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LEBANON'S INSOLUBLE
ELECTRICITY CRISIS

USD 36 BILLION WASTED



**LEBANON TO ELECT
MANY LEBANONS IN 2018**

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USD 36 billion wasted



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Between Yesterday and Today

The poems herein were written by Omar al-Ze'ini (1898-1961) during the 1951 and 1956 elections, and they still remain relevant.

Elections

My first point of forty
To make the sky rain wheat
The land to yield oil
No taxes, no fees
Just vote for me

I will plant cotton, I will plant wool
In the land of Matn and the land of Chouf
You don't believe me? Tomorrow you will soon see
And witness the miracles
Just vote for me

The foreign delegations are claiming
The opposition is insisting
The newspapers are saying
It was free, it was fair

If it's true there was money
behind the curtains and under the table
And there was pressure by the police,
Why did the president's candidate lose?

The election was fair and clean
Oweini made sure of it
They are saying there was money to feed on
To make vinegar you have to fertilize it
To fertilize it, you need worms.

Stop talking
Stop nagging
Let us close this book
This nation, this youth
Deserves this parliamentary look
And that is the truth
(May 1951)

Where is he?

Where is he, who was complaining
There is a big rebuke between me and him
I want to see who he's voting for
So I can show him what he's done

Sold his vote for 20 Lira
Cost of drunkenness and a pint of beera
He then calls on the people
They stole the universe, they stole everything
They ate the egg, they ate the shell
They left the people penniless
Sleeping troublesome on the rug

Sold his belief for 20 Lira
Betrayed his conscience, betrayed himself
Deceived his family, tricked his fellows
Brought disaster to his nation
Started crying over his Lebanon
Started slapping on his face

Voted for him for years and years
It was time to know this idiot
Who was good, who was not
Who to be careful from
Which MP smelled so rotten
Who should be allowed into Parliament
To keep his eyes wide open
(1956)