

Reading Tawfiq Canaan: Against Statelessness as Method, Towards Statelessness as Technology

Researchers **Khaled Malas** and **Nadine Fattaleh**'s inquiry into an assemblage of 'talismatic objects' collected in the first decade of the twentieth century by Dr Tawfiq Canaan—a Palestinian physician, scholar, and collector today remembered for his groundbreaking ethnographic work on Palestinian folklore and 'superstition'—is a foray into understanding the heritage of Palestinians who shared spaces and lifestyles with natural and perpetual forces that offered gifts and presented demands upon their bodies, communities, and land.

These reading, in Malas and Fattaleh's words, "will help us think hard about our preferences and expectations from texts generally, and scholarship in particular. We admit some of these texts are tedious, whilst others are dense. Some you may find unusual, whilst others are frankly offensive and disturbing. All are worth our attention. All may contribute to our understanding of the efficacy of Canaan's collections and its potential in contemporary Palestinian struggles."

The reading list forms the preliminary source material for their workshop, *Reading Tawfiq Canaan: Against Statelessness as Method, Towards Statelessness as Technology*, and is organised into sections, reflecting the themes of the sessions.

Reading list:

Introduction

. Callois, Roger. "Letter to André Breton - 27 December 1934", *The Edge of Surrealism*, edited by Claudine Frank, translated by Claudine Frank and Camille Naish (Durham & London: Duke University Press, 2003): 84-86.

. Garcia Probert, Marcela. A. "Exploring the life of amulets in Palestine: from healing and protective remedies to the Tawfik Canaan Collection of Palestinian Amulets", (PhD Diss, Leiden University, 2021): Appendix B.

Background on Tawfiq Canaan and his Collections

. Abdel Majeed, Yasmeeen. "A symbol of a lost homeland", *Welcome Collection Stories*. 1 December 2020.

. Bourmaud, Philippe. "A Son of the Country": Dr. Tawfiq Canaan, Modernist Physician and Palestinian Ethnographer, in *Struggle and Survival in Palestine/Israel* eds. Mark LeVine and Gershon Shafir (California: University of California Press, 2012): 104-124.

. Canaan, Tawfiq. "Palestinian Amulets and Folklore," in *Tawfiq Canaan: An Autobiography*, eds. Mitri Raheb ([Bethlehem]: Diyar Publisher, 2020): 97-102.

. Helmecke, Gisela. "The Tewfik Canaan Collection of Palestinian Amulets," in *Ya Kafi, Ya Shafi: The Tawfik Canaan Collection of Palestinian Amulets .. An Exhibition*, October 30, 1998 - February 25, 1999, eds. Khaled Nashef (Birzeit: Birzeit University, 1998): 27-34.

Technologies & Things

. Baader, Hannah and Ittai Weinryb. "Images at Work: On Efficacy and Historical Interpretation", *Representations* 133 (2016): 1-19.

. Gell, Alfred. "Technology and Magic", *Anthropology Today*, 4/2 (1988): 6-9.

. Walker, Bynum, Caroline. "Holy Things and the Problem of Likeness", *Dissimilar Similitudes: Devotional Objects in Late Medieval Europe* (New York: Zone Books, 2020): 15-57.

Spaces

. Fricke, Beate. "Tales from Stones, Travels through Time: Narrative and Vision in the Casket from the Vatican," *West 86th: A Journal of Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture* 21/2 (2014): 230-250.

. Khalidi, Tarif. "Space, Holiness, and Time: Palestine in the Classical Arab Centuries", *Studies in Arab History: The Antonius Lectures, 1978-87* eds. Derek Hopwood (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 1990): 165-173.

. Munif, Abdel Rahman. "Chapter Two", *Story of a City: A Childhood in Amman*, trans. Samira Kwar (London: Quartet Books, 1998): 27-33.

Healing from the Land

. Canaan, Tawfiq. "Water and the 'Water of Life' in Palestinian Superstition," *Journal of the Palestinian Oriental Society*, 9 (1929): 57-69.

. Canaan, Tawfiq. "Superstition and Folklore about Bread," *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, 167 (1962): 36-47.

. Grehan, James. "Sacred Landscapes," in *Twilight of the Saints: Everyday Religion in Ottoman Syria and Palestine* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014) :116-140.

Conclusions: Pending Questions and Responsibilities

. Ginzburg, Carlo. "The Inquisitor as Anthropologist" [1986], *Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method*, translated by John and Anne C. Tedeschi (Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1989): 141-148, 203-204 [notes].

. Habiby, Emile. "Saeed Reveals a Strange Family Secret" *The Secret Life of Saeed the Pessoptimist*, trans. Salma K. Jayyusi and Trevor LeGassick (Northampton: Interlink Books, 2003): 27-31.

. Nappi, Carla. "Following Ghosts: Skinning Science in early modern Eurasia", *Empires of Knowledge: Scientific Networks in the Early Modern World*, edited by Paula Findlen (Abingdon & New York: Routledge, 2019): 367-372.

. Tamari, Salim. "Lepers, Lunatics, And Saints: The Nativist Ethnography Of Tawfiq Canaan And His Circle," in *Mountain against the Sea : Essays on Palestinian society and culture*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009): 93-112.