

Lessons 9–10 Poetry from the past

Listen to the poem Unknown Bedouins by Khalid Albudoor. Complete the gaps in the poems with the eight words above.

Unknown Bedouins

Before the sun climbs over
the walls of the mud houses
unknown Bedouins return
to _____ themselves in my _____
after selling milk and honey
in the city market.

The sandy courtyard lies in fog
and the palm tree's plaits
sway, seeming _____
listening
to the water flowing
in the depths of the well.

Pale pictures hunt in my head
A long, empty time has passed since I found _____
and back came the Bedouins
raiding my day with their sandy faces.

Where does this sound of the coffee grinder come from
that resounds through the walls of my house
where I _____
forgetting the television
flickering noiselessly in the shadows?

I know my memory has forgotten the shape of water
I have _____ like those
who wander without land
searching for stars for centuries.

Tell me, O trees, which watch over my lounge,
where these voices come from
that resound in my night.
Maybe if you concentrated
you could make out their faces
which camel driver's song they're singing
or which memory
and why
they raid my house now,
with their quizzical faces,
while my _____ is nothing but
the contentions of _____
on the threshold of dawn.