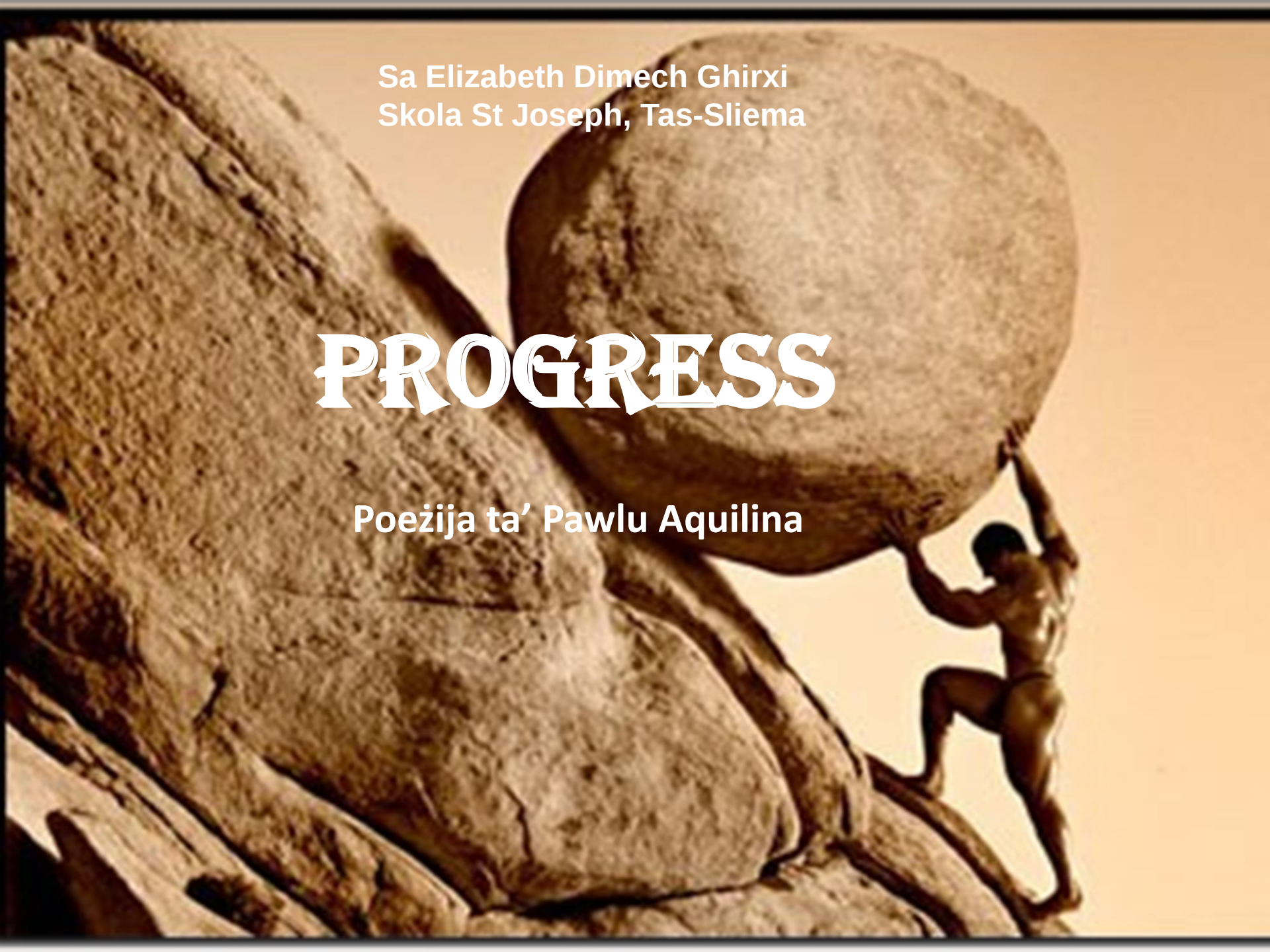


A sepia-toned photograph of a muscular man pushing a large, smooth, spherical stone. The man is positioned on the right side of the frame, leaning against the stone with both hands and feet. The stone is resting on a rough, uneven rock surface. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The overall tone is one of strength and effort.

