

DECEMBER 2021 – VOL.21 – ISSUE 12

AZEEM ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE



لوک اکبر
میلہ 21
PAGE 14

LET'S
MEET
PAGE 04
FT. HAMZA SHAFQAAT

IMAGE: LOKVIRSA

IMAGE: FEELVIVA

NICE GUYS FINISH LAST
PAGE 34

LOVE, NO SEASON KNOWS NOR CLIME
PAGE 54

YARA GEE AMAN KARSO!
PAGE 51

PAGE 26

HEER THE METAPHOR
OF RESISTANCE

PKR 200





Azeem Educational Conference (Regd), established on 1st January 1978, is a non-profit organization which aspires to guide, inform and educate the masses through various modern channels. The chief motto of AEC is, "Awareness, Education & Confidence".

One of the basic objectives of AEC is to encourage the masses to get awareness about several fields including culture, literature, science, mental health etc. through modern ethical practices.

AEC intends to inculcate the values of social awareness, development, constructive journalism, cultural harmony and positivity among the society. AEC works on its mission through different projects comprising monthly Azeem English Magazine, quarterly "The Journal of Cultural Perspectives", mental health workshops, webinars and various training projects.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

 (051) 88 93 092-3

 contact@aec.org.pk

 AEC, First Floor, Ras Arcade, Street 124, G-13/4, Islamabad

DISCLAIMER

The magazine does not endorse any of the ideas, opinions or thoughts proposed in the published articles. The opinions belong to the authors only. We reserve the right to edit letters for reasons of clarity and space.

To get your content published, send your submissions at submit@aemagazine.pk

EDITORIAL BOARD

Patron-in-Chief

Dr. Muhammad Azeem Farooqi

Editor-in-Chief

Muhammad Ali Farooqi

Associate Editor

Imran Khan

Managing Editor

Tahir Inqalab Syed

Art Director

Muhammad Raheel Asghar

Publishing Director

Naeem Anwar

Distribution Manager

Fazal Khan

0318 054 9181

EDITOR'S NOTE

What a year it has been for all of us. We've been through highs and lows. The year usually starts with January, but ours started in December 2020, when we started working to provide you with quality content. Since then, we haven't stopped and only raised the bar high for *happy reading*. We await your feedback and responses, and it motivates us to do more, and we shall keep up with the pledge. We are really thankful to our readers as well as of our writers. For if it weren't for you, we wouldn't have made it that far! Here's to more days...

Happy Reading!

Muhammad Ali Farooqi
Editor-in-Chief



TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETS MEET	04	KIDS SECTION	
FT. HAMZA SHAFQAAT		WHEN IGNORANCE SCREAMS,	39
FEATURED		INTELLIGENCE MOVES ON	
PHILOSOPHER'S PIT	06	STAYING CONNECTED WITH YOUR FAMILY	40
TAHIR INQALAB SYED		SAAD RASHID	
SCAN THE CODE AND MOVE ON!	08	COLORING ACTIVITY	42
GRIEF IS GENESIS; LOVE IS FINALE	10	HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU FIND?	43
HASEEBA ABDUL QAYYUM		SPOT THE DIFFERENCE	44
GLAMORIZING BABYLONIAN ABSTRACTS	12	ART	
LOK MELA FESTIVAL 21	14	ARTISTS OF THE MONTH	45
BUSINESS		MORE THAN PAINT AND BRUSH STROKES	46
CRYPTOCURRENCY : FUTURE OF MONEY - II	16	AROOBA HAQ	
SAEED BABAR		MIND SCIENCES	
SCIENCE		MY WAY TO WU WEI	48
FACILITATING AUSTRALIA WITH SUBMARINES	18	MADHUBANTI CHANDA	
SUFISM		ENTERTAINMENT	
HAZRAT KHAWAJA BHAUDDIN	20	YARA GEE AMAN KARSO!	51
NAQASHBAND BUKHARI		MUHAMMAD ALI FAROOQI	
DR. MUHAMMAD AZEEM FAROOQI		THALAVIIV: THE KANGANA-ARVIND SHOW	52
CULTURE & HISTORY		SHEHERYAR SHAHID	
PAKISTAN'S BEST KEPT SECRET	24	LITERATURE	
MUKHI MAHAL		LOVE, NO SEASON KNOWS NOR CLIME	54
HEER : THE METAPHOR OF RESISTANCE	26	SARA NOOR	
IMRAN KHAN		BONUS	
QUOTES CORNER	31	SANCTUARY	56
EDUCATION		WAJIHA IMTIAZ	
CRAMMING : A BLESSING OR A CURSE	32	99.9% RECOVERY CHALLENGE TO SOCIAL	58
FAIZ MAHMOOD		PROTECTION	
ETHICS		MUHAMMAD AWAIS	
NICE GUYS FINISH LAST	34	CAPITALISM IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS HORROR	60
UMMARA SHERAZ		KASWER HAFEEZ	
TOURISM		MENTAL HEALTH	
A COUNTRY THAT CONNECTS TWO	36	THE MIND BENDERS	62
OCEANS - II		FATIMA ALTAF	
SHUEYB GANDAPUR			

FOR MORE
AEMAGAZINE.PK

Ailaaj is for everyone

looking for a healthcare provider which brings end-to-end solutions on a singular platform, while addressing their unique care needs



We are helping everyday Pakistanis lead a healthier lifestyle by providing telehealth consultations, lab testing, e-pharmacy and corporate health and wellness

www.ailaaj.com



LET'S MEET

FT. HAMZA SHAFQAAT

*Deputy Commissioner
Islamabad*

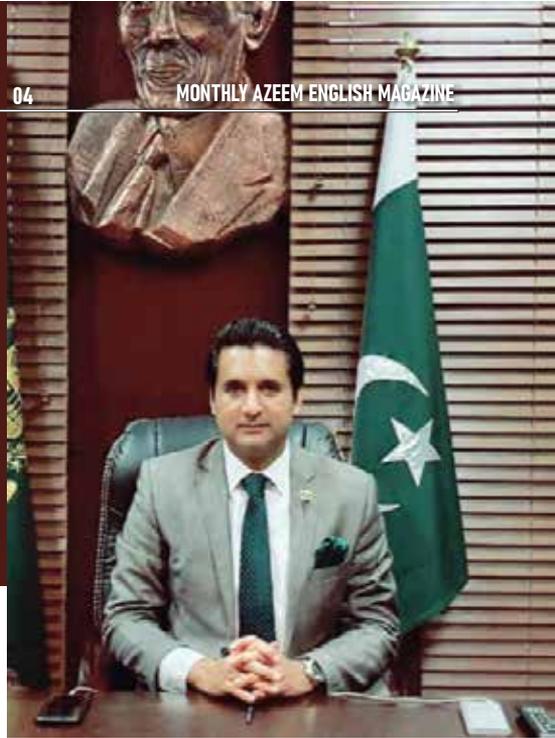
04 MINUTES READ

How would you describe yourself: as an individual, excluding the titles?

As an individual I would say that I believe in hard work, I'm humble, and I believe in spiritualism, these are the three things that I think define me as an individual. I take my work as *ibadat* (devotion) and take it more spiritually than professionally. I think I've got a good sense of humor as well: I *take* jokes, I *make* jokes.

If you were to reason with the youth, on the question of "why should they choose CSS?" How would you answer them?

