

Radio of the Arab Republic of Egypt

THE ART OF SQUARE POEMS

Feature program directed by:

Dr. Mohammed Lotfy

Duration	Speaker	Broadcasted Content
0.00	Broadcaster	Radio of the Arab Republic of Egypt presents
0.3		music
0.8	Broadcaster	THE ART OF SQUARE POEMS
0.11		music
0.13	Broadcaster	The art of square pomes A Feature program directed by: Dr. Mohammed Lotfy
0.16	Opening of the singing in the style of squares pomes	I worship one God, a creator of humans Creator of Muslims and Christians People eating at tables And People suffering for their subsistence
0.45	Another part of the squares pomes	A day will certainly come When grievances are selived Justice will be done Oppressors will feel grieved
1.04	Narrator	A day will certainly come When grievances are selived Justice will be done Oppressors will feel grieved The majority of Egyptians know these famous verses, It is one of the most famous square poems of poet Ahmed Ibn Arous, Upper Egyptians had known a special type of folk poetry and singing called “squares” this art appeared during the Mamlukes rule of Egypt, when singing and poetry reflected the life of Egyptians even at their joys. This is a part of the radio heritage that used to be sung at wedding parties in the fourteenth century AD:

Duration	Speaker	Broadcasted Content
1.45	Popular singer	<p>First we say pray and blessing be on our Prophet "Arab prophet Master"</p> <p>After saying prayer on our Prophet we congratulate the most beautiful bride and the bridegroom</p> <p>Then ,I talk about what is going on I talks about the Mamlukes gang and what has happened. A gong of slaves became among us masters</p> <p>Alas the worst time looting and theft are done in public My God cut them off from here and protect our nations from them</p>
3.05	Narrator	<p>The singer and the poet and those who support them are subject to punishment and imprisonment as a result of the criticism of the ruling authority, and there was a need for an intensive exchange of political messages, indicative of the rhetorical and eloquent rhetoric of the popular poet and singer.</p> <p>Professor of popular literature d. Salah Al-Rawi:</p>
3.29	Dr.Salah Al-Rawi	<p>The popular culture is produced by the people for a specific purpose or for a specific function, this is resistance and its axes are three,</p> <p>1-Resistance to natural physical inevitability, or laws of nature</p> <p>2-Resistance to the metaphysical imperative or all that is not scientifically understood by the mind becomes behind nature and is resist</p> <p>3-Resistance to social or class necessity</p>
3.54	Narrator	<p>The poet of the squares pomes ,Abd al Sattar Slim say that the reason behind this type is</p>

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3.59	Abd al Sattar Slim	<p>This art of popular poetry was born and raised in Upper Egypt, Those who created it were illiterate (could not read or write) and the reason for their creativity is to express their complaint of time and of human beings.</p> <p>Upper Egypt was deprived of its basic infrastructure, industry and agriculture. Upper Egypt was a repellent place, So they created this art to express their pain and dreams.</p>
4.39	Narrator	<p>The poet Abd al-Sattar Slim collected most of the songs of squares pomes in three volumes About the reason for naming this type of pomes squares he says</p>
4.52	Abd al Sattar Slim	<p>This art has a special rhyme scheme, We know that poem has a poetic rhyme in the last word of each verse, But this art the rhyme scheme is observed inside each stanza The pome consists of stanzas, each two verses are made of four stanzas, the first two stanzas in each verse have the same rhyme, the other two stanzas have the same rhyme, In terms of linguistics, this is called a assonance</p>
5.20	Narrator	<p>Each square expresses a separate idea It is also known for using “and” several times So it is called Wow</p>
5.31	Singers	<p style="text-align: center;">There was no wind for my sail And, turn back, I told myself And, like me, many people would fail But when they suffer, they show strength</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Life is always downs and up Just watch it carefully A goat in your farm grew up could just thrust you suddenly Alas...Alas...Alas</p>

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6.29	Narrator	<p>The squares began as a popular folk art of a political nature opposed to the authority, After that varied manifestations and purposes to express love, pride and praise, Musicians and singers developed the squares and used papular instruments like Rababa, Naai, flute... etc This art began in the province of Qena in Upper Egypt, The singer and poet, Shawki Knawy</p>
7.04	Shawki Knawy	<p style="text-align: center;"> Since I was a young Everything went the <i>same</i> what I did wasn't wrong but justice never <i>came</i> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> when afflicted sometimes I cried And sometimes I went singing My close friends talked their words were bitter Bad people cut my way They told me to leave and go away Their words were bitter Everything went the same </p>
8.14	Narrator	<p>The poet blamed the time and days for his fatigue and misery, and then moved to criticise unfair political situations saying</p>

