



University of Iowa

International Writing Program Archive of Residents' Work

10-7-2016

In Minor Things, we find Major Politics

Odeh Bisharat

Panel: Writing and Politics (IC Book Festival panel)

Rights

Copyright © 2016 Odeh BISHARAT

Recommended Citation

Bisharat, Odeh, "In Minor Things, we find Major Politics" (2016). *International Writing Program Archive of Residents' Work*. 932.

https://ir.uiowa.edu/iwp_archive/932

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#). For more information please contact: lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

Odeh BISHARAT

In Minor Things, we find Major Politics

Many times, I when I read a literary text, I recognize the political background of the writer. Politics, in the broadest sense of the word, shapes societies in various areas. Politics is not just the shop window of the politicians that we see on TV. Politics is the social and economical and cultural powers which stand behind, shaping the behavior of the politicians who stand in front.

So, I understand culture in two ways:

On the one hand, it is a reflection of the comprehensive struggle between social, economic, and ethical forces. On the other hand, it is an influential power over the struggle that is taking place in society.

For Palestinians authors in Israel, politics, in its direct meaning, has a great influence on their creativity. Because politics touches the Arab citizen's daily life, at school, in the infrastructure, in university studies, and in housing. And they face politics also during states of war, whenever incitement reaches frightening levels. And they are also concerned about the fate of their brethren who were deported in 1948, and lived as refugees in Arab countries, such as Syria.

On the other hand, a Palestinian youth in the occupied territory, needs to pass checkpoints when he wants to meet his girlfriend. Therefore, if he wants to write a simple love story, he must include barriers in it.

We have good writers who know how to write about the individual human life within the complicated Arab situation. On the other hand, there are those whose creativity is only a kind of political manifesto, nothing more.

I personally live the Palestinian tragedy. In my articles, I deal directly with political issues. I mention also the human aspects. I can't write about painful matters without thinking about the people who are behind them. But when I write literature, I write about what is happening around me. Because even in conflict, people are living their ordinary lives: they love, they betray, they steal, they envy.

In dealing with people's intimate daily lives, it is impossible to avoid the larger issues. Because in minor things, you can find major politics.