I believe that the civil services can change the fate of Pakistan. If good people refrain from joining Civil Services, then we will be left with people with the same mindset, as people who served earlier, and the situation might continue to deteriorate. That's why, I believe, better people should join the Civil Services of Pakistan. Civil services are such an institute which can provide with the opportunity to make an impact at a



young age. This profession might not suffice people who aim for money or for any other motivation, people should only give it a go if they are genuinely passionate: passionate to serve the people, passionate to serve the nation, for humanity... for Allah's will.

How important is it to be active on social media for the DC of Islamabad?

For any field officer, be it the DC of Islamabad, or any other serving field officer, it's important to connect with the public via social media, or any other medium. So, they can get feedback, and with those responses, better actions can be taken as well. In turn, it makes the public more involved. Also, people who are unable to visit the offices, for instance:

women feel safer on social media, or some people are hesitant in visiting the offices, or waiting in queues, so they interact on social media. I believe it helps the state, as it enhances the transparency and accountability process, which in turn enhances the governance as well.

What's your take on information flow, should it be controlled, or we should "let it flow"?

It's almost impossible to contain information, social media has made things very democratic. But also, it's the responsibility of institutes, to provide exact and accurate information. It is very important that the offices get their social media accounts verified, and relay information on their websites, so spread of fake information may be prevented.

How do you manage to find the balance between your family life and service? Also after a long and tiring day, what cheers you up the most?

There's no time to ponder on this posting (job). This position demands that you must give your hundred percent. But obviously, whenever I'm free, I visit my family to see my son... my daughter... that really cheers me up... reduces the stress.

There are some prevailing threats like begging in Islamabad, what is policy to deter the threat?

You see, there are some crimes like robbery or theft that can be prevented via efficient policymaking, but begging is a global phenomenon. The solution is not to arrest them (beggars). They will get out of jail after 3-4 days, as it's not a serious offense. The only solution in my view is to donate. There are 5 *Panahgaahs* and over 20 *Langar Khanas* functioning in

Islamabad. We try to control as much as possible on our end and appeal to the public to not give to beggars on signals, instead donate to the less fortunate or by *trusting* welfare organizations.

There are many points in Islamabad which have become obvious choke points. What steps are you taking to ease the traffic-flow?

There are three major projects lined-up: (overhead) bridges are under-construction on Srinagar Highway. IJP Road and Islamabad Expressway are being recarpeted, bridges under construction. **Margalla Avenue** is being initiated near Sector C-17, which will extend up to Sector D-17, and will be inaugurated till next year, this will redirect the traffic coming from GT Road. All these projects will be completed within a year or so.

What was the most challenging point in your service?

Every day is a challenge when dealing with the law-and-order situation, there are emergency like situations, for instance, over one lakh people attended JUT's *dharna*, or TLP's *dharnas*, during flood in Islamabad; a woman and a child died, and such instances occur daily, so every day is a challenge, and we take care of it.

Lastly, a message to the youth...

To the youth, if you want to succeed in your life, be vary of two things: *intent*, and **hard work**. Your intent should be pure, and for the goodwill of people. And the second thing is hard work. I've observed that the youth of today runs from hard work. Just stay put, and you will reap the fruit. Indeed hard work pays off!

The Philosopher's Pit

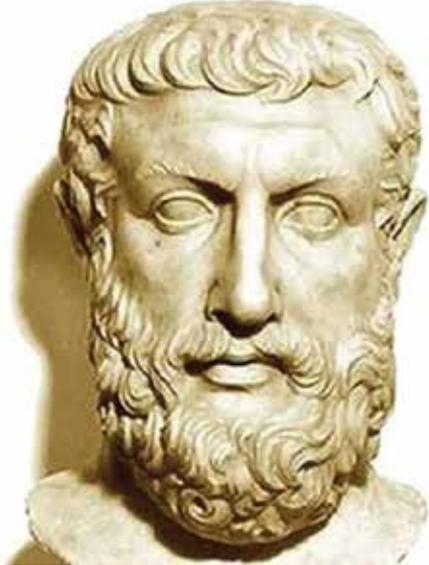


IMAGE: FETIUNA



Tahir Inqalab Syed
Poet, Rap-Artist, Writer,
Analyst

04 MINUTES READ

We live in a *matterless* society, where nothing matters, and everything does. Nothing makes sense, yet everything does. Planet Earth is synced in this constant cycle of rotatory motion. So, do the atoms around the nucleus, and so does blood around your heart. There's one single point. And around that one single point, many lines drawn, and many patterns layered, laid in the foundational core of everything, a single point, a micro-dot, or as the *Sufis* said, *ik mukta*.

There are so many points that could be added here, affirming the cause, or negating the point. But the point is, that there's no point. Then why all thy

heft, all this struggle. Some of y'all might say, there's one, and I'd say, **NONE**. I'd say one, if you say none. I'm bound to prove you wrong, some call it the *Philosopher's Pit*, with reference to the muddy-stained-drenched in sweat, with dirt it's drained: the **Philosopher's Pit**.

Only me, or this keyboard, or the screen, or the processor knows: that I tried... I tried finding the exact reference to this rather unusual term, and almost a *pointless* claim. I read it somewhere, the whole argument, by a philosopher, where they argued and weighed two different paradigms, and elucidated similarities between either.

The claim, or the argument, however... was... hope I do justice to their glory though, but that won't matter either. But what *matters*, at least as of now, is that I put better words to this

thought, which revolves with no *resolute*; to argue or debate with a philosopher is like fighting the pig in its muddy pit. You might run out of moves, and hands, and people, and opposing forces, but that won't be a problem for the pig, aka, the philosopher. Wanna know why? 'Cause the pig enjoys its muddy-stained... drenched in sweat, with dirt it's drained... pit.

Pigs love to fight; be it a ground, or a pit, in a pit, they enjoy it. It won't care about winning or losing, the only thing the pig loves to do is to enjoy the show, and give a competitive game, a tough one to the opponent. By the time you get comfortable, in the pit, you're all muddy, and stained, and filled with dirt. And your cause now seems like a lost one. Of course, because of the reason that most of the people play: only with two possibilities in their mind, i.e., either I win, or you lose. However, the same should not imply to the philosopher, *ideally*.

The philosopher loves to argue, loves to debate, just for the sake of it, pardon my French, but, *for the heck of it!* They argue, regardless of any concern, to not get anything out of it, just to keep exploring, as I mentioned earlier, for the heck of it, and certainly, not against you. An endless debate, like life, seems pointless. No point losing, no point winning. An Urdu poet, Qamar Jalalabadi wrote, and I quote:

*Kar lunga jama daulat o zar, us ke baad
kia*

*Le lunga shaandaar sa ghar, us ke baad
kia*

The thoughts keep multiplying, as you explore furthermore. The case of *ifs* and *buts* won't overflow, cause there's so many of them. Moreover, the *whys*, if, asked with a critical-just approach, the debate might not ever

end. But, if the answers are well-evaluated, well-thought, and well-considered, then there might be a chance of some closure. Then arises another, the whole *shoulda' coulda' woulda'* paradigm, where the possibilities are marked with skepticism, and thus should be termed probability.

