Adonis
An excerpt from “This Is My Name” (1980)

We shall speak in plain words: In existence there is something called presence and something called absence. Let us speak truth:
We are absence
Heaven did not create us, earth did not create us
We are a foam evaporating from rivers of words
Rust in heaven and its spheres, rust in life!
My homeland finds refuge in me.
Let my face create a shade for it!

Translated by Ahmad Alswaid