


HOME¹

GHAZAAL HASHEMI 
Universidad de Oviedo, Spain
hashemiazarghazaleh@uniovi.es

Home was never a safe place for me in any form,
it wasn't where my heart was slightly at peace,
not a place of refuge or the calm after a storm;
it was the storm itself that never seemed to cease.

It was gloomy and dark with a melancholic mood,
not a good place where one could spend her youth.
It was where my struggles and traumas took place,
under the protection of those I wish I could replace.

I never felt happy or secure in that environment,
and I wasn't treated with kindness, love, or respect.
Maybe that's why I moved from country to country,
searching for a "home" that was somehow lost in me,
cause I had fled the one where I was often battered,
where my eyes were tearful and my heart lay shattered.

The larger home was no better than the smaller one;
it was a prison, a place of torture for a woman,
ruled by clerics, fanatics, and radical extremists
who stripped me of my rights — even the right to exist.

They wanted me voiceless, restricted in private,

¹ Recommended Citation: Hashemi, Ghazaal. "Home." *Journal of Artistic Creation and Literary Research* 14, no. 1, 2026, pp. 1-2: <https://reunido.uniovi.es/index.php/jaclr/index>

submissive, bereft of agency, a docile subject,
practicing domestic virtues under patriarchal control,
setting rules for my body, my thoughts, and my soul.
Enslaved, bound by honor and reduced to shame,
for women and men, this home was never the same.

So I left and built a home somewhere else on the map,
but one day, I will take my larger home back!

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTOR

GHAZAAL HASHEMI is an emerging author from Iran. She holds a bachelor's degree in English Language Translation from Karaj Azad University, as well as two master's degrees: an M.A. English from Savitribai Phule Pune University and an Erasmus Mundus master's degree in Women's and Gender Studies from the University of Oviedo. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Gender and Diversity at the University of Oviedo, where she researches Iranian women's acts of resistance in art, media, and literature. Her first poetry collection explores themes such as childhood trauma, loss, grief, abuse, modern relationships, oppression, survival, vulnerability, and hope. Through her poems, she seeks to tell stories, some rooted in her own lived experiences. Other poems are shaped by imagination and inspired by the world she observes around her. However, she believes it is the storyteller's art to weave reality and imagination so seamlessly that no one can tell them apart.

Contact: hashemiazarghazaleh@uniovi.es.

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-6232-9585>.