We've often heard of the phrase; *life runs in circles*. I say, life runs in a loop, just like the hamster, in a circular-wheel-like-cycle. Chasing after some piece of food, cheese, maybe, or for any person's case, the construct of a well-organized, and a happy life. Chasing after the richest glory, just to win, with no resentment, stopping anyone, who comes in the way. But, for the hamster, as well as the people, as well as the philosopher, as well as the pig, life is a constant loop, where one keeps chasing after *matter that don't matter*. In my opinion, both the philosopher, and the pig are aware of the circumstances, and conditions, and whatever they have been blessed or cursed with, so they don't care anymore. So, they try to enjoy the play, while it still lasts.

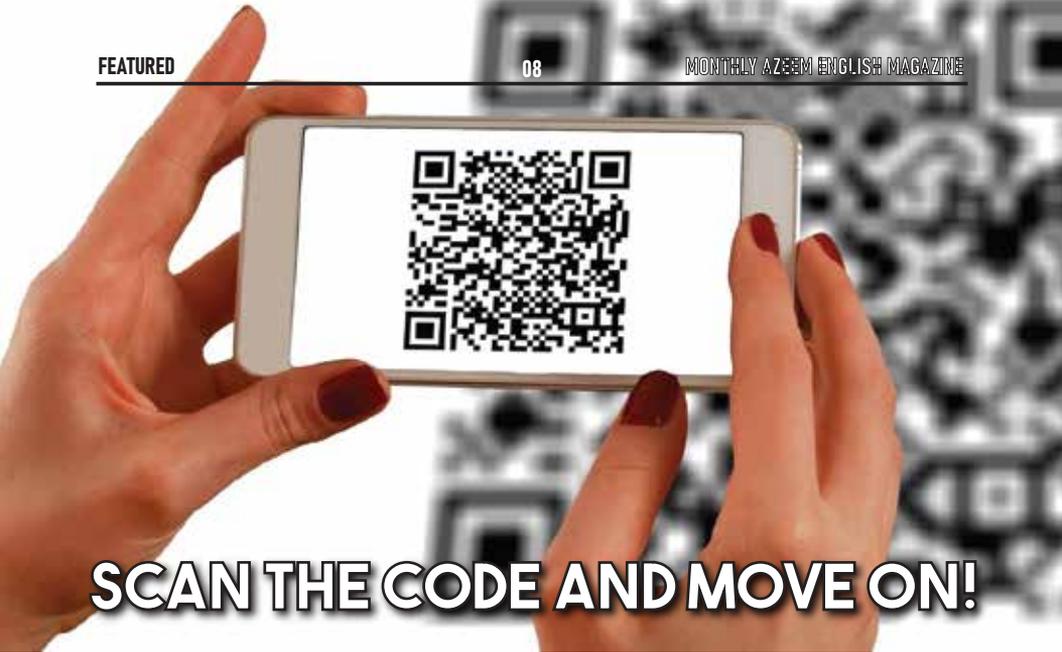
Rumi said, *the art of knowing is to know what to ignore*. But don't you stuff your head contemplating. Debate me all you want, but there's no point, or there's some. And either probability worries me. And this article, just like everything else, is... pointless.

*Mafroozay ke gird dayirah
Dhoka, daleel, phir difaa
-Inqalab*

Shamma se Shamma Jalay!

@tsyed1735@gmail.com

alifinqalab



SCAN THE CODE AND MOVE ON!

04 MINUTES READ

Soon in our world there will be no such thing as cash. In Shenzhen, China, cash is quickly becoming a thing of the past. All over the world, you need a bank account, get the paperwork done, go to the bank, open an account, and after three workdays, you will get the card. In China, you download an app, **WeChat** and you get your bank account.

Paper money was invented by the Chinese in the 7th Century. Before that, people used to trade goods, and the barter trade system was the deal. If you wanted food and had a t-shirt, and someone wanted a t-shirt, but had food on them. Bang on! Deal done! A third good was required, that both parties could deal and trade with, and thus gold came into play.

However, the Chinese came up with this idea of paper-currency where

pieces of paper, withheld the same amount of gold coins, and the amount of gold coin(s) was written as assurance on the paper. The idea of this new form of a trade was to exchange gold coins with pieces of paper, i.e., the **paper currency**. Since gold was heavy to carry, they replaced it with paper money. Now, the Chinese are the first who moved on from cash. They might stop using cash for good. In the banking system, it's a prerequisite for the client to have a debit or a credit card for transactions. But banking has its cons, for instance, you pay \$50 to buy from the seller. The bank is the third party here. The seller instead of receiving \$50, gets \$47 instead. The three dollars go to the bank, as commission: bank commission, card commission, seller's commission, and the payment method.

Then **WeChat** came into play and

IMAGE: UNSPLASH

ruled out this idea. WeChat is the biggest mobile app in China right now, and among the biggest in the whole world. The country is becoming cashless. American banks are afraid of this *bankless* transaction system.

In Shenzhen and Shanghai, everything works with QR Code, *you scan the code and bam!* They call WeChat *an app for everything... a super app...* cash is certainly not the King anymore. **WeChat** and **AliPay** are. **AliPay** belongs to the **Alibaba** company. WeChat is a multimedia messenger app like **WhatsApp**. Imagine, you could do all the purchases and buy anything from WhatsApp. From juices, to fruits, to screen projectors, to bus fare... you could pay just by scanning the QR code. It is not only limited to supermarkets and big stores or local shops, but even fruit vendors with carts use WeChat for payment.

If you pay an extra amount accidentally, they reimburse your amount, from their account. No more waiting three to ten days for the bank. Half the Chinese don't even have bank accounts. A tourist in China asked a Chinese local about this deal of not having cash. He replied *"That's rare and weird. Only the elderly and people who don't know how to use a phone pay in cash"*.

All you need to do is download the app to have a bank account. Any transaction can be done using this app. You can receive your salary or donate money to the homeless, the homeless have it too. Shanghai has got to a point where they don't use cash **AT ALL!** just don't run out of battery.

It's a loss for all the banks, however, you are being watched by the government. All the transactions from WeChat are connected to the government. When you sign up, you

give all your information away. The app knows how much you paid and what you bought, and what you received.

Alibaba and **Tencent** collect so much information, they know what you buy, they know how much you spent. The government knows everything about you, it's not a conspiracy anymore. The Chinese are not bothered about privacy issues: the government oversees every transaction their citizens make. Such a system might not work in the US or other *developed* nations.

In 2019, some tourists found out that they could connect to the Visa Card and use the application. If you think about it, this can happen soon. In the Post-Covid world, cash can transmit viruses. A cashless society might help the cause, or the cure. Cash could get abolished.

Some Chinese citizens haven't used cash in years, and it's not that they don't want to, instead, it's a case of "they don't have to". Paper money might become a memory, stuck in the deep-vivid layers of the past. The world might not need cash anymore, just scan the code, and *voila!*

UNPOPULAR OPINION



**GETTING
PRESENTS
IS MORE
STRESSFUL
THAN IT IS WORTH**



Grief is Genesis; Love is Finale



Haseeba Abdul Qayyum
A Potter Head, Literati, Writer.

04 MINUTES READ

'Grief is the price we pay for love'
~Queen Elizabeth II

Love and pain are two different yet interconnected entities. Despite being different in their connotations, both are incomplete without each other. Where love can relieve pain, it can cause pain as well. From birth to death, life is a continuous struggle between loss, pain and love. The tradition of going through pain to get love has been here since the birth of the first human being. Grief and love come hand in hand. We cannot have one without another. Grief is genesis; love is finale. Even if it is not romantic or platonic love, familial love, affectionate love or Divine love even, comes stacked with pain and loss. Every good thing has a price. Love comes with demands, punishments, loss and grief.

