

## Translating Literary Texts

### Arabic Passage:

من كتاب: الأيام لـ طه حسين ص: 22

كان سابع ثلاثة عشر من أبناء أبيه، وخامس أحد عشر من أشقته، وكان يشعر بأن له بين هذا العدد الضخم من الشباب والأطفال مكاناً خاصاً يمتاز من مكان إخوته وأخواته. أكان هذا المكان يُرضيه؟ أكان يُؤذيه؟ الحق أنه لا يتبين ذلك إلا في غموض وإبهام، والحق أنه لا يستطيع الآن أن يحكم في ذلك حكماً صادقاً. كان يُحس من أمه رحمةً ورأفةً، وكان يجد من أبيه ليناً ورفقاً، وكان يشعر من أخوته بشيء من الاحتياط في تحدثهم إليه ومعاملتهم له. ولكنه كان يجد إلى جانب هذه الرحمة والرأفة من جانب أمه شيئاً من الإهمال أحياناً، ومن الغلظة أحياناً أخرى. وكان يجد إلى جانب هذا اللين والرفق من أبيه شيئاً من الإهمال أيضاً، والازورار من وقت إلى وقت، وكان احتياط إخوته وأخواته يُؤذيه؛ لأنه كان يجد فيه شيئاً من الإشفاق مشوباً بشيء من الازدراء.

على أنه لم يلبث أن تبين سبب هذا كله، فقد أحس أن لغيره من الناس عليه فضلاً، وأن إخوته وأخواته يستطيعون ما لا يستطيع، وينهضون من الأمر لما لا ينهض له، وأحس أن أمه تأذن لإخوته وأخواته في أشياء تحظرها عليه، وكان ذلك يُحفظه، ولكن لم تلبث هذه الحفيظة أن استحوطت إلى حزن صامت عميق؛ ذلك أنه سمع إخوته يصفون ما لا علم له به، فعلم أنهم يرون ما لا يرى.

### English translation:

#### The Autobiography of Taha Hussein: translated by E. H. Paxton 1932

He was the seventh of the thirteen children of his father, and the fifth out of the eleven children of his father's second wife. He used to feel that among this enormous number of youths and infants he had a special place distinct from his brothers and sisters. Did this position please him or did it annoy him? The truth is that he cannot definitely say, nor is he now able to form a correct judgment about it. He experienced much tenderness and consideration from his mother, and from his father lenience and kindness, and his brothers he felt were somewhat reserved in their conversation and dealings with him. But he found side by side with this tenderness and consideration on the part of his mother a certain amount of negligence sometimes, and at others even harshness. And side by side with the lenience of his father he found a certain amount of negligence also, and even severity from time to time. Moreover, the reserve of his brothers and sisters pained him because he found therein a sympathy tainted with revulsion. However, it was not long before he learnt the reason of all this, for he perceived that other people had an advantage over him and that his brothers and sisters were able to do things that he could not do and to tackle things that he could not. He felt that his mother permitted his brothers and sisters to do things that were forbidden to him. This aroused, at first, a feeling of resentment, but ere long this feeling of resentment turned to a silent, but heartfelt, grief — when he heard his brothers and sisters describing things about which he had no knowledge at all. Then he knew that they saw what he did not.