

Salem the Dead

by Hazem Tagiuri

My father's cousin is Salem the Dead.
Famed, an infant Lazarus of Libya,
he was brought lifeless from the womb,
yet awoke to the chill of a mortuary slab.

Now, I cannot claim to know him,
his name is only a myth to me.
Still, you'd imagine, having died once,
the burden of your end would be lifted.

But if that moniker born of a morgue
did not bestow a carefree manner,
or life beyond his natural years,
he'll survive in tales, like this one.