"Paradise is surrounded by hardships and the fire is surrounded by desires."

~Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H.)

This inevitable and intricate relationship between the two has been there since the very beginning. In fact, it is the foundation of humanity. One has to rip himself of all desires and claims to conquer the realms of love. Grief is the door that opens into the heavenly dominions of love. Even people before us had lost a lot in order to attain divine love. Adam and Eve's love for their desire resulted in getting them out of paradise. The legacy continued and passed on. We see the association of love with grief in the stories of Prophets. Prophet Abraham readily accepted to slaughter his own son to gain God's closeness. Prophet Jacob accepted God's will and lost his dearest son Joseph. He cried for years, lost his sight but then God returned Joseph to him. Joseph himself had to go through many detriments to get God's love. Zuleikha's love for Joseph was also an

IMAGE: UNSPLASH

embodiment of *"Loss, Love and Pain."* Prophet Job was stripped of his wealth yet he loved God and became one of God's favorite humans. Prophets had to go through years of suffering just to be loved by God.

"I have seen my lord with the eye of my heart, and I said, "Who are you?" he said, "You".

~Mansoor

Mansoor al-Hajjaj reached the pinnacle of spiritual closeness with God. He became so in love with God that his mind got clouded by blasphemous thoughts. In order to attain the zenith of spiritual love, he faced the pain of execution.

No one could escape it. Those who fail to submit, never get love. Even Satan himself succumbed to his ego and lost God's love. These desires rip people off submission and devotion. That's how the path to sovereign grace gets lost.

"Crush the desire for Layla in your heart," but I implore Thee, Oh my Lord, let it grow even stronger. Take what is left of me and add it to Layla's. Let me never demand from her as much as a single hair, even if my pain reduces me to the width of one"

~Qays

Just like Divine love, romantic love also comes with pain and torment. Sometimes even after losing everything, lovers don't unite in this world but in another universe. From ages, suffering has been a part of unfinished love stories. Incomplete love stories become folklores. When Qays fell in love with Layla, the world went against him. While Layla surrendered to the demands of traditions, he

wandered in the wilderness. It was because of Layla Majnu's grief, that even today; people know about them and look at them as torch bearers of platonic love. To unite above skies, they had to face imponderable grief and cruelties of love.

"Love is heavy and light, bright and dark, hot and cold, sick and healthy, asleep and awake-it's everything except what it is."

~William Shakespeare

Death has been the ultimate fate of lovers. It became a source of the union of Romeo and Juliet. Indeed lovers are destined to die. Their love would always face a tinge of grief and loss. Romeo and Juliet had to benefit from death to unite in the hereafter.

"You may blame Aphrodite for she almost killed me with love for that boy."

~Sappho

The voyage of Psyche that included spine-chilling and unmanageable tasks made her unite with Eros whose countenance she never saw. After enduring terrible mental and physical pain, the mortal psyche made it to immortal Eros and lived happily ever after.

If you want love, you would have to go through the pain. In most cases, confronting the grief aspect of love results in a happy life. On the other hand, for some people grief is permanent and only death rids them of their anguish and distress. The life of this world burdens and drains everyone but in the end, the sky clears away; the sun shines again; the grief fades away and life goes on.

@haseebarajpoot@gmail.com

Glamorizing *Babylonian* Abstracts

04 MINUTES READ

The industry and the public are so obsessed with the Oscars. When you win this golden little statue, you become a star. What's interesting about this is, in Egyptian culture, they also had a little statue, which represented the Egyptian God: **Ptah**. When an Egyptian king died, it was believed that his spirit went into *The Belt of Orion*, and he would become a star. Very interesting that we still follow the Egyptian Gods, as actors receive their award, to become a star, not only as a figure of speech, but also they are honored on the *Hollywood: Walk of Fame*.

There's a lot of these different award shows that pop up throughout the year, for instance, The Grammys... The Emmys... They honor the different aspects of the entertainment industry in different ways, but they are all one and the same. Many A-List celebrities have mocked award shows, sometimes, their statements were mistaken for a lighter note, and the other times, their mics were turned off, and their speeches cut. Even celebrities like Jim Carrey referred to Hollywood and the industry as Babylon.

The origin of the word, "Oscar" is Scandinavian (classic English), literal

meaning of Oscar is "divine strength" or "divine spear". Divine signifies divinity, or holiness, and spear, is a weapon. Is it possible that Satan uses these celebrities and entertainment, as God-like weapons or as a divine spear against us, to attack or attract



us?

Up until 1990, the Oscars were held at a building called *The Shrine*. The building was founded by William Florence and Walter Fleming; two high-ranked Scottish Freemasons. Hollywood has a long history of celebrities, who have openly admitted their connections with Freemasonry or other such occults.

IMAGES: PINTEREST

In the book **Morals and Dogmas**, by Albert Pike, on page 321, the author named their God, and *their* God is **Lucifer**. It says:

*“The Apocalypse is, to those who receive the nineteenth degree, the Apotheosis of that Sublime Faith which aspires to God alone, and despises all the pomps and works of Lucifer. LUCIFER, the light-bearer! Strange and mysterious name to give to the Spirit of Darkness! Lucifer, the Sun of Morning! It is he who bears the **Light**, and with its splendor’s intolerable blinds feeble, sensual, or selfish Souls! Doubt it not!”*

Symbolism at the various award ceremonies is enough evidence to draw an analogy between occult and the Oscars, every now and then we keep seeing a checkered floor, or a grail, or the way pillars are placed, or the number of candles lit behind a performer or a speaker. When the Oscars moved from Shriners building, to the Kodak Theater, there’s a Sun Motif in the ceiling, checkered

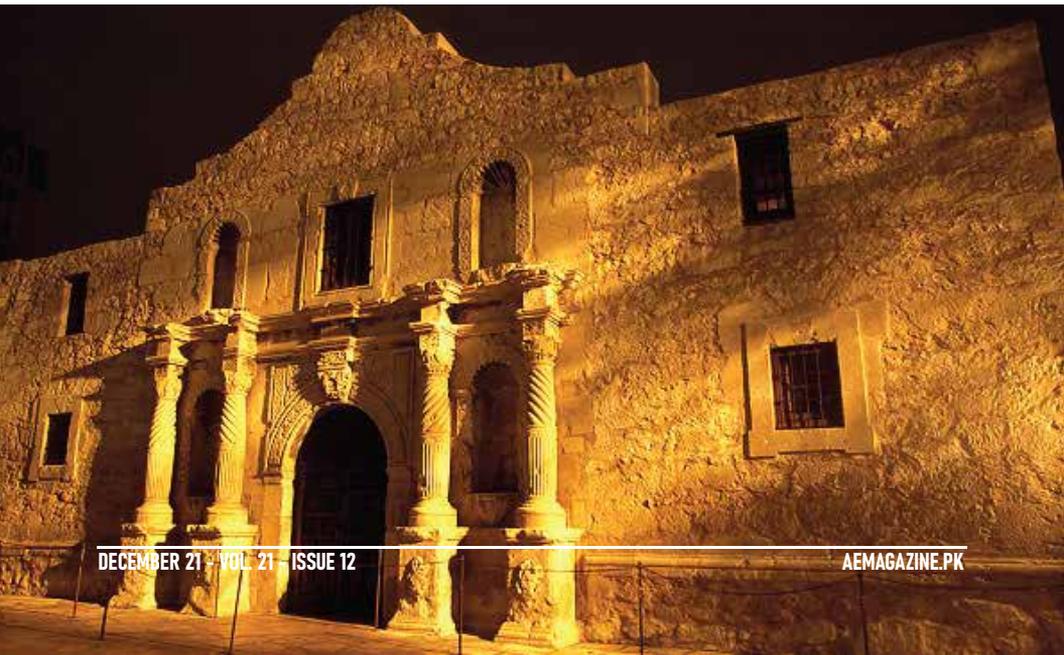
flags on stage, outside the Kodak Theater, Gates to Ishtar, and Babylonian Gods put on the outside of the gate.

