

Zejel

Pathway

I walk the darkened pre-dawn hall.
Fingers feel braille of the flat wall
I wonder, dread if I will fall.

My mind is still not quite awake.
I am unsure of route to take.
I'm careful of each move I make.
but I am on course all-in-all..

Fumble-fingering in the night
Finally I reach for the light.
I'm hopeful I will be all right,
find a clear, bright way after-all.

Zejel: Romantic Spanish form with Arabic influence related to Qasida.

Adopted by 15th century Spanish troubadours.

Linking rhyme established in the opening mundanza (stanza).

The theme is established in a mono-rhymed triplet. In Arabic it is called the Zahal.

Syllable Count: Most often 8 syllables per line.

Opens with a mono-rhymed triplet followed by any number of quatrains.

The triplet establishes the linking rhyme with the end line of the succeeding quatrains.

Rhyme Scheme: a-a-a b-b-b-a c-c-c-a etc.