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## Everyone's Bonsai (Levantine Haiku)

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### **Cover Page Footnote**

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## LORI D'OVIDIO DABBAGH

### EVERYONE'S BONSAI (LEVANTINE HAIKU)

Stay away from boys!  
To hell with cherry blossoms!  
Mama shouts to me.

Like a bonsai tree,  
While all count crispy banknotes,  
I wait for suitors.

They worship the Al-  
Mighty dollar. They don't pray  
Five times to Mecca.

Allah shines not so  
Bright as newly-minted coins  
And men with wallets

So arms akimbo  
I hope for him with a shi-  
ny new Mercedes.

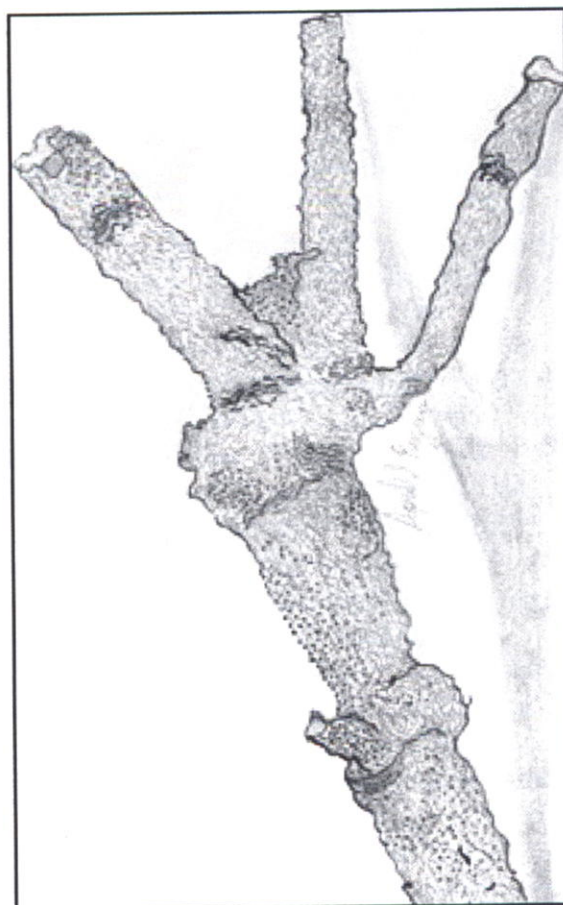
In my gilded cage  
I'll sing as the nightingale  
A tinny refrain.

On a mountainside  
I could have grown twelve feet high  
But I was stunted

And potted to wait,  
Consenting with my silence,  
For the aunts' shrill shrieks.

*Lya-lya-lliiish!!*  
Long live the bridled couple  
That may have run free.

In a house of gold  
I shall bear fruit and prosper:  
Everyone's bonsai.



APRIL S. ENGRAM