

# *[Demystification of the Hereafter]*

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## 1. when do the dead eat?

*on thursdays*

*the day he slept  
& never had to sleep again*

## 2. what do the dead eat?

*he feeds on alms  
in form of salts & clothes  
& grains & prayers*

*but his soul does not  
have a body when  
dead.*

*but his soul is a glass,  
a whiff of wind, undulating,  
masking itself in the din,*

*pipng into my ears  
as if to exchange  
pleasantries.*

### 3. how do the dead eat?

*like creatures.  
he comes to me  
in labyrinths.*

*the marabouts  
i gift his clothes,  
little children  
gathered for offals,*

*beggars with pints  
of salt, birds feeding  
on scattered grains.*

*he assumes a state  
of anonymity,*

*like abstractions, like  
everything-god-you-  
can't-see.*

### 4. where do the dead meet the living?

*silence is the path  
where i see my father  
sculpted in air.*

*in cackles of wind,  
in birdsongs,  
in fluttering of leaves.*

*in gatherings where  
every child hugs their  
fathers & i have none.*

**5. how do you separate  
the dead from the living?**

*sadly,  
the sun does not  
find my father  
a worth to shine on.*