The whole area surrounding the Kodak Theater was designed after a 1916 movie called **“Intolerance”**, where they recreated the very set they had designed for Babylon. They have the exact same number of elephants, they have the same Gate to Ishtar, and the exact similar Babylonian Gods, over the top of the gates. If you go and visit the very home of Oscars, where The Oscars are held each year, you can see a plank on a wall that says the Babylonian Court. It could be a mere coincidence, but not in plain sight. They know exactly where they are. Where are you?

“Signs and symbols rule the world,
not words nor laws”

Confucius

IMAGE: DALLAS FREEMANSONY



LOK MELA FESTIVAL 21

04 MINUTES READ

Lok Mela Festival takes place annually at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (NIFTH) commonly known as **Lok Virsa**. Lok Mela is celebrated to honor the local artists, craftspeople, and artisans of the country. The mela usually lasts 10 days, but this year it was a 7-Day festival, and not-so-surprisingly, the turn-out was better than previous many years, as people needed to breathe some fresh air, but with their **masks on**. Not sure about a post-war world, but post-COVID era seems fascinating for everyone, the artists, the public, and the organizers even, are craving to see how the outside world looks like. The festival celebrates cultural diversity, where many forms of expressions are expressed, by the many artisans and craftspeople present and share their crafted art, including folk

music, performances, handicrafts, and other cultural endorsements with the world.

Such events are not only a good opportunity for the creators and the curators, to showcase, but also for the people to learn about diversity. *Lok n' Folk* fests are not only good on societal/cultural level(s), but also help the economic flow, in the sense, there are not only handicrafts or artifacts, but also stalls of all kinds, for instance, food stalls, toy shops etcetera which is a good opportunity for the local sellers - a win-win situation for everyone.

Lok Mela 21' started on November 1st and concluded on 7th November. As per an estimate, 17000 visitors visited Lok Mela this year. These visitors include people from all walks of life, from ministers to celebrities to artists to craftspeople to "people" people and foreigners & tourists as well. This

IMAGES: DAWN



year was more organized than the previous years, there were pavilions allotted to the performers representing different regions/provinces of Pakistan. This is a very well-thought idea, and should be appreciated, as it helps the visitors in exploring different cultures and subcultures, as well as for the performers, as rushed performances, in a controlled environment, with a limited time slot were avoided.

On the first day, the Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, and Federal Minister for National History and Literary Heritage, Mr. Shafqat Mahmood also visited Lok Virsa, and seemed very keen and interested, which is good for the culture, hope it helps the people who make the culture worth it, i.e., the artists, the craftspeople, and the folk folks.

Four provinces of Pakistan, plus Gilgit-Baltistan and the Kashmiri culture(s) were divided on six days, which means that lok n' folk performers from many localities and different geographical regions performed and introduced the world with folk music and performance with the world. Day 1, marked the day of Gilgit-Baltistan Musical Night. Followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh, and Kashmir in this order: where musicians and folk artists performed their traditional music. Lok Virsa Musical Night was celebrated on the seventh day which concluded the 7-day lok festival. It concluded with special performances by various artists, the highlight of the night was a special collaborative performance by the Blue Sax Band with Javed Niazi and Babar Niazi. Awards and prize money was distributed among the 600+ lok performers who made this one-of-a-kind event more special.

Mr. Talha Ali Kushvaha stated that he was more than happy with the 7-Day Lok Mela Festival 21. He praised his team and management for all the arrangements. In an exclusive word with TeamAEM: he believes culture is what brings the people together, "Such events bring the people closer, and people can learn about other people and discover about their lifestyles" he added "Passion, humility and respect bring the people together, and this is the beauty of culture, that it helps in shaping-up and understanding the individual and collective identity" When asked about the primary goal of celebrating cultural diversity, Kushvaha said, "The primary goal of celebrating culture, heritage, and diversity is to connect people with their roots and bringing them closer to their (cultural) identity". "This year was a success, because people from many cultures were on the same platform, we even had organized Club Music for the youth", he further added.

Culture helps in identifying, which in turn helps an individual, in becoming a better and more aware; as a person. If a folk mela can bring the people closer, without any pride or prejudice for seven days, imagine what staying connected with the roots would do to the society, it would eventually help in developing more tolerance, empathy, and compassion with the other members as well as the other many aspects of the society. Hope more such events take place that help the cause of eliminating the little constructed differences we humans create that take us away from us. Hope that artisans, and craftspeople from different localities get supported and credited for preserving the culture and heritage, in terms of exposure, growth and finances..

Cryptocurrency

Future of Money

PART-II



Saeed Babar
Management Consultant
Education, FCMA, MS(Fin.)

04 MINUTES READ

(CONTINUED) Cryptocurrency is not without its demerits. Even if it promises to decentralize the monetary power, capitalism's innate monopolizing tendencies could lead some players to accumulate enough computing power to seize control of the network and revert a trustworthy, decentralized system back to one of self-served and centralized. Cryptocurrencies could flame out entirely. A currency to work effectively needs a widely accepted medium of exchange. According to Gavin Andresen, the heir apparent of Satoshi Nakamoto, "bitcoin really is still an experiment." The major hurdle in the way of widespread acceptance of cryptocurrency is that it is not regulated by any Governmental authority rather it runs on the premise of decentralized

control, which has given its acceptance to anti KYC - "Know Your Customer" - elements of the society such as criminals, tax evaders, money launderers. Since it does not ask any details of its users. On the other hand KYC is the foundation stone of anti money laundering.

But it's hard to ignore the idea of DeFi as the trends point inevitably to an age of Cryptocurrency, if not immediately, then a few years or so in the future. The Internet has spawned a new era of sharing economy - a decentralized one. The examples of such entities are Airbnb, Kickstarter, Uber etcetera. The estimated current market valuation of cryptocurrency is US\$2.0 trillion that cannot be ignored. Central Banks around the world have started thinking about issuing their own cryptocurrency known as CBDC - Central Bank Digital Currency. Several countries are also on the cusp of acknowledging cryptocurrency as a medium of exchange e.g. El-Salvador has started accepting cryptocurrency as a medium of exchange. China has

already issued its own cryptocurrency named Digital Renminbi or e-CNY. It is in testing phase from April 2021. There remain many issues to be solved before DeFi becomes the default financial system. Money has three broad characteristics: it's a unit of account, a medium of exchange and a store of value. For any cryptocurrency to achieve all three is going to need broad based support of consumers and businesses. It may fail to earn that support even if the product is technically solid. Another important question is what would happen to banks as credit providers when such an age arrives. What would happen to all the businesses that rely on bank credit for its expansion or working capital needs? Governments would not so easily give up control over fiat money because it gives them unfettered power to print money. With paper money they can raise debt to finance their domestic as well as international agendas, purchase arms, launch wars and then demand tax payments in that same currency to repay debts.

