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Rhetorical Analysis
9th November 2024

Echoing to Home

In the middle of the chaos-filled streets of Lebanon in 1975, he stood out as a brave soul. Abdullah Al Hammadi was obviously foreign in his white Qatari thobe and bright red ghutra – an easy target for the raging strangers. When he was asked about his identity, the word escaped his lips with ease. As he was insulted because of his identity, and though silence may have been a safer option, he boldly echoed the first words of the poem with pride: “الله يا عمري قطر” (Qatar, my beloved). I can proudly say that this courageous man is my great uncle. Through strong rhetorical devices and vivid imagery, this poem communicates the late poet's pride, love, and longing. By reinforcing the Qatari identity and engaging with the audience, the poet effectively communicates his message of national pride.

Declaring his national pride demonstrates his bravery and makes his message powerful. Despite going through hardship and longing, he was still loyal to his country. He starts off the poem with “الله يا عمري قطر” (Qatar, my beloved) as if he’s calling onto his homeland – a powerful opening representing closeness, and immediately communicating his affection for Qatar to the reader. Then, the poet describes the scent of his homeland in the line “وردة نسماذج عطر” (A rose, your breeze is a fragrance). Capturing the pleasant scent of his homeland, he uses a metaphor to compare its breeze to the smell of pleasant perfume. The repetition of the words “انتي من روحي قريبة” (You are close to my soul) emphasizes his deep connection to Qatar, showcasing his attachment to it. The genuine emotions he felt while being far away are clear here, capturing the longing and homesickness he felt.

His feelings of ache and desperation to be back in Qatar are shown throughout the poem. The words “حنيت بشوق يا قطر” (I long for you, Qatar) emphasize how he never stopped yearning for his homeland. The line “حنيت وشففت الفجر” (I longed until I saw the dawn), captures the sleepless nights he spent thinking of Qatar until sunrise, and his tone is filled with nostalgia and homesickness. He uses personification in the line “شمس تعطينا امل” (The sun gives us hope), where he implies that each morning brings him hope that he will see his home again. This indicates that he has a routine of not being able to sleep from the ache he feels until the sun rises. In an interview in 2014, Abdulla was asked about the line “والقمر بنوره طل” (And the moon rises with its light), where he explained that he believes every Qatari’s face resembles the moon in its beauty. This simile showcases his deep admiration for his people. Emphasizing his desperate longing to return to his homeland, he repeats the lines where he describes his passion for Qatar throughout the poem. He uses impactful language devices that communicate the intensity of his love, which helps the reader fully grasp his yearning.

The late poet expresses his admiration and love for his homeland in the line “يا قطر احلى منى” (Oh Qatar, you are more beautiful than my deepest wish), describing Qatar as something even more cherished than his own dreams. This line is a symbol of how special the place Qatar holds in his heart. Interestingly, the poet’s daughter's name, Muna, is also referenced in this line, suggesting a personal connection. By comparing his country to his daughter he expresses the closeness both she and Qatar hold in his life, and it’s almost like he is speaking directly to her. This comparison highlights his attachment to Qatar and how the importance of his homeland to him is similar to the bond between him and his daughter.

Abdulla Al Hammadi engages with the local Qatari community by using imagery to highlight traditions that are special to Qataris. Creating a sense of familiarity and identity, he effectively connects with the intended audience. In the line “حييت حبات الندى” (I loved the

drops of dew), the poet captures the moments that resonate deeply with Qataris. The mention of the tiny "raindrops" we see in the early morning – something that is cherished by us locals – creates a connection between him and the audience. Similarly, the line “والعود وساعات السمر” (The oud, and the late-night gatherings) is a strong imagery that connects with our culture and tradition. The oud is a famous instrument that symbolizes the shared love of music that brings family and friends together. He captures the nights when loved ones gather around, making the audience connect on a personal level.

During his time away from home, Qatar wasn't just a place he was aching to return to, it was what gave my uncle emotional strength in a moment of danger. This can be seen in the line "انتني بعيني امل" (You are hope in my eyes) which reflects how Qatar wasn't just his homeland, it's a symbol of resilience and strength – it was his reason to keep going. Turning from a place to a beacon of hope, Qatar helped him hold on to his identity. While we recite this poem every year to embrace our love for Qatar, for Abdulla, it was a reminder of where he belonged and what he was fighting to return to.

Diving deep into the connection that we Qataris share with our homeland, Abdulla Al Hammadi used vivid imagery and simple language to make sure his message was conveyed to all. He emphasized the importance of using such simple, yet powerful words to him. His poem will forever be our symbol of pride, identity, and love. Through his effective use of rhetorical devices, he was able to communicate his love for his homeland and make others relate to it. Qatar is more than just a place to him, it was his rock that kept him grounded through hard times. This powerful poem is a token of national pride and love and will be recited across generations by the people of his country.

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