressed ideas of spiritual harmony, inner freedom, and the search for truth.



His style combined poetic language with philosophical reflection, making his works accessible yet profound.

Fill in the blank: Jibrān's *النبي* reflects ideas of spiritual harmony and the search for _____.

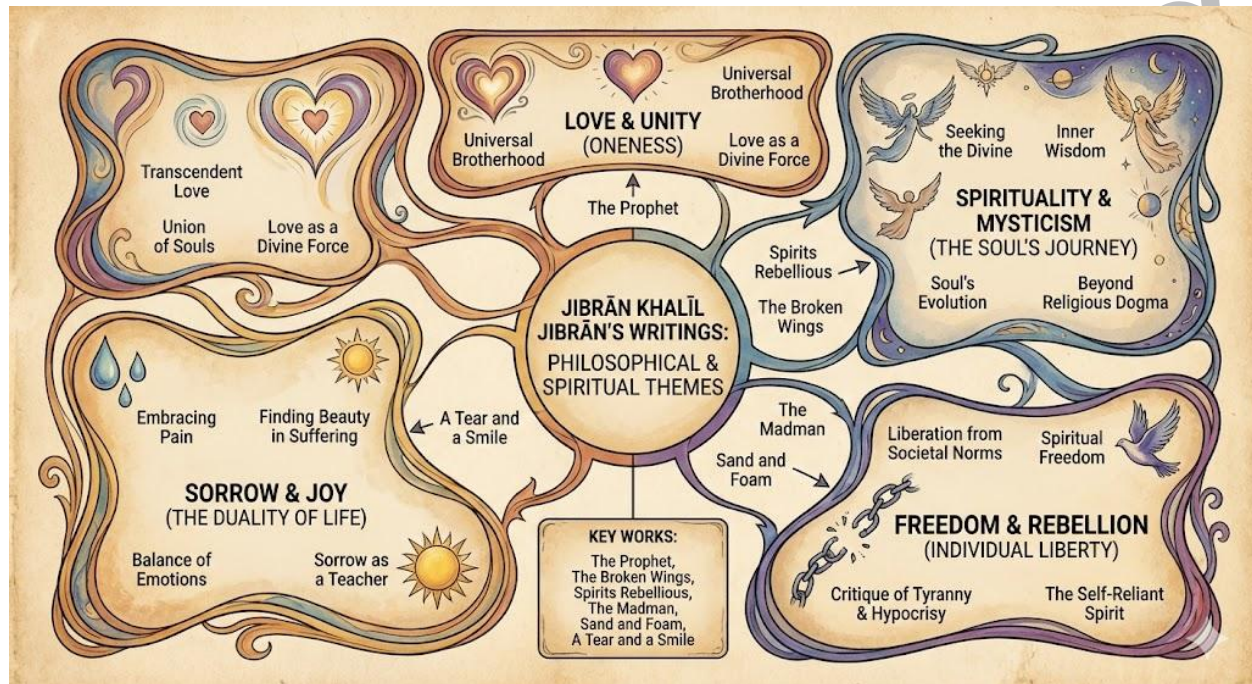


Figure 5.2: Philosophical and spiritual themes in Jibrān's works

5.2.2 Humanism and social critique (النزعة الإنسانية والنقد الاجتماعي)

Jibrān's works also embody **humanism** (النزعة الإنسانية), which emphasises the value and dignity of human beings, and **social critique** (النقد الاجتماعي), which challenges injustice and inequality. His essays and poems often addressed issues such as poverty, oppression, and the need for compassion in society. By blending humanist ideals with poetic expression, Jibrān created literature that inspired both personal reflection and social change.

Fill in the blank: Jibrān's writings emphasise the value and dignity of _____ beings.