Mastercoin's David Johnston's famous quote which is known as Johnston's law describes the future of cryptocurrency: "Everything that can be decentralized will be decentral-

ized". When faced with disruptive challenges from new technologies and new ways of organising society, businesses and institutions then the established players have three choices. First, just to ignore the new idea and carry on as usual. Second, to fight it through political lobbying or by smear campaigns to destroy the nascent threat augmenting its demerits and hiding its potential. Third, try to adapt it or to incorporate or to work with the new technology. Cryptocurrency is at the moment in between the second and third phase. Many are highlighting its flaws such as the Mt. Gox exchange fiasco or its acceptance in the notorious dark web silk road or its anti KYC stance. On the other hand El-Salvador has become the first country to accept bitcoin as legal tender. Other countries are also thinking about adopting this technology and issue CBDC. China is already in the testing phase. According to the CBDC tracker many countries are in the pilot phase and many are researching this concept. So the days of fiat currency or paper currency are numbered. Get ready for digital currency.

@saeedbabarandco@gmail.com



Facilitating Australia with Submarines

Only six countries in the world have nuclear submarines in their arsenal. This will soon increase to seven, when Australia gets its own set of nuclear submarines. The US and UK are slated to share their expertise with Australia on areas such as artificial intelligence, cyber warfare, Long Range Strike Systems, and nuclear technology. Only once in its history, the USA shared its nuclear technology expertise with another country, and that was a good 63 years ago. When it helped the UK go nuclear.

What is it that makes nuclear submarines so special? They rely on nuclear reactors for propulsion and life support. The nuclear reactor heats water to make steam that drives a turbine to turn the propeller. The reactor-generated steam also drives the turbine generators that provide the electricity required for the auxiliary systems.

Nuclear submarines require a lot of water to operate. Thankfully when you're almost 1000 ft (300m) below the surface, you're never going to be in short supply. They use this abundant supply of water to create steam which cools the onboard reactor. But before it's used for this purpose, the water is purified through a desalination process. This comes with the added benefits of providing constant supply of drinking water and topping up the oxygen supply through hydrolysis.

The increased available energy on board as well as air and water purifying capabilities allow nuclear submarines to remain submerged for months at a time. This allows nuclear submarines to travel longer distances, perform extended periods of covert data and intelligence gathering as well as spring into action at a moment's notice.

Nuclear submarines are also bigger

IMAGE & SOURCE : INTERESTING ENGINEERING



and can carry more firepower, meaning: these ships can engage in a wider spectrum of missions. Currently it is still unclear as to what model submarine the Australian government will possess in its fleet. However, based on the US Navy's latest design, experts speculate Australia could end up with some variant of a Virginia-class submarine. It is a 337-460 ft long beast that first saw use in 2004.

The General Dynamics Virginia-class submarine is powered by a single 210 megawatt pressurized water nuclear reactor and can travel at speed over 25 knots. The enriched Uranium that powers the submarine is sealed inside the reactor and does not require any refueling during its 30-year lifespan. In ideal conditions Virginia-class submarines provide users with a unique blend of stealth and power.

They are quieter than other models of nuclear submarines. They can travel faster and for longer distances without detection. These submarines will be deployed far from land where they will gather information and remain ready should a naval skirmish occur above water. They are also speculated to be armed with the standard surface-to-air and cruise missiles allowing them to engage with threats beyond those at sea level.

Unlike the other six countries with nuclear submarines, it is said that Australia's nuclear subs would not have nuclear armaments. This would make it the only country equipped with a nuclear submarine to not possess any nuclear armaments of any kind. In some ways, perhaps Australia's decision to forgo equipping its nuclear submarines with nukes may serve as a precedent for any other state looking to bolster its naval forces without entering the

nuclear arms race.

But in a world where nuclear technology is extremely sensitive, The United States and The United Kingdom sharing their technology with Australia will involve far-reaching defense cooperation between the three allies, and it could very well be a one-off. What remains to be seen is its cascading effects on fragile pacts around the globe.

There is bound to be some backlash in Australia as well with several activists and policy groups against the use of nuclear power in any form. In the past, Australia has strictly monitored the docking of US nuclear-powered vessels. However, neighboring New Zealand has already clarified that the Australian nuclear-powered fleet would not be welcome in New Zealand waters.

UNPOPULAR OPINION



**THERE IS NO REASON
TO SEND CARDS IN
2021.
IT IS A WASTE OF
TREES.**



Hazrat Khawaja Bahauddin Naqashband Bukhari



Dr. Muhammad Azeem Farooqi
Religious Scholar, Academician,
Researcher

06 MINUTES READ

Hazrat Khawaja Bahauddin Naqashband Bukhari (Rehmatullah Elaih) is the founder and protagonist of Naqashband school of thought. He is the harbinger of the Prophet's (SAW) sunnah and the teachings of Allah's Book, Quran. He is regarded as an ideal saint and leader of righteous-fellows of his time and the future.

Birthplace

His real name was Muhammad bin Bukhari and family (ancestral) lineage Bahauddin and title name was *Shah-e-Naqashband*. He was born on 4th Muharram-ul-Haram 718 Hijrah in Qasr-e-Arafan (Qasr-e-Hindu-

stan), a territory near Bukhara (Samarqand) these days, a Russian Muslim majority province.

Early Biography

Hazrat Khawaja Muhammad Baba Samasi (RA), the *champion of saints* of his era made a blissful forecast before his birth and his bright future. He was taken under Baba Samasi's spiritual pledge on third day of his birth and entrusted the charge of his education and training to his well-trained approved disciple, Hazrat Khawaja Syed Amir Kilal (RA) for his ideal nourishment and upbringing physically, mentally, and spiritually. Hazrat Shah Naqashband had developed a very close heartly intimation with *Sultan of Saints* Hazrat Khawaja Abdul Khalique Ghajdawani (RA).

Spiritual Lineage

Khawaja Bahauddin Naqashband,

Hazrat Syed Amir Kilal, Hazrat Muhammad Baba Samasi, Azizan Ramaitani, Hazrat Khawaja Mehmood Faghnavi, Hazrat Muhammad Arif Rawagari, Hazrat Khawaja Abdul Khalique Ghajdarani, Hazrat Khawaja Yousuf Hamdani, Hazrat Bu-Ali Farmadi, Hazrat Abu-ul-Hassan Khirqani, Hazrat Khawaja Ba-Yazeed Bustami, Hazrat Imam Jafar Sadiq, Hazrat Imam Qasim, Hazrat Suleman Farsi & Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique (RA).

Death & Tomb

On Monday, 3rd Rabiull Awal, on 791 Hijrah, he left for his heavenly abode. His grave (tomb) was made in his native town, Qasr-e-Arafan in **Bukhar-o-Samarqand**.

Services for Islam

Hazrat Shah Naqashband Bukhari Awaisi (RA) was a man of winsome manners and sincere devotee of Islam who brought about revolutionary healthy norms in spiritual sciences and practices. He spread the message of *Quran-o-Sunnah* all over the world with his matchless strenuous efforts. He enlightened the darkest hearts with Allah's love and devotion. He extinguished the darkness of ignorance, sins, cruelty, and selfishness. He showed straight path of Islam to all astrayed-fellows of his time.

