

A Proposal To A Walking Route In Emmadedine Street

Hello,
How is your day going?

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We will walk together in Emadedine Street,
Before we start our walking tour, I invite you to think of your relation to the street.
Did you visit it before?
Do you live here? Or nearby?
Or did you barely hear of it?

Think of all the emotions that the street can retrieve.

I interact with the street every Saturday through my almost weekly ritual of visiting the flea market, and I also attend movies in the alternative cinema space Zawya that is in it.

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As you walk in the street, you are not walking alone, you are accompanied by the image of me you created from my voice.

The two of us are also not walking alone, we are carrying a burden with us in every step we take.

It may be visible or invisible burdens,
It may be tangible or it may be not.

Let us take time to realize the burdens accompanying us.

There are loads that we may have to continue with us, and there are other loads that we may try to abandon. Then we will be able to move lightly.

The desire for knowledge, for example. Do not expect to know or understand after the tour.

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At first glance, it is difficult to imagine that this is the same Emadeddine Street that is linked to all the stories and urban legends.

Maybe the street was always an imaginary place, existing between the magazine articles, our collective consciousness and the fantasies of those who frequent it.

Despite the attractiveness of the act of imagining, I invite you to avoid it.

We are far from imagining the street in its golden time or the possibilities of the street ahead.

We can think of the tour as an invitation to think about the possibilities of experiencing what might happen now.

How can we move through it, with it, and around it?

During the walk, I will suggest a group of exercises. You may feel that you are excited to try it and you may feel that it does not attract your attention or that you are not comfortable doing it. Decide what you want to try and what you prefer to ignore.

The tour is divided into different stops, at each stop we start chatting more, I ask you to do the exercise only while standing at the designated stop.

You may keep the booklet in your desk drawer, you may finish all the exercises in one day Or maybe you would like to do it all on the same day.

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First stop:

The intersection of Emadeddine Street with Ramses Street.

Location on map:

7168442.13, 6253950.03

We start our tour from the train station,

Maybe it is not a coincidence that the station is located at the beginning of Emadeddine Street.

There may be a relationship and a reason, or maybe there is not one.

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Exercise 1:

Choose a cinema, I recommend Cosmos Cinema for you,

Attend any movie randomly. Instead of watching the movie, watch the ritual of watching the movie with a crowd of strangers, take out a pen and paper and record every time you hear the sound of laughter in the cinema theater. Write when laughter brings you together with the group and when it divides you.

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Second stop:

Bosphorus Casino surroundings

Location on map:

4832442.13, 6007850.03

Death makes me anxious, I don't know how I personally like people to remember me after I die.

I thought at first that no one was there to mourn Imtethal Fawzi, like many people who left and found no one to mourn them.

But later I found a picture of Taheyya Kariokka and other colleagues wearing black and mourning their friend, Imtethal.

I don't know how Imtethal Fawzi would have liked to tell us her story, and whether she would have liked to tell us about a raped incident she faced as a child, or rather she would have preferred that we talk about a food or a drink she loves.

I got to know Imtethal from the press. I often come across articles that were written during the time of Sadat's presidency. She is often described as the dancer who brought down the Fetewa system.

I don't like to think of history as a line, in which there are specific situations that are the mark and point of change. And I am uncomfortable with how the press used the murder incident.

Exercise 2:

Come up with a way that works for you to mourn,
take your time,

How can we mourn Imtethal?

Personally, I decided that every time I walk in the street, I would drink a beer dedicated to Imtethal's soul.

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Exercise 3:

How our body is read as a woman or a man, affects our walking experience in the street.

Walk down the street and make a map in your mind of the places and restaurants you can use the toilet and other places where you can't.

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Third stop:

Azbakeya

Location on map:

1340842.13, 9830150.03

I don't know how to tell Al-Gharbi's story.

Ibrahim Al-Gharbi was walking in the streets of Cairo, wearing a six-piece, a beardless dress, anklets, bracelets and jewelry.

We know little about him and we have never heard from him, but we also have never heard from girls or boys working in the network of sex houses that he owned, where he barely provided cheese and beans to them. And they had no right to make any decision regarding themselves.

His story of how he made the British angry reached us, some people even say that he was visited even more than the pyramids itself. And that he had many admirers.

It wasn't difficult for me to try to find the exact location of one of the 15 sex houses that he used to manage. But I didn't want to create a tourist stop.

I think about how we can address his story without turning him into an icon or demonizing him.

He attracts me because not only was he able to cause confusion and rapture for the colonizers and the police, but he also still has the ability to cause confusion and rapture in how his story can be narrated.

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Exercise 4

Start to feel that you are wearing gold bracelets around your wrist.
They are exactly 14 bracelets.

Decide if you want to wear them around one wrist or if you want to distribute them around both wrists.

Watch your movement in the street while you are wearing 14 gold bracelets.

Watch when you flaunt them and when you hide them.

Move your hand from right to left and vice versa. Start hearing the sounds
That they do when they touch each other.

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Fifth stop:

The intersection of Emadeddine Street with Al Alfi Street.

Location on map:

9852442.13, 2906350.03

Opportunities for outings in Cairo that do not revolve around eating food have become almost non-existent, And it decreases with time.

In the novel The Yacoubian Building - which annoys me for various reasons - Alaa Al-Aswany Kebab and Kofta are among the meetings of the ruling class as a representation of their comparatively decadent taste compared to the taste of the ruling class before the 1952 revolution.

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Exercise 5:

If the budget still allows, order Kebab and Kofta, or get yourself a meal that is full of phosphorus.

You can also replace the exercise by ordering a Viagra drink from any cane juice shop.

You can consider the exercise as an invitation to incorporate food with a partner or partners.

Or you can consider the exercise a suggestion for how to eat the food itself as a sexual act. Think of all the movie scenes of men devouring and enjoying the food.

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Exercise 6:

For the last exercise, perform the following monologue while you are walking, Adjust the volume of your voice, depending on your level of comfort:

Don't be surprised, don't be surprised.
There are people who make money without getting tired,
There are people who get tired and do not gain money.
Don't be surprised, don't be surprised.

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At the end of the tour, I want to thank you for walking together.

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Decide if you want to keep the booklet
Or if you want to share it with others.

Do you have ideas for exercises and walking routes in Emadeddine Street?
Share them out.