

CONTENTS

Editorial Note ix

CAIRO, DECEMBER 2006 1

PARADISE IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY 3

KASHMIR, OCTOBER 2007

- Houseboat 1* 6 – *In The City* 8 – *Houseboat 2* 10
Politicians 1–4 12 – *Night* 18 – *Houseboat 3* 19
The Shrine 19 – *Houseboat 4* 21 – *In The Countryside* 23
Houseboat 5 26 – *The Mother* 26 – *Houseboat 6* 28
Abad Baba 28 – *In Kashmir, Far Away from Kashmir* 30

LANDLESS 33

BETWEEN AGRA AND DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2007

- Lumpenproletariat In Formation* 36 – *Why Complain?* 37
They Want Land 39 – *Expulsion as Industrial Development*
Policy 41 – *The Sky and the Ground* 43 – *Ram Paydiri*
Doesn't Understand 45

THE LABORATORY 47

GUJARAT, OCTOBER 2007

- An Idol* 50 – *On the Rubbish Tip* 51 – *Into the Centre* 54
Social Praxis 56 – *India's Future* 59 – *Where Even the*
Atheists Pray 62 – *The Pit* 64

A VISIT TO THE SUFIS 67

PAKISTAN, FEBRUARY 2012

- Rhythm of God* 70 – *War Against Themselves* 72
The Lovers' Tomb 74 – *O Papa, Protect Me* 75
In the Mansion District 77 – *The Poor People's Peace* 82
Quiet, Cleanliness and Order 86 – *The Feast* 92
The Cosmic Order 95

BLEAK NORMALITY 99**AFGHANISTAN I, DECEMBER 2006**

- People Don't Change Much* 102 – *Really Crazy* 103
Two British Commanders 105 – *Humanitarian Mission* 108 – *In Kabul* 111 – *Where is the Progress?* 114
Master Tamim 117 – *The New Motorway* 119
American Headquarters 122 – *Visit to the Passport Office* 124
Cola in the Dark 125

THE LIMITS OF REPORTING 131**AFGHANISTAN II, SEPTEMBER 2011**

- Cemetery 1* 134 – *Walls in Front of Walls* 136
Northward 139 – *Mazar-e Sharif* 141 – *The Best Place in Town* 142 – *In the Countryside* 143 – *In the Panjshir Valley* 145 – *In the South* 147 – *Peace Conference* 149
Tribal Leaders 1 151 – *Kandahar* 153 – *Tribal Leaders 2* 154
The Limits of Reporting 158 – *Cemetery 2* 160

THE UPRISING 163**TEHRAN, JUNE 2009**

- Chance Companions* 166 – *Arrival* 167 – *Wednesday* 168
Thursday 170 – *Friday* 173 – *Back to Saturday* 179
Sunday 184 – *Early Monday* 185

WHEN YOU SEE THE BLACK FLAGS 187**IRAQ, SEPTEMBER 2014**

- I Najaf: *In the Heart of the Shia* 190 – *Ubiquity of Death* 190 – *A Dangerous Topic* 193 – *A Different Shia* 198
With Swordlike Index Finger 200 – *Grand Ayatollah Sistani's Message* 202 – II Baghdad: *The Future is Past* 206
A Thirty Years' War and More 206 – *A Hookah with Goethe and Hölderlin* 208 – *Fog of Melancholy* 211 – *Right out of Ali Baba* 213 – *The Last Christian* 214 – *A Warrior* 218
III Kurdistan: *The War for our World Too* 221
Literally Overnight 221 – *What For?* 226 – *To the Front* 227
The General 229

THE ENTRANCE TO HELL 235**SYRIA, SEPTEMBER 2012**

- The Centre and the Margins* 238 – *Artists of the Revolution* 242 – *Two Views* 245 – *Outsourcing Terror* 247
The Feast of St Elian 250 – *At the Tomb of Ibn Arabi* 252
Thinking Without Gradations 254 – *The Intensive Care Unit* 255 – *Those who Can Read, Let Them Read* 258

WE TOO LOVE LIFE 261

PALESTINE, APRIL 2005

*In Search of Palestine 264 – Without Hope 265 – The Wall
Against Empathy 269 – My Capitulation 271 – They are
Human Beings 273*

LIFE AS WHAT IT IS 277

LAMPEDUSA, SEPTEMBER 2008

*Sunday Outing 280 – Ghosts 281 – Midnight 284
The Previous Mayor 285 – The Camp 288 – The New
Mayor 291 – Night Again 293 – With or Without
Approval 296*

CAIRO, OCTOBER 2012 298