

# The Beginning of Speech

by Adonis (Translated by Khaled Mattawa)

(1930 – present)

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The child I was came to me  
once,  
a strange face

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                          He said nothing           We walked  
each of us glancing at the other in silence, our steps  
a strange river running in between

We were brought together by good manners  
and these sheets now flying in the wind  
then we split,  
a forest written by earth  
watered by the seasons' change.

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Child who once was, come forth—  
What brings us together now,  
and what do we have to say?

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