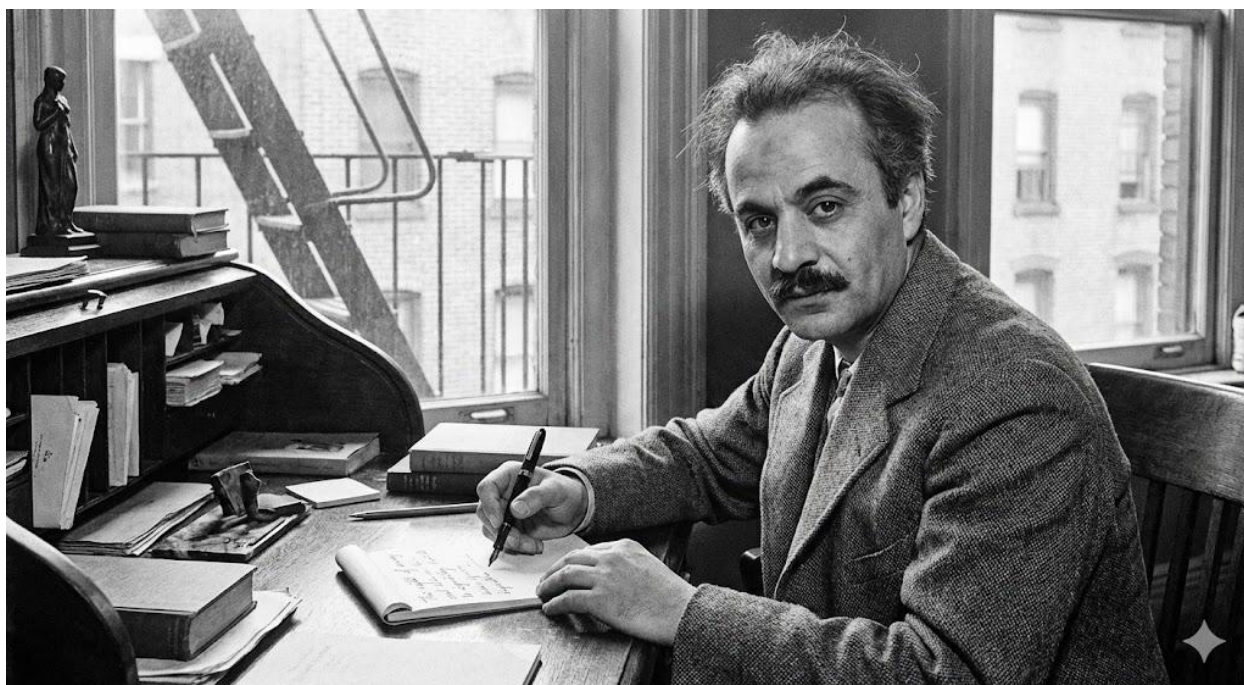


Plate 5.2: Jibrān's humanism and social critique

5.2.3 Selected works and analysis (نماذج مختارة وتحليلها)

Among Jibrān's most influential works is *النبي* (The Prophet), a collection of poetic essays on topics such as love, freedom, and work. Another significant text, *الأرواح المتمرّدة* (Spirits Rebellious), critiques social injustice and advocates for reform. Analysing these works reveals how Jibrān combined spirituality, philosophy, and humanism to create literature that transcends cultural boundaries.

Fill in the blank: Jibrān's *الأرواح المتمرّدة* critiques social _____ and advocates for reform.

Title (العنوان)	Theme (الموضوع)
النبي	Spirituality, philosophy, and universal truths
الأرواح المتمرّدة	Social critique and reform
رمل وزبد	Humanism and reflection on life

Box 5.2: Recommended selected works of Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān

Pilot questions 5.2



1. What philosophical and spiritual themes are reflected in Jibrān's writings?
2. Fill in the blank: Jibrān's *النبي* reflects ideas of spiritual harmony and the search for _____.
3. What humanist ideals are emphasised in Jibrān's works?
4. Fill in the blank: Jibrān's writings emphasise the value and dignity of _____ beings.
5. Which work critiques social injustice and advocates for reform?
6. Fill in the blank: Jibrān's *الأرواح المتمردة* critiques social _____ and advocates for reform.

