

Katav, Shalom (Salīm al-Kātib)

Shalom Katav was born Salīm al-Kātib in → Baghdad in 1931. As a youth he attended the → Alliance Israélite Universelle School there and became a member of the Zionist underground movement (He-Halutz). He began publishing in Arabic in Iraq and continued to do so after he immigrated to Israel in 1950, but in time he shifted mainly to Hebrew. In Israel, he was a teacher, elementary school principal, and school district superintendent. From 1969 to 1972 he was the World Zionist Organization's educational and cultural director for southern France.

Katav's first book, *Muwākib al-Hirmān* (Caravans of Deprivation), was published in → Beirut in 1949. Many of his Arabic poems have nationalistic and Zionist themes. His second collection in Arabic, *Washwashāt al-Fajr* (Whispers of Dawn), published in 1958, includes poems he had written since 1949 on national Jewish and universal themes. They express a desire for peace and brotherhood, and sorrow for the devastation and death of war.

As a poet Katav has been inspired by a range of Jewish sources, including the Bible, commentaries, law, legends, mysticism, and tales of Jewish martyrdom as well as by life in Israel in his own time. The poetic speaker in many of his Hebrew poems identifies with the suffering and hopes of the Jewish people. Katav writes about his love of Jerusalem, his longing for Zion, the Holocaust, Jewish redemption and tradition, the ravages of the pogroms, his belief that the return of the Jews to their homeland is eternal, and many other themes.

Some of his poems are specifically about the Jews of Babylon (Iraq), their pioneers, ways of life, public figures, and more. He glorifies the accomplishments of Israel; but in his *'Et Liqquye Me'orot* (Time of Eclipses), published in 1978, he bitterly and resentfully protests the socially, morally, and culturally humiliating and discriminatory way Israeli society has treated Near Eastern Jews. In addition to the works mentioned above, his published writings include *Lo'a Rash Me'od* (1972), *'Al Gedot ha-Naharayim: Shirim u-Po'emot me-Hayye Yehude Iraq* (1973), *Lo'a Raq be-Mira'eh Zohar*

(1984), *Or š el ha-Yona* (1985), and *Shorshe ha-Ner* (1986).

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LEV HAKAK

Kaya, Jak

Jak Kaya is a Turkish businessman. He was born on May 1, 1938 in Tire and in 1961 graduated as a construction engineer from the prestigious Istanbul Technical University. He is a partner in Ege Mermer (Aegean Marble), a company specializing in the importing of machinery and materials for the production of marble. Between 1980 and 1990 he was vice president of the → Izmir Karataş Jewish Hospital. From 1990 to 2004 he was vice president of the Izmir Jewish Community, and he has been its president since January 2005. He is fluent in French and English.

RIFAT BALI

Kayat, Claude

Claude Kayat, born July 24, 1939 in Sfax, Tunisia, is one of the leading French-language writers from North Africa. He immigrated to Israel with his family in 1955, then to Sweden in 1958. The author of twenty-one plays in French and Swedish, he is mostly known for his seven novels, three of which have been awarded literary prizes. *Mohammed Cohen* (1981), his first and most famous work, is an autobiographical novel that recounts the childhood of a boy born in Tunisia to a Muslim mother and a Jewish father. The hero lives in a colorful lower-class environment inhabited by French teachers and soldiers, lapsed Jews and Muslims, whores and salesmen, and chatty people with strong opinions. He struggles with