

I Conquer the World with Words Text by Nizar Qabbani

Note: IPA is for Americanized English

I conquer the world with words,
aɪ 'kɒŋkəɹ ðə wɜːrld wɪð wɜːrdz,

Conquer the mother tongue,
'kɒŋkəɹ ðə 'mʌðər tʌŋ

Verbs, nouns, syntax.
vɜːrbz, nəʊnz, 'sɪn tæks,

I sweep away the beginning of things
aɪ swiːp ə 'weɪ ðə bɪ 'ɡɪnɪŋ əv θɪŋz

And with a new language
ænd wɪð ə nu 'læŋgwɛdʒ

That has the music of water the message of fire
ðæt hæz ðə 'mjuːzɪk əv 'wɔːtər, ðə 'mesəʒ əv 'faɪər

I light the coming age and stop time in your eyes
aɪ laɪt ðə 'kʌmɪŋ eɪʒ, ænd stɒp taɪm ɪn jʊər aɪz

And wipe away the line that separates time
ænd waɪp ə 'weɪ ðə laɪn ðæt 'sepə'reɪts taɪm

From this single moment.
frɒm ðɪs 'sɪŋɡəl 'mɒmənt.