5.3 Comparative Themes And Stylistic Approaches (الموضوعات والأساليب المقارنة)

5.3.1 Shared concerns and differences (الهموم المشتركة والاختلافات)

Mahmūd Darwīsh (محمود درويش) and Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران) both addressed **shared concerns** (الهموم المشتركة) such as identity, justice, and the human condition. However, their approaches differed: Darwīsh's poetry was rooted in the Palestinian struggle and collective memory, while Jibrān's writings often reflected universal spirituality and philosophical reflection. This contrast highlights how Arabic literature can simultaneously express local realities and global ideas.

Fill in the blank: While Darwīsh focused on Palestinian struggle, Jibrān reflected universal _____ and philosophical themes.



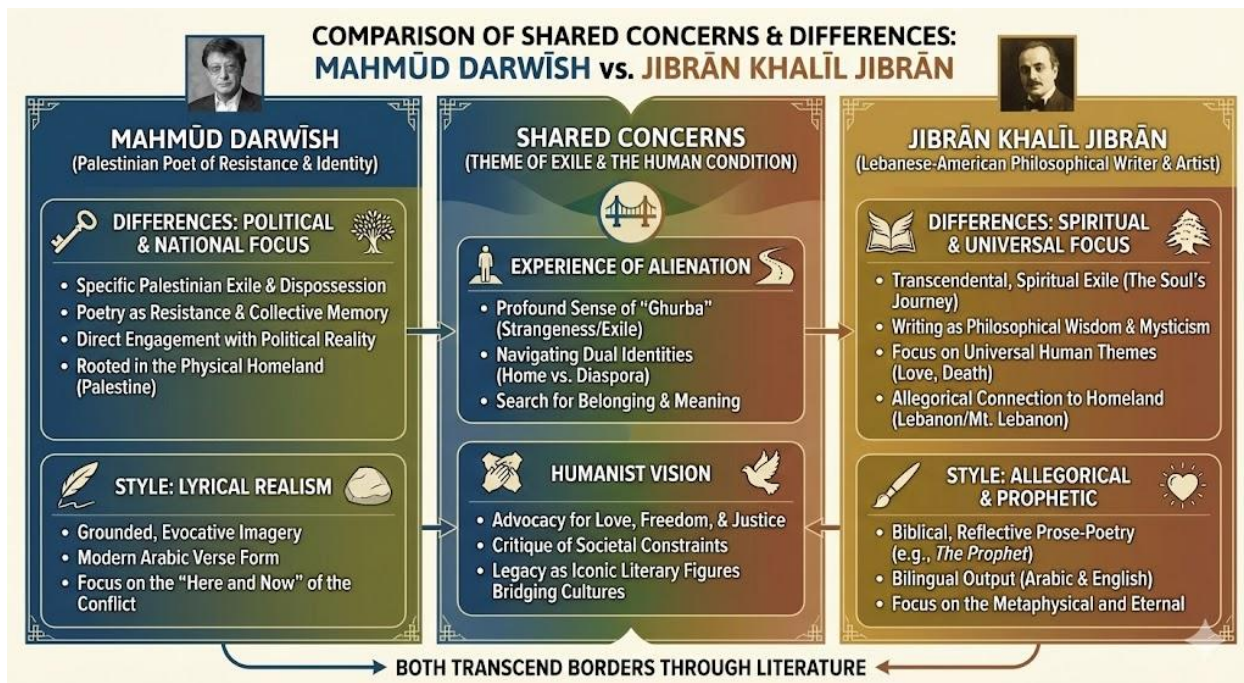


Figure 5.3: Shared concerns and differences in their works

5.3.2 Stylistic innovations (الابتكارات الأسلوبية)

Both poets introduced **stylistic innovations** (الابتكارات الأسلوبية) that reshaped Arabic literature. Darwīsh blended lyrical artistry with political resistance, while Jibrān combined poetic prose with philosophical essays. Their innovations expanded the expressive range of Arabic writing, making it more versatile and appealing to diverse audiences.

Fill in the blank: Darwīsh blended lyrical artistry with political _____, while Jibrān combined poetic prose with philosophy.





