



VERSE IN PLACE

MOSAB ABU TOHA

Palestinian Village

On the hill in the village, you can chock
the wheels of your vegetable cart
with a stone your grandfather once used
to crush thyme. Or smash garlic with a
stone your grandmother used as a doorstep.
You can lounge
on a wicker chair near a pomegranate tree,
where a canary never tires of singing.
You can dig a hole with your hands
and find an earthworm breathing
the freshness of soil revived by yesterday's rain.
You can make a tea with sage or mint,
If a neighbor or a passerby smells it,
an invitation to join is extended.
You put more cups on your table,
you walk to the garden and pick
more fresh sage or more mint.

(more) ↓



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MOSAB ABU TOHA is a Palestinian poet, short story writer, and essayist from Gaza. His first collection of poetry, *Things You May Find Hidden in My Ear*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry and won a Palestine Book Award, an American Book Award, and the Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry. Abu Toha is also the founder of the Edward Said Library in Gaza, which he hopes to rebuild. He recently won an Overseas Press Club Award for his “Letter from Gaza” columns for *The New Yorker*.

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