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8.24	Shawki Knawy	<p>If you see what happen in our time And what a group of boys did The enemy's words are right And the bravest mean feil</p> <p>There is no air and insects spread You have to leave it and close your eyes to sleep and cover your hand let them weak men rise</p> <p>If you see what happen in our time And what a group of boys did The enemy's words are right And the bravest mean feil</p> <p>Boats are made of acacia woel And in the sea they sail to keep silent A free man should When villains's words prevail</p>
10.09	Narrator	<p>Thus, the manifestations of this form of folk art addressed the a poor and oppressed society It gave a message and criticised a social, economic and political conditions So the marginalised people told it in the form of songs Professor of folk literature Dr. Salah Al - Rawi</p>
10.28	Dr.Salah Al-Rawi	<p>This creative form absorbs many different ideas The epic (EL Hilal) was written in the form of the squares and contained one million verses in a diversity between war and love</p>
10.41	Narrator	<p>Here comes a question, How can we preserve this heritage? And who is responsible for preserving it?</p>

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10.47	Dr.Salah Al-Rawi	From a state perspective, it preserves heritage as part of the nation's public legacy The State is of the opinion that it is given credit for preserving the national heritage, but it doesn't believe in its importance
11.00	Narrator	The poet Abd al Sattar Slim
11.02	Abd al Sattar Slim	Ministry of Culture and culture palaces don't render genuine service When we want to hold a poetry evening at a cultural palace, they do not have enough money ever to announce the evenings and poetry salons, and there is no money to host the poets What should we do?
11.21	Narrator	Who is responsible for preserving this heritage? Dr. Salah Al-Rawi
11.27	Dr.Salah Al-Rawi	The community, which we work with and which produces this legacy we betray this community when we do not save it culture, and only consider it a source of livelihood, exploit it and do not consider it part of our culture, When I use it, I work against it
11.40	Narrator	We present the problem to the state through official state radio. We have to save this art and respect of the community which produced. We have to give them the opportunity to be heard and spread. We now see some bands and youth singing the squares. This "workshop team" sings squares pomes:

Duration	Speaker	Broadcasted Content
11.55	Workshop team	<p>Peace and prayer on the Prophet My praise of the Prophet heals my bones The Prophet said, O Bilal O Abu Bakr, call for the prayer time</p> <p>There was no wind for my sail And, turn back, I told myself And, like me, many people would fail But when they suffer, they show strength</p> <p>Life is always down and up A goat in your farm grew up could just thrust you suddenly Alas...Alas...Alas</p> <p>For when you are calling The gardener collected all the harvest My old wound is hurting When I was blamed, my wound is worst</p> <p>Something is hurting inside me Another thing is what you see some people cry, others sing for me Someone smiles, a loser he may be</p> <p>No one is badly defeated like me And your defeat has torn me My friends hurt me My enemies tortured me</p> <p>My doctor visited me in afternoon He punished me with a stick My doctor betrayed me soon From my enemy he brought the trick</p>

Duration	Speaker	Broadcasted Content
		<p style="text-align: center;">There is no air and insects spread You have to leave it and close your eyes to sleep and cover your hand let them weak men rise</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Boats are made of acacia woel And in the sea they sail to keep silent A free man should When villains's words prevail</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your time is modern Tin bulbs no longer exist Look, whoever is deprived of the Father, today longs for him Your time is modern The train is running fast I have seen the children of torment Sitting in the shade under umbrellas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do not respect the traitor, even if in the highest positions Everyone is suffering Even sail boats suffer Ales....Ales....Ales</p>
16.19	Narrator	<p style="text-align: center;">Still, some musical troupes sing squares So as not to lose the literature and folk legacy Every moment there is poetry and singing.It produces a message, produces wisdom, produces value and produces art</p>

Duration	Speaker	Broadcasted Content
16.38	Popular singer	<p>I am free of defects but my relatives blame me We live together in happy times but in hard times they blame me In my face they smile And from behind they hete me</p> <p>A liar, who says honey is my food You ate sweets Come and taste bitter food</p> <p>I wish I have a sincere friend who can stay with me a while</p> <p>I was found to serve and fore I have advised everyone but all of them blamed me</p>
		music
18.03	Broadcaster	<p>THE ART OF SQUARE POEMS A Feature program</p> <p>Read: Dr. Hassan Madani</p> <p>Written and directed by</p>
18.18		Dr. Mohamed Lotfy