

Smoke

By Fu'ad Rifqa

If only we were stones
and had earth around us,
a cave,
5 to shield us from the distances,
If only we were oysters
lodged in seaweed
But no we are a wound, rivers without course
Without safe anchor;
10 We are the sound of bells
along time's road.

If only we could be, like rocks
at cave's mouth,
15 untroubled by memory,
then we might rest.
Instead
we are expanse,
a sign,
20 on endless horizons
fire and smoke.