

Classic Poetry Series

**Mahmoud Sami Al Baroudi**  
**- poems -**

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## Mahmoud Sami Al Baroudi(1838-1904)

Mahmoud Sami el-Baroudi (1838–1904) (Arabic: محمود سامي البارودي) was a significant Egyptian political figure and a prominent poet. He served as Prime Minister of Egypt from 4 February 1882 until 26 May 1882. He was known as *rab alseif wel qalam* ("lord of sword and pen").

# Ask The Spacious Giza

Ask the spacious Giza about the two pyramids of Egypt,  
so that you may know the secret of that unknown to you.  
Two structures repelling the assault of ages.  
what a wonder is their overcoming of this assault.  
They stood despite the calamities of ages  
to prove the glory of their builders in the world.  
How many nations have perished and ages lapsed  
while they remain the wonder of the eye and the mind .

Mahmoud Sami Al Baroudi

# Egypt's Good Fortune

Egypt's good fortune has changed beyond recognition,  
and the foundation of the kingdom have been violently  
shaken so that the very birds were frightened.

The cultivator, as a result of tyranny, has neglected his land;  
and the merchant, from fear of poverty,  
has withdrawn his money.

Such dread has become so dominate that none can sleep  
in the dead of night, but remain, vigilant.

Woe to such a land! Were it not for the greatest heritage  
buried therein we would not have lived in its vicinity.

I tolerate it though it gives me no blessing ,  
My hope would be elsewhere were it not for my poeple.

My soul, do not despair,  
for good is expected and the will of a man  
of patience does not weaken.

Perhaps a gleam of light will illuminate the way,  
after a night in which darkness has prevailed.

I see souls no longer able to bear their burdens;  
I see sword bearers about to unsheath their swords.

Mahmoud Sami Al Baroudi

# He Established The Rule Of Consultaion

He established the rule of consultaion,  
the most noble of guiding principles,  
for every rightly guided leader to follow.  
Consultaion is the protector of the religion  
revealed to the prophet Muhammad  
by the lord of creation.  
He who seeks its support makes  
firm his rule, and he who disdains  
it will be led astray.

Mahmoud Sami Al Baroudi

# I Committed No Offense

which should condemn me to this,  
my state. why must i suffer  
this distress and grief?  
Was that, my defense of rreligion  
and country, a crime for which  
i should be unjustly condemned and exiled?

Mahmoud Sami Al Baroudi

# Oh Egypt

Oh Egypt, may your shadow be extended  
and your soil be drenched  
with the pure water of the Nile.  
you are the sanctuary of my people  
and the branching place of my family,  
the playground of my age-mate  
and the race course of my horses.  
A country in which youth took off  
the amulet of my childhood and  
hung the scabbard of my sword on my shoulder .  
I felt behind in it noble kinsmen  
and neighbors whose image  
comes back to me every morning.  
I felt the sweetness of life after their  
departure and said farewell to the soft flower of youth.

Mahmoud Sami Al Baroudi

# Oh Tyrant In Your Kingdom

Oh tyrant in your kingdom,  
are you deceived by  
the power which vanishes?  
Do what you will to us in cruelty.  
God is just;  
Judgment Day is tomorrow.

Mahmoud Sami Al Baroudi



# Some People Say

Some people say that I revolted to dethrone.  
Such is a defect far from my character.  
Nay, I called for justice,  
seeking to please God,  
and I awakened the people of truth.  
I commanded good and forbade evil,  
and that is but the obligation of all people.  
If my action was a rebellion,  
then I Intended through  
my rebellion obedience to my lord.  
Is the call for consultation a disgrace to me  
when in it lies the guidance  
for the seeker of the right way?  
Nay. truly it is an obligatory observance  
imposed by God on every living soul, ruling or ruled.  
How could anyone be free  
and cultured while approning  
of that which every sinner commits?  
Though others have been treacherously  
hypocritical in their religion,  
praise be to God that  
i am not of their number.  
Verily i did my utmost to advice  
those whose treachery prevented them  
from accepting sincere advice.  
They decided to rule the people by force,  
and so they hastend to violate  
their established agreements.  
When oppression continued  
a military group raised their banners in revolt.  
The people of the country supported them  
and rushed to join from all sides.  
They wanted the ruler of the country  
to carry out the sincere  
promise he had sworn to his people.  
This is the evident writh,  
so do not ask others,  
for verily i am the knower of truths.