Plate 5.3: Stylistic innovations in Darwish and Jibrān's works

5.3.3 Influence on modern Arabic literature (التأثير على الأدب العربي الحديث)

The influence of Darwish and Jibrān on **modern Arabic literature** (الأدب العربي الحديث) is profound. Darwish inspired generations of poets to engage with themes of homeland and resistance, while Jibrān's philosophical writings encouraged Arab authors to explore universal humanist ideas. Together, they broadened the scope of Arabic literature, positioning it as both a voice of local identity and a contributor to global thought.

Fill in the blank: Darwish inspired poets to write about homeland and resistance, while Jibrān encouraged exploration of _____ ideas.

Poet (الشاعر) Influence (التأثير)

محمود درويش Inspired poets to write about homeland, exile, and resistance

جبران خليل جبران Encouraged exploration of spirituality, philosophy, and humanism

Box 5.3: Influence on modern Arabic literature



Pilot questions 5.3

1. What shared concerns are reflected in the works of Darwīsh and Jibrān?
2. Fill in the blank: While Darwīsh focused on Palestinian struggle, Jibrān reflected universal _____.
3. What stylistic innovations did Darwīsh and Jibrān introduce?
4. Fill in the blank: Darwīsh blended lyrical artistry with political _____, while Jibrān combined poetic prose with philosophy.
5. How did Darwīsh and Jibrān influence modern Arabic literature?
6. Fill in the blank: Darwīsh inspired poets to write about homeland and resistance, while Jibrān encouraged exploration of _____ ideas.

5.4 Global Impact And Legacy (الأثر العالمي والإرث الأدبي)

5.4.1 Translation and reception worldwide (الترجمة والاستقبال العالمي)

Both Mahmūd Darwīsh (محمود درويش) and Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران) achieved recognition beyond the Arab world through **translation (الترجمة)**. Translation refers to the rendering of their works into other languages, which allowed international audiences to engage with Arab perspectives on identity, spirituality, and resistance. Jibrān's *النبي* (The Prophet) became one of the most translated works of the twentieth century, while Darwīsh's poetry reached readers globally, often used in academic and cultural contexts.

Fill in the blank: Jibrān's *النبي* became one of the most _____ works of the twentieth century.