He was a practical Sufi who participated in all worldly affairs dedicatedly and purified the minds, hearts, and characters from laymen to religious scholars and Sufis of his time. He had developed close intimation with all governmental-officials and guided them to commandments of Allah and Holy Prophet (SAW). Some of his famous remarks and pearls of wisdom are as follows:

1. I along with devotees and disciples have been taught *Zikr-e-Khafi* – secret remembrance of Allah in spite of a loud one. Enthusiastic pure love and heartily attraction to Allah shows me the close direction to my Lord.
2. My path in Sufism is the same path as was of reverend companions of Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) e.g., company of Shaikh, affection of Shaikh, and service of Shaikh.
3. My method of teaching and training comprises non-pursuits of so-called *spiritualists*, but is completely dedication and attachment with **Quran-o-Sunnah**. My way is to infuse loyalty and attraction to Allah Almighty, first, and then adorations and Islamic practices.
4. Allah has enlisted the peak and summit of other Sufis in my first step to Sufism.
5. I never allow myself to stay away from social, economic, political, and worldly liabilities but to perform them accurately and in an ideal way under the umbrella of Islamic codes. He introduced eleven lessons for his devotees with rational elaboration e.g.
 - a. *Khalwat Dar Anjuman* (to enjoy the sweet company of the Lord among society and people).
 - b. *Safar Dar Watan* (to travel/journey to heavenly abode).
 - c. *Hosh Dar Dum* (to be vigilant about every entity/part of breath). It must be busy in *Zikre Elahi*.
 - d. *Nazr Bar Qadam* (to watch over every step on earth). It may not divert from the path of Allah.
 - e. *Yaaddaasht* (meditation for Allah).
 - f. *Nigehdaasht* (to control one's sight of eyes, that may not be alluring).
 - g. *Yaad-kard* (to recite the holy name of Allah excessively and consistently).
 - h. *Baazgasht* (to have self-accountability).

i. *Waqoof-e-Zamani* (to evaluate every moment of his life to repair it).

j. *Waqoof-e-Adadi* (to recite the holy statement *Kalimah Tayyaba* with odd numbers).

k. *Waqoof-e-Qalbi* (to look deep into heart awaiting torch/blessings of Allah's names and intimation).

6. I have been granted the moments of acknowledged supplication for thirty consecutive years of my life.

7. Allah Almighty has promised with me to enter my direct and indirect devotees into paradise (if they are steadfast in this way of Allah).

8. I have been bestowed upon bounties of Allah when I do *Zikr* of Allah, secretly.

Hazrat Khawaja Syed Amir Kilal, the spiritual guide of Shah-e-Naqashband Bukhari declared that we have been granted with four links to Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) which are as follows;

i. Through Hazrat Khawaja Kithar (AS)

ii. Hazrat Khawaja Junaid Bughdadi (RA)

iii. Hazrat Khawaja Ba-Yazeed Bustami (RA) and through,

iv. Hazrat Syedina Siddique-e-Akbar (RA)

So, in reality; my spiritual method is salt of saints (*milk-ul-mashaikh*). It means all types of blessings of Allah Almighty through Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) and four Righteous Caliphs of Islam have been beautifully and accurately accumulated and mustered up in my spiritual school of thought proportionately. This is the way of *Shah-e-Naqashband*.

He made a statement that remembrance of Allah Almighty is actually, to stay away from every type of ignorance and non-sensibility.

Conclusion

In short Hazrat Khawaja Naqash-

band Bukhari (RA) spent whole life for the cause of Allah. His spiritual school of thought produced countless servants of Islam and guides to show right path of Islam. Imam-e-Rabbani Hazrat Mujaddid Alf Sani (RA), Hazrat Khawaja Baqi Billah Dehlvi, Hazrat Shah Wali Ullah Dehlvi, Hazrat Mirza Mazhar Jane Jana Shaheed, Hazrat Qazi Sana Ullah Pani Patti, Hazrat Shah Khalid Kurdi and so on.

Hazrat Shaikh Bahauddin Bukhari (RA) was entitled Naqashband. It means a man who engraved the name of Allah at the heart of his devotee very silently and accurately.

Dr. Muhammad Azeem Farooqi



Addicted to Diction

Body-shame: To mock, humiliate, or stigmatize (a person) on the basis of supposed faults or imperfections in body shape, size, or appearance.

Livestream: A live broadcast of an event, etc., over the internet.

Gribble: Irritable, bad-tempered.

Doxing: The action or process of searching for and publishing private or identifying information about a particular individual on the internet, typically

Astrophobia: A fear of lightning, or of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning.

Eco-anxiety: A state of stress caused by concern for the earth's environment.

عظمتیں

WITH

DR. MUHAMMAD AZEEM FAROOQI



MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 07:00 AM

ONLY ON



DR. MUHAMMAD AZEEM FAROOQI

WWW.DRAZEEMFAROOQI.COM

PAKISTAN'S BEST KEPT SECRET

MUKHI MAHAL

04 MINUTES READ

Mukhi Mahal is one of the finest amalgamations of the Baroque, Corinthian, Ionic, Renaissance, Colonial, and the old Hyderabad styles of architecture, in the entire country. The palace is located near Pakka Qilla, **Hyderabad, Sindh**, which attracts tourists even today. The stones they used in this palace were also imported from Jodhpur, India. Even the doors and windows are made of *sheesham* (Indian Rosewood) and *Sagwan* (Teak Wood). The palace includes 12 rooms, two courtyards, two big halls, and a dome.

Mukhi House was built in 1920, by a Sindhi Hindu family. **Mukhi Pritam Das**, who was the head of the Hindu community and Mukhi family as well, built the palace with his son **Mukhi**

Jethanand. After the death of **Jethanand** in 1927, the palace was inherited by his brother **Govindaram**. The family stayed in the palace until partition in 1947, but after partition, they gradually migrated to India, and by 1957 the whole family had moved.

The construction of Mukhi House took 3 years for completion. The building was designed by an Italian architect. Mukhi Mahal has hosted many important political figures of the past, including the former Chief Minister of Sindh Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. There was a room reserved for Nehru. Whenever in Hyderabad, Nehru stayed at the Mukhi House. Nehru held and led his political campaigns from The Mukhi House. Post-Independence, the Indian

IMAGES: ARY NEWS



Consulate was also established here. School was also set-up on the ground floor.

The mahal was set ablaze during the Hyderabad riots (1988). Fire had caused quite some damage to the building. Some of the designs were hard to redesign but have been renovated very finely. A unique feature the Mukhi House possesses is a minaret. It is a two-story house with 12 rooms and two large halls. Mukhi House is a masterpiece of architecture; the

sunlight from entering and leaving, while in addition to entering each room, there is a door that opens directly through the door. Inside the palace, the woodwork on the stairs, doors, furniture, and tables is a wonderful example, while the beds are kept in their original condition so that the viewer can see a picture of the past.

On the walls, many pictures of the Mukhi family are hung as per their request, as well as various influential

people of Sindh. In 2008, the descendants of the Mukhi family relinquished future claims to the Mukhi House on the condition that it be conserved and converted into a museum. The conservation was led by Dr. Kaleem Lashari from the Department of Antiquities in Sindh, and the Mukhi House was converted into a museum in 2013. The Mukhi family was invited to inaugurate the museum. The museum, however, is open for tourists.

