

In her forthcoming novella, Samara Sallam pushes the constraints of language to upset the polarity between consciousness and our material world(s). Mobilizing folktales to tell a magical-realist tale enshrined in present settler/postcolonial realities, Sallam opens our eyes to three *movements* taking the form of language, compasses, and shadows. The story that follows the movements is triggered by the author's encounter with an old friend who recounts her own story from a magical Damascene house. The friend's story follows the spirit of folktales. It contains dreams, body ailments, tiny doors that open to strange, unearthly creatures, as well as painful images from Gaza. Sallam's poetic depictions retell the Palestinian story from the current reality that is punctured by genocide, ethnic cleansing, and collective melancholia. It interweaves the fictional with the painfully real, opening the space for other, brighter futures, through collective imaginal powers.