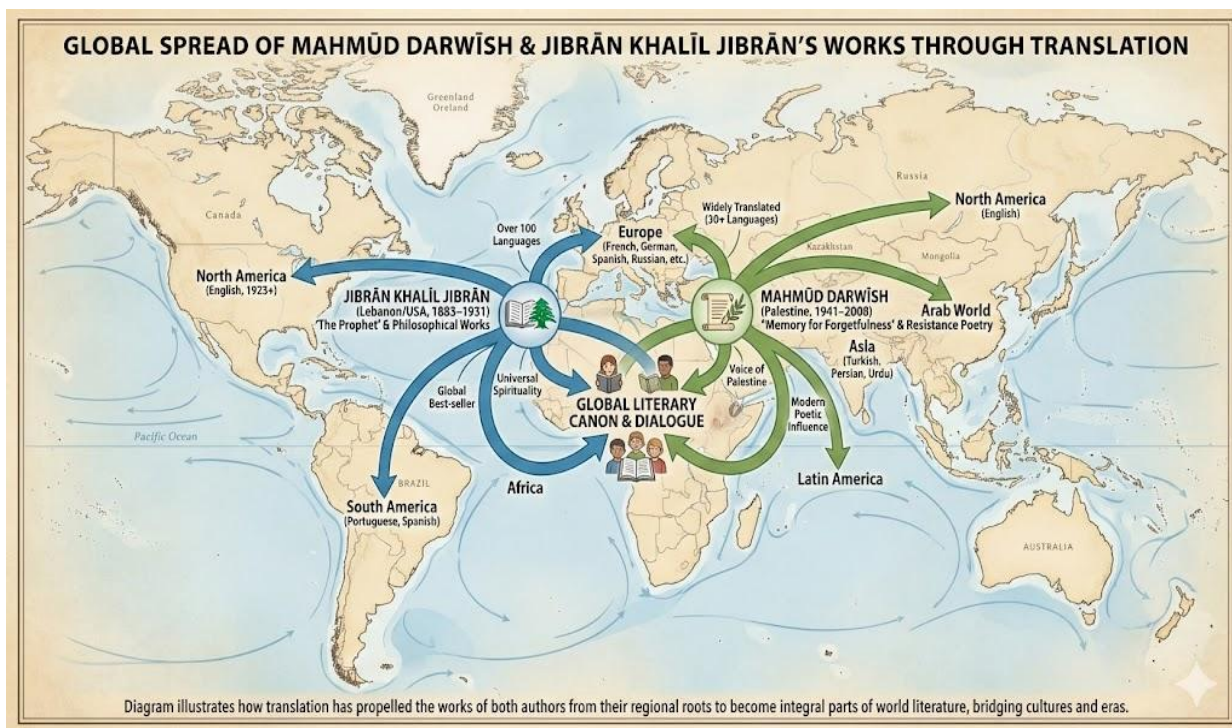


Figure 5.4: Translation and worldwide reception of their works

5.4.2 Contribution to world literature (الإسهام في الأدب العالمي)

Their writings contributed significantly to **world literature (الأدب العالمي)**. Darwīsh's poetry introduced themes of homeland and resistance into global literary discourse, while Jibrān's philosophical prose offered universal reflections on love, freedom, and spirituality. Together, they positioned Arabic literature as a vital part of world culture, bridging East and West through shared human concerns.

Fill in the blank: Darwīsh's poetry introduced themes of homeland and _____ into global literary discourse.



