Is there a way in which transnational American Studies can engage seriously in the democratization of knowledge production? Is there a way in which cross-cultural and cross-categorical translations can occur without a universal middle term? While attempting to answer these questions, I argue that the current Arab revolutions of the so-called Arab Spring must be seen in the context of broader resistance in the Muslim world to global political modernity. I focus especially on the constitutive role that poetry plays in resistance to colonialism and violence. After situating this general phenomenon of poetic resistance in a global context with reference to Abdelrahman Munif, Mahmoud Darwish and Langston Hughes, I examine the deep constitutive role of poetry in the revolutions of Tunisia and Egypt in 2010-11. I illuminate the beauty and meaningfulness of the poetry in the quotidian experience of those peoples making revolutions. My dwelling and meditation on poetry helps elaborate an emic vision of the new Arab revolts, which, as I show, may offer new insights into the field of transnational American Studies. Yet, the reception of traveling stories/traveling ethics may occur, only if, as Judith Butler reminds us, we can hear beyond what we are able to hear.