Sa Elizabeth Dimech Ghirxi
Skola St Joseph, Tas-Sliema

PROGRESS

Poeżija ta' Pawlu Aquilina

Kont miexi waḥdi qalb ir-raba' nterraq,
fi nżul ix-xemx xitwija,

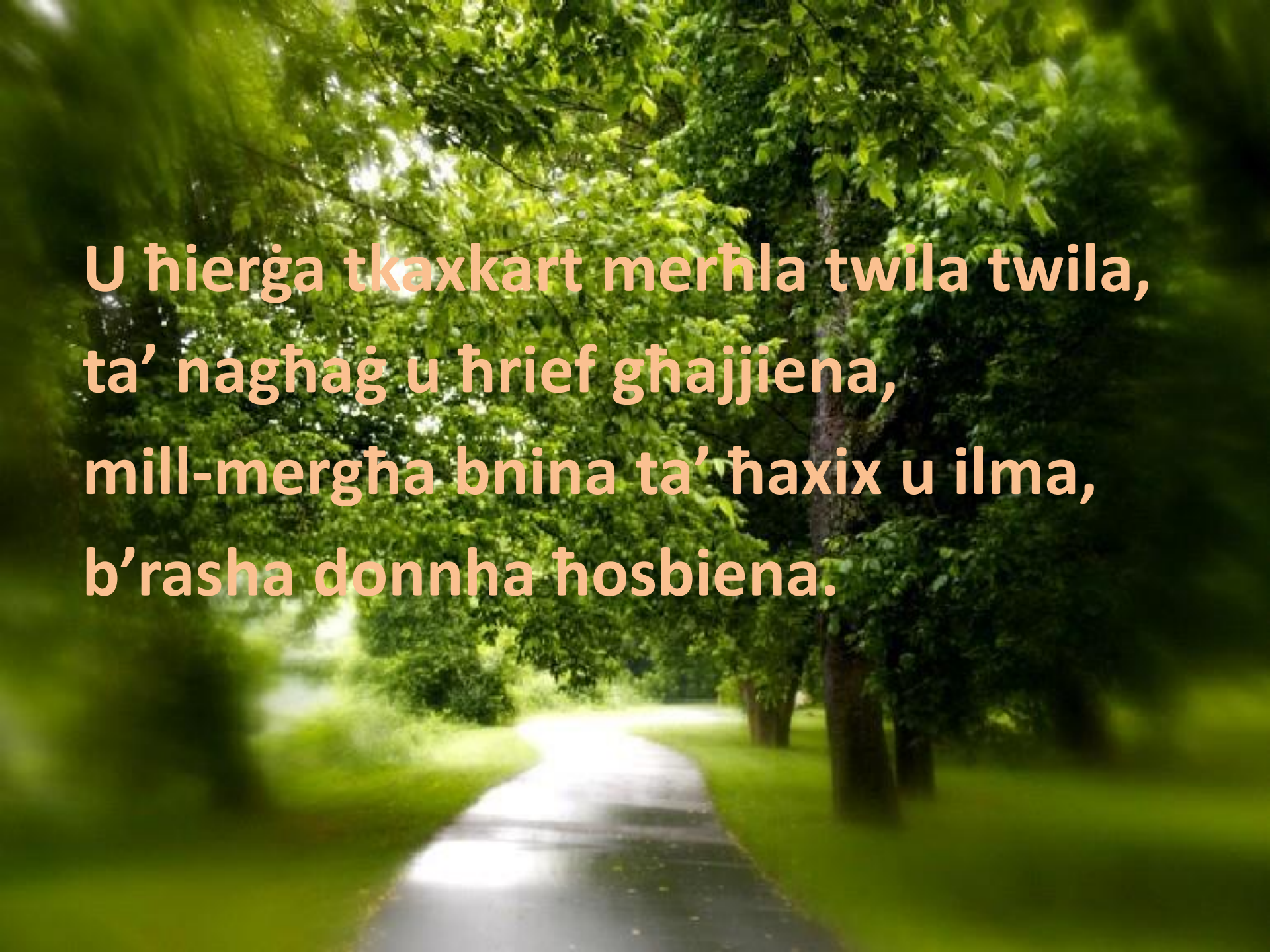




xħin mill-kampnari twal
tar-raħal ċkejken/
daqqet l-Ave Marija.

U wieħed wieħed, jew tnejn tnejn imsieħba,
il-bdiewa bdew ħerġin
mill-oqsma jħaddru jew magħzuqa jħammru,
bil-ħidma għajjenin.