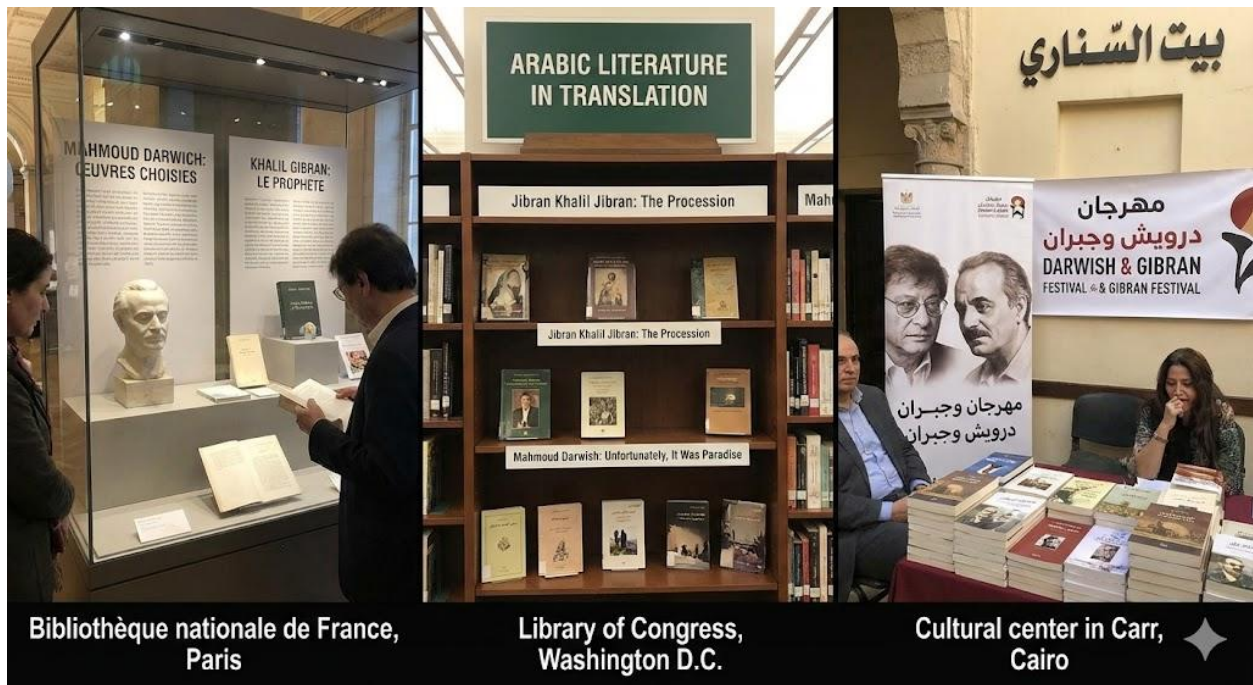


Plate 5.4: Contribution to world literature

5.4.3 Enduring legacy in Arab and global contexts (الإرث المستمر في السياقين العربي والعالمي)

The **legacy** (الإرث) of Darwīsh and Jibrān continues to shape both Arab and global contexts. Darwīsh remains a symbol of Palestinian identity and resistance, while Jibrān's writings are celebrated for their timeless wisdom and humanist ideals. Their works are studied in schools, quoted in cultural events, and referenced in global discussions on literature and philosophy. This enduring legacy ensures that their voices remain influential across generations.

Fill in the blank: Darwīsh remains a symbol of Palestinian identity and _____.

Poet (الشاعر)	Legacy (الإرث)
محمود درويش	Symbol of Palestinian identity and resistance
جبران خليل جبران	Timeless wisdom and humanist ideals

Box 5.4: Enduring legacy of Darwīsh and Jibrān

Pilot questions 5.4



1. How did translation contribute to the global reception of Darwīsh and Jibrān's works?
2. Fill in the blank: Jibrān's *النبي* became one of the most _____ works of the twentieth century.
3. What contributions did Darwīsh and Jibrān make to world literature?
4. Fill in the blank: Darwīsh's poetry introduced themes of homeland and _____ into global literary discourse.
5. What is the enduring legacy of Darwīsh and Jibrān in Arab and global contexts?
6. Fill in the blank: Darwīsh remains a symbol of Palestinian identity and _____.



Series Summary

This Series has examined the selected works of Mahmūd Darwīsh (محمود درويش) and Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران), two towering figures whose writings continue to shape modern Arabic literature and global thought. We began with Darwīsh, focusing on themes of exile, identity, and resistance, before moving to Jibrān, where we explored his philosophical and spiritual reflections alongside his humanist critique of society. We then compared their themes and stylistic innovations, highlighting both shared concerns and distinctive approaches, and finally considered their global impact and enduring legacy through translation, reception, and contribution to world literature.

Upon completing this Series, you should now be able to analyse Darwīsh's poetry of homeland and resistance, evaluate Jibrān's philosophical and humanist writings, compare their thematic and stylistic approaches, and assess their influence on modern Arabic literature and world culture. These abilities align directly with the Series Learning Outcomes (SLOs), equipping you to critically engage with their works and to appreciate their lasting significance in both Arab and global contexts.

Glossary of Terms

- **Exile (المنفى):** The condition of being displaced from one's homeland, often used in Mahmūd Darwīsh's poetry to symbolise collective suffering and longing.
- **Humanism (النزعة الإنسانية):** A literary and philosophical approach emphasising the value, dignity, and potential of human beings, central to Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān's writings.
- **Identity (الهوية):** The sense of belonging and cultural self-definition, a recurring theme in Darwīsh's poetry as he asserted Palestinian identity.
- **Legacy (الإرث):** The lasting influence and cultural impact of a poet or writer, referring to how Darwīsh and Jibrān continue to shape Arab and global literature.
- **National struggle (النضال الوطني):** The collective fight against occupation and oppression, expressed in Darwīsh's poetry as a voice of Palestinian resistance.



- **Philosophical themes (الموضوعات الفلسفية)**: Ideas that explore fundamental questions about life, existence, and truth, often present in Jibrān's works.
- **Resistance (المقاومة)**: The act of opposing oppression and injustice, a defining feature of Darwīsh's poetry.
- **Social critique (النقد الاجتماعي)**: Literary expression that challenges societal norms, injustice, and inequality, evident in Jibrān's *الأرواح المتمردة* (Spirits Rebellious).
- **Spiritual themes (الموضوعات الروحية)**: Reflections on the soul, harmony, and inner freedom, central to Jibrān's *النبي* (The Prophet).
- **Stylistic innovations (الابتكارات الأسلوبية)**: Creative changes in literary form and style, such as Darwīsh's blending of lyrical artistry with political resistance and Jibrān's poetic prose combined with philosophy.
- **Translation (الترجمة)**: The rendering of literary works into other languages, which allowed Darwīsh and Jibrān's writings to reach global audiences.



Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective questions

1. Which poet is most associated with themes of exile and resistance? (Linked to SLO 5.1, SLO 5.2)
2. Which poem by Mahmūd Darwīsh asserts Arab identity with defiance? (Linked to SLO 5.1)
3. Which work by Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān critiques social injustice and advocates reform? (Linked to SLO 5.4)
4. Which of Jibrān's works became one of the most translated texts of the twentieth century? (Linked to SLO 5.3, SLO 5.8)
5. Which poet blended lyrical artistry with political resistance? (Linked to SLO 5.6)
6. Which poet combined poetic prose with philosophical essays? (Linked to SLO 5.6)

Short-answer questions

7. Explain how Darwīsh's poetry reflects themes of exile and identity. (Linked to SLO 5.1)
8. Describe how Darwīsh's works became a rallying cry for Palestinian resistance. (Linked to SLO 5.2)
9. What philosophical and spiritual themes are reflected in Jibrān's *النبي* (The Prophet)? (Linked to SLO 5.3)
10. How does Jibrān's *الأرواح المتمردة* (Spirits Rebellious) serve as social critique? (Linked to SLO 5.4)
11. Compare one shared concern between Darwīsh and Jibrān and explain how each addressed it differently. (Linked to SLO 5.5)
12. Why is translation important for positioning their works within world literature? (Linked to SLO 5.8)

Long-answer questions



13. Analyse the significance of Mahmūd Darwīsh's role as a poet of homeland and resistance. (Linked to SLO 5.1, SLO 5.2)
14. Evaluate the collective impact of Darwīsh and Jibrān on modern Arabic literature and world culture. (Linked to SLO 5.7, SLO 5.9)



Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective questions

1. Mahmūd Darwīsh (محمود درويش).
2. سجل أنا عربي (Record, I Am an Arab).
3. الأرواح المتمرّدة (Spirits Rebellious).
4. النبي (The Prophet).
5. Mahmūd Darwīsh.
6. Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān.

Short-answer questions

7. Darwīsh's poetry reflects exile and identity by expressing displacement from homeland while asserting Palestinian cultural belonging.
8. His works became rallying cries by blending lyrical artistry with political defiance, inspiring collective resistance.
9. النبي/reflects themes of spiritual harmony, inner freedom, and universal truths about love and life.
10. الأرواح المتمرّدة/critiques social injustice by highlighting oppression and advocating reform through humanist ideals.
11. Both addressed identity: Darwīsh through Palestinian struggle, Jibrān through universal human dignity and spirituality.
12. Translation allowed their works to reach global audiences, positioning Arabic literature within world literary dialogue.

Long-answer questions

13. *Basic response:* Darwīsh's role is significant because his poetry gave voice to Palestinian exile, identity, and resistance.



Value-added response: Beyond this, his works transformed political struggle into lyrical artistry, making Palestinian identity resonate globally and inspiring generations of poets.

14. *Basic response:* Together, Darwīsh and Jibrān reshaped Arabic literature by introducing themes of resistance, spirituality, and humanism.

Value-added response: In addition, their influence extended to world literature, bridging East and West, and ensuring Arabic voices contributed to global discussions on identity, justice, and philosophy.



Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 5]

Part 5.1 Mahmūd Darwīsh (محمود درويش): Poetry of homeland and resistance

1. Exile and identity.
2. Displacement.
3. National struggle.
4. Palestinian.
5. سجل أنا عربي (Record, I Am an Arab).
6. Defiance.

Part 5.2 Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān (جبران خليل جبران): Spirituality and humanism

1. Philosophical and spiritual themes such as harmony, freedom, and truth.
2. Truth.
3. Human dignity and compassion.
4. Human.
5. الأرواح المتمرّدة (Spirits Rebellious).
6. Injustice.

