

# IRAN, UNLIMITED

POETRY

*Al Salehi*

A chance at life, free from tyranny, will establish  
the opportunity, to reimagine  
our *dream* oasis.

Unlimited minds: engaging in  
free thought, free speech,  
and free will.

Unlimited motion: dancing and singing in the streets. Frenetic energy fueling  
free-flowing kinetic forces. Women and Men, running with equal  
strides, together, under a warm and welcoming rain.

Unlimited love: jumping like children to the beats of synchronized hearts,  
embracing freely. Frenzied figures bursting with elation and light.  
Free, free-er, freedom—now—to Be.

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*\* After September 2022, a growing number of women have discarded their headscarves in Iran, prompting police to recently install cameras in public places in order to identify and penalize violators. After the Islamic revolution of 1979, gender segregation in many public places such as schools, beaches and swimming pools, was introduced, and adult males were no longer permitted to be in contact with females outside the presence of parents. The Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, had made the hijab optional, but under Ayatollah Khomeini's regime, the hijab became mandatory for all women, along with a strict standard of modest dress.*