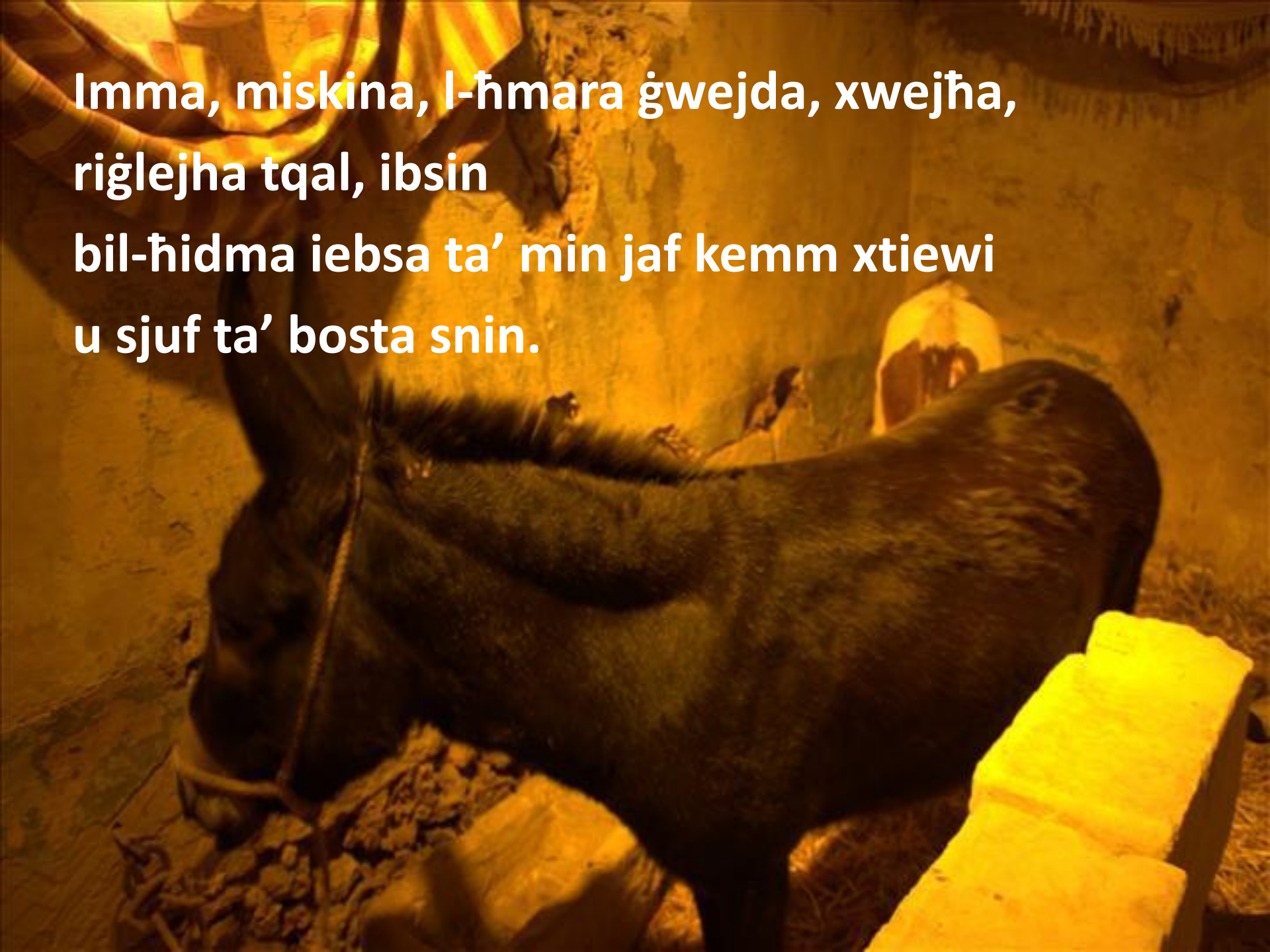


U ħierġa tkaxkart merħla twila twila,
ta' nagħaġ u ħrief għajjena,
mill-mergħa bnina ta' ħaxix u ilma,
b'rasha donnha ħosbiena.

Kollox bil-mod il-mod u tqil iterraq
it-trejqa bajda twila.
Waħdu, fit-tarf, riekeb fuq ħmara ċkejkna,
gej xwejjah kollu ħila.

