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Biography Research

Sources : Wikipedia, www.sunsings.org, www.vipfaq.com, www.nytimes.com, www.stepfeed.com

Nizar Qabbani

“In the summer, I stretch out on the shore and think of you. Had I told the sea what I felt for you, it would have left its shores, its shells, its fish, and followed me.”



Early Life: Nizar Qabbani was born on 21 March 1923 in the Syrian capital of [Damascus](#) to a Syrian middle class merchant family of Turkish descent. The school where he studied was the national Scientific College School in [Damascus](#) what was owned and run by his father's friend, Ahmad Munif al-Aidi. While a student in college he wrote his first collection of poems entitled *The Brunette Told Me*. It was a collection of romantic verses that made several startling references to a woman's body, sending shock waves throughout the conservative society in Damascus.

Family Life: Qabbani had five siblings – two sisters Wasila & Haifa and three brothers – Rashid, Sabbah, & Mu'taz. Nizar Qabbani married twice in his life. His first wife was his cousin Zahra Aqbiq; together they had a daughter, Hadba, and a son, Tawfiq. Tawfiq His second marriage was to an Iraqi woman named Balqis al-Rawi. Together they had a son, Omar, and a daughter, Zainab. After the death of Balqis, Qabbani did not marry again.

Works

Over the course of a half-century, Qabbani wrote 34 other books of poetry.

- *Childhood of a Breast* (1948)
- *Samba* (1949)
- *You Are Mine* (1950)
- *Poems Against The Law* (1972)
- *Write the History of Woman Like So* (1981)
- *Love Shall Remain My Lord* (1987)
- *I Married You, Liberty!* (1988)
- *Fifty Years of Praising Women* (1994)
- *Alphabet of Jasmine* (1998)

3 Interesting Facts: When Nizar Qabbani was 15 years old, his **sister committed suicide** when she was forced to marry someone she did not love. This left a great impression on his mind, and he decided to do something against the inferior status of women in his country.

Qabbani began writing poetry when he was 16 years old

The city of [Damascus](#) remained a powerful [muse](#) in his poetry, most notably in the *Jasmine Scent of Damascus*.

End of life:

He left life as a Syrian diplomat to become one of the Arab world's greatest poets, died on 30 April 1998 in London, where he lived, he was 75. The cause of his death was a heart attack, his family said.

Barada

By Nizar Qabbani

Barada, oh father of all rivers
Oh, horse that races the days
Be, in our sad history, a prophet
Who receives inspiration from his lord
Millions acknowledge you as an Arab
Prince . . . so pray as an imam

Oh eyes of the gazelle in the desert of Sham
Look down. This is the age of lavender
They have detained you in the pavilions for a long time
We have woven tents from tears
God has witnessed that we have broken no promise
Or secured protection for those we love