

## **Waiting at Allenby Bridge**

In the grey tiles, tin chairs hall,  
travelers sit and chew,  
some twisting worry beads,  
most staring morgue-like  
at the silence of controls  
where all have been conditioned  
to comply  
with the power of the poker faced  
inside the glass  
while outside,  
folded arms functionaries  
distinguish the worthy from the unworthy,  
Christians from Muslims,  
anglo saxon names  
from the ones with Arab sounds  
in a waiting-for-permits play  
where most of the cast  
can only guess at the script  
let alone know when the curtain will fall  
on the final act  
of this daily  
degradation ceremony.

*Allenby Bridge Israel/Jordan Border  
Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 2012*