Part 5.3 Comparative themes and stylistic approaches (الموضوعات والأساليب المقارنة)

1. Identity, justice, and the human condition.
2. Spirituality.
3. Darwīsh introduced lyrical resistance, Jibrān used poetic prose with philosophy.
4. Resistance.
5. They broadened Arabic literature by inspiring poets and encouraging philosophical exploration.
6. Universal.



Part 5.4 Global impact and legacy (الأثر العالمي والإرث الأدبي)

1. Translation allowed their works to reach global audiences.
2. Translated.
3. Darwīsh contributed themes of homeland and resistance, Jibrān contributed spirituality and humanism.
4. Resistance.
5. Darwīsh remains a symbol of Palestinian identity, Jibrān is remembered for timeless wisdom.
6. Resistance.

References and Attributions [Series 5]

General References (APA style)

- Darwīsh, M. (1995). سجل أنا عربي [Record, I Am an Arab]. Beirut: Dar al-Adab.
- Darwīsh, M. (2000). على هذه الأرض ما يستحق الحياة [On This Earth We Have What Deserves Life]. Ramallah: Al-Maktabah al-Asriyya.
- Jibrān, K. J. (1923). النبي [The Prophet]. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Jibrān, K. J. (1908). لأرواح المتمردة [Spirits Rebellious]. Beirut: Dar al-Mashriq.
- Jayyusi, S. K. (1987). *Modern Arabic Poetry: An Anthology*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- OER Commons. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.oercommons.org>
- JSTOR. (n.d.). *Academic journals and research databases*. Retrieved from <https://www.jstor.org>



Figures

- *Figure 5.1: Themes of exile and identity in Darwīsh's poetry* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing themes of exile and identity in Mahmūd Darwīsh's poetry.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Mahmoud Darwish exile identity poetry.”
- *Figure 5.2: Philosophical and spiritual themes in Jibrān's works* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing philosophical and spiritual themes in Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān's writings.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Gibran Khalil Gibran The Prophet philosophy spirituality.”
- *Figure 5.3: Shared concerns and differences in their works* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram comparing shared concerns and differences between Mahmūd Darwīsh and Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Mahmoud Darwish Gibran Khalil Gibran comparative themes.”
- *Figure 5.4: Translation and worldwide reception of their works* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a labelled diagram showing the global spread of Mahmūd Darwīsh and Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān's works through translation.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Mahmoud Darwish Gibran Khalil Gibran translation reception.”

Plates

- *Plate 5.1: Darwīsh's poetry as a voice of resistance* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Mahmūd Darwīsh reciting poetry at a cultural event symbolising resistance.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Mahmoud Darwish resistance poetry.”
- *Plate 5.2: Jibrān's humanism and social critique* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān writing about human dignity and social justice.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Gibran Khalil Gibran humanism social critique.”
- *Plate 5.3: Stylistic innovations in Darwīsh and Jibrān's works* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing stylistic innovations in Mahmūd Darwīsh's lyrical



resistance and Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān’s poetic prose.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource stylistic innovations Arabic poetry Darwish Gibran.”

- *Plate 5.4: Contribution to world literature* – AI-generated using the prompt “Create an image showing Mahmūd Darwīsh and Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān’s works displayed in international libraries and cultural centres.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Arabic literature world literature Darwish Gibran.”

Boxes

- *Box 5.1: Recommended selected works of Mahmūd Darwīsh* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a simple table listing selected works of Mahmūd Darwīsh with their themes.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Mahmoud Darwish selected works analysis Arabic poetry.”
- *Box 5.2: Recommended selected works of Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a simple table listing selected works of Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān with their themes.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Gibran Khalil Gibran selected works analysis.”
- *Box 5.3: Influence on modern Arabic literature* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a simple table listing the influence of Darwīsh and Jibrān on modern Arabic literature.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource influence Mahmoud Darwish Gibran Khalil Gibran modern Arabic literature.”
- *Box 5.4: Enduring legacy of Darwīsh and Jibrān* – AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a simple table listing the enduring legacy of Mahmūd Darwīsh and Jibrān Khalīl Jibrān.” Suggested OER search string: “open educational resource Mahmoud Darwish Gibran Khalil Gibran legacy.”