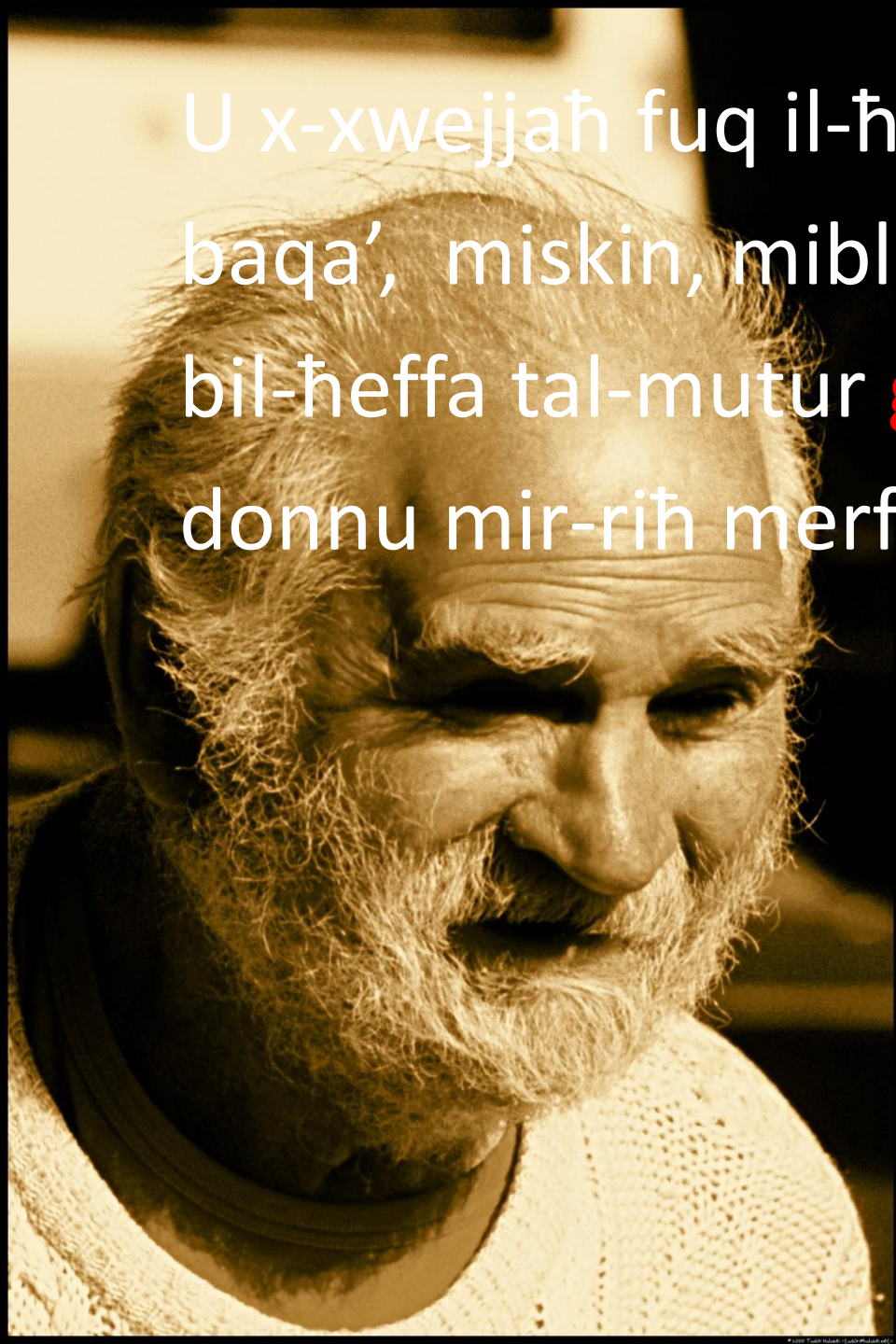


**Imma, miskina, l-ħmara ġwejda, xwejħa,
riglejha tqal, ibsin
bil-ħidma iebsa ta' min jaf kemm xtiewi
u sjuf ta' bosta snin.**



U f'daqqa waħda mtajjar u jirbombja
għadda mutur mit-triq.
Halla warajh il-merħla twila, tkaxkar,
imgerrxa ġol-għolliq.





U x-xwejjaħ fuq il-ħmara qawwi tilheg
baqa', miskin, mibluħ
bil-ħeffa tal-mutur għaddej imtajjar,
donnu mir-riħ merfuħ.

Pawlu Aquilina