To where? He throws the question like a rock. I pull my
His eyes are hidden behind sunglasses, dark like midnight.
A soldier leaps into the bus. He stands on the top step.
mine, would they write back?
If I told them of the fear that hides under my feet like a land
They ask me to describe a day in my life. But I do not dare.
cord that I wish I could send to all my faraway pen pals.
The window of the bus frames the roadblock like a post-

Front

stands near the stop sign. I reflect that I choose to sit up
The bus travels before me.

My fingers grasp
And whisking through branches,
The bars of a cage
Like a bird chaining

1981, Sunita West Bank
The main door. The compound. The cars. The buses. The guards. The soldiers.

"Hy!" But no one can write "Hy!" in the barracks. "Hy!" is not a word. It's not a greeting. It's not a goodbye.

"Wait a minute. It's a new word. I'll explain it later."


Why does everyone wear such big, heavy things? Why does everyone have to carry so much weight? Why does everyone have to stand so straight? Why does everyone have to look so serious? Why does everyone have to be so quiet?

I search for the soldiers' eyes. But his eyelashes are gone by now.

"There is no Ramallah anymore," he says. "It's all should be." But I can hardly hear his words. They have been drowned out by the noise of the buses, the cars, the trucks, the motorcycles, the bikes, the people, the dogs, the cats, the birds.

He switches back to Arabic, takes the driver's ID, tells him he plans to do.

He doesn't want to know what he says about me. Or the bus. Or what I understand, and I am somehow comforted that I do not, do not.

He covers us then turns on a radio and speaks. I don't know what.

I want to open my mouth and let my feelings escape like a breath, like a sigh, like a tear. I know from here that I should have chosen to hide in the back of the bus. I should have.

A Letter to No One
The dutch street demonstration. I see it for seconds only.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.

I'm already many hours late.
a Letter to No One

Having this box is like having a country, the size of a

key for the box will be under the ground with me.

in the dirt under a lemon tree near our house. If I die, the
it is on to me. On the days I don’t go to the office, I put the key

Dimitri from Greece. He writes of a check holiday

post Office Box 34 is the only piece in the world that

what takes me from Ramallah to Bietzir

have my freedom. It is hidden in Post Office Box 34. This is

the occupation. But I did not go there to fight for freedom from

Bietzir is where students go to college after finishing high

school in Ramallah. Some also come from Gaza. Nablus, and

sweat, hell waiting to hit me,

price at all with her hands. hell waiting to tear my

the bus at the checkpoint. "May Go to Bietzir." She will

If I see Mother again, I will tell her what happened to

Be impossible if you can’t eat eating protocols,

saves. Walk by the wall. Do not draw attention to yourself.

the army. "flying up and down on good luck as sacred."

another thing that could cause us even the slightest trouble with

Mother does not want me or any of my siblings to do

A Letter to No One
share of cleverness. "

"mother are not clever at all because she has gotten their
cleverer than anyone I know. Perhaps we women in Russia are
concealment of anything. She is cleverer than I am. She is
sovereign to Pretoria. I usually cannot
make anything happen. I do not go to Pretoria to make things happen,
whenever I do not go to Pretoria to talk to college girls or
Mother where I need to make something happen to convince
what I need to make up something ingenious to convince
what I need to make up something ingenious to convince

Now, "I'm sitting in the room under my feet. I remember

poster for their lectures.

standing in a decision corner because I want to open My

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am

sweetheart. When would my pen pass say if I told them that I am
With pride, moves it around in his speech, as though to gain
word short, the only word in English he knows. I say it
my schoolmates, especially because of the way he treats
I know that my father does not really want to put down
he's too cool read English books.

"You die your head into your English books like a
for sending me to school.

My father swears for my schoolmates, and placed himself
myself off in front of a room and locked
So that you can follow me, I nodded. He became one

"When 10 years he asked.

"Why not wear outside until I leave? I asked one

"Then, why not wear outside, I asked. How he knows me
my father entire being me, all the things he can overlook me
our looking at them, we know exactly where they are. When
than they cool, they walk now we walk and where we do, when-
what we expect upon the steps of the large buildings in Brazil
and above. I do not know where I am, I read a
He must want to see how I behave on the streets when I
he was outside until I walk to school, and follow me
I post the hopes on the wall like freedom. Right.

"When I understood my answer, "Mother and soldiers are
"What difference is there between a monster and a soldier?
answer here. I met someone in the country of monsters.
When mistreated, she spoke my best and curses me. To

A Letter to No One
...
PART II

Today is that day.

Listen.

Take her there.
Her heart to
By asking
Find her home

When she still
The day
and again
of memory

of the Postal Box
I once was
Where the small girl

of remembering
I reach for the rest
Of forgetfulness

Sinking in the sun

But I do not want to do what Mother says. I cannot feel-

wants me. "依次, 依次, 依次," "依次, 依次, 依次,""依次, 依次, 依次," She knows. "Do not walk that road," she

"When a war ends, it does not go away," she says. "If

A Letter to No One

16