According to historical accounts by Shakun

Narian Kimatrai, the construction, even in 1921, was 2 crore rupees. Although the Mukhis belonged to the social elite for many generations, Mukhi Pritamdas accumulated vast amounts of wealth and was considered the richest man in Hyderabad. His son Mukhi Jethanand extended the family fortune, and given his taste for good living, built the Mukhi House.

upper floor has four main entrances, beautiful and large windows around the doors so that sunlight could be welcomed.

All rooms in the house have comfortable beds, spacious windows, two doors in each room, and beautiful porches. The building also uses stone, marble, and iron. Each room of the palace has a balcony where you can stand outside so that people can enjoy the scenery outside.

The lounge is designed to prevent



Heer

THE METAPHOR OF RESISTANCE



Imran Khan
Playwright, Poet, Fiction Writer,
Teacher of English Literature

10 MINUTES READ

Heer is, perhaps the only heroine of our romantic or folk tales, who had to face the Shariat Court and hear from the Judge or Qazi:

*Durray shara' de maar udherrh desaan
Karaan Umar Khattab da niaa'n Heeray*

(I will do justice according to the Shariat, justice in the tradition of Caliph Umar Khattab. And that is you will be severely flogged).

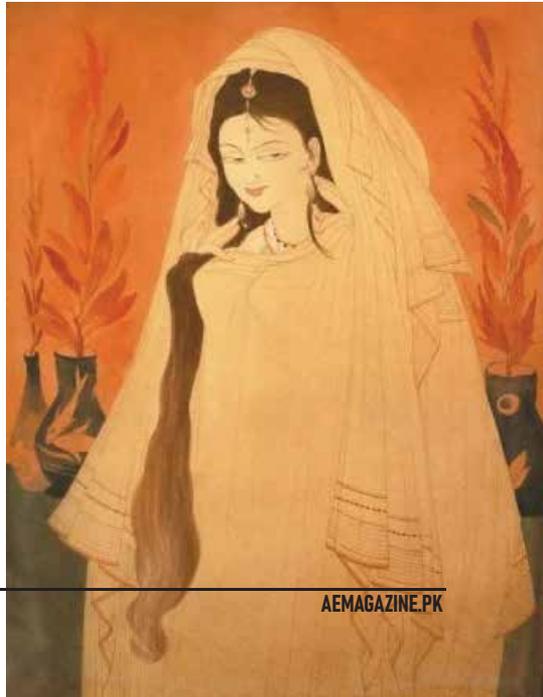
Flogging or a threat of flogging is a typical aspect in the Islamic Penal Code. No one was there to plead for Heer of Jhang Sial in the court of the qazi (judge) appointed by the Lodhi and Mughal rulers.

Heer, the daughter, or princess of a Sial Raja of Jhang, refused to surrender her fundamental right – freedom to marry a man of her own choice, the right recognized by Islam unambiguously. She had committed no crime which came within the mischief of the **Hadood Ordinance** of those days. Her only crime was that she demanded the freedom to marry a man, Ranjha, whose clan was not equal in status to the Sials and who had abandoned his land and home in his ancestral village across river Chenab.

Heer chose Dheedo Ranjha, an

angry young man from Takht Hazara, as her would-be husband. But she was not allowed to do so by her uncle Kaido, her parents, her brothers and lastly the judge of the Shariat Court. She had to face everybody like an emancipated young girl. The first attack came from her uncle Kaido who found Heer and Ranjha in the animal farm talking like lovers. In Kaido's view this was highly objectionable. A daughter of a chief talking to a man of inferior status and an employee of the chief, would certainly earn disgrace for the ruling family of the area. Heer was forced to expose her uncle and prove that he was a pervert and otherwise also abnormal. She hit him hard in the meeting of the elders of her family.

Kaido was morally defeated by Heer and her friends, but the points raised by Kaido were held valid by the elders.



IMAGES: TWITTER, PINTEREST

1. Ranjha Jatt was ethnically not a proper match for Heer Sial.

2. Ranjha was just a domestic servant of Heer's father.

Now the father, mother, and brother of Heer Sial ordered her to mend her ways and abandon the idea of marrying a poor domestic servant. She refused to do so and insisted that she had the right to choose her future companion. Come what may, she would marry Ranjha, the *chaak* (servant).

Heer's determination was unshakeable and that embarrassed the chief of the Sial tribe. Heer's brother suggested that if she was allowed to have Ranjha as her husband, it would bring shame to all the Sials and they would never be able to keep their head high. This would ruin the principality of Choochak. He suggested that Heer should be done away with. She should be murdered and thrown into the Chenab. But according to her father and mother if ever this conspiracy was discovered, it would bring greater disgrace to the family. Therefore, the Sial chief sought the help of the judge of the *Shariat* court (Qazi Shamsuddin) who happened to be Heer's teacher. She was presented before the Qazi who advised her:

***Bacha Heer! Tenu asi mat denday
Mithi naal zabaan samjhaunday ni
Chaak chobaaraa naal na gal kijey
Aeh mehenti kehrray thaau de ni***

(Heer, my child, I advise you to never talk to these menial servants. They are just your workers they have no status at all).

Heer had already accepted the threat of his brother Sultan to lay down her life rather than forget Ranjha. She refused to listen to the

wise words of the Qazi:

***Hor sabh galaa manzoor karaan
Ik chaak tu na hataa mian***

(I will accept all your conditions but do not ask me to leave the *chaak*).

That enraged the Qazi who shouted at the top of his voice:

***Sir betiaa de chaa judaa kar de
Baap ghuseyaa te jado aunday ne
Sir wadh ke naenh vich rohh denday
Maas kaa'n, kuttey, billay khaunday ne***

(When fathers get angry, they chop off the heads of their daughters. Their dead bodies are thrown in the river, whereafter they are eaten by dogs and cats).

These dreadful words from the lips of the *Shariat* judge failed to move the young girl. She refused to surrender and based her argument on the Qurānic principles and the history of Meccan society in the days of the Holy Prophet:

***Poray hattiya, qoum ouh nasht hovay
Dhiaa'n maariyaa khoon gawah mian
Manda ghat olaad de naal karna
"La taqtalu" hukm Allah Mian***

(History stands witness that the nations which allowed the murder of their daughters were doomed. Allah has ordered never to kill daughters. You will be accountable to Allah for this crime on the day of Resurrection).

Heer upset the Qazi. She had better knowledge of history and the rise and fall of nations than him. She had a more stable character than the Qazi who had so far put up not a single convincing argument. Heer made them speechless and when the qazis have no way out they use their

authority to issue a *fatwa* (edict).

The Qazi applies the same tactics:

*Jis waqt asaa dita chaa fatwa
Osay waqt he maar utaarnein gey*

(When we issue the *Fatwa* the same moment your parents will kill you).

Even that warning of the Shariat judge did not work and Heer, with all the politeness at her command, accepts that threat:

*Qaazia aashiqaa siraa tou pand suttii
Main taa sharm di bhaar na ladiaa gi*

(Lovers have already abandoned the lust for life, O judge! They never care for any disgrace which may be the fate of love).

That answer, that will die, shatters the Qazi and he refuses to have further dialogue with Heer.

*Qazi de jawab eh uth turya
Khairay po una karay haarni vey*

(The judge stood up and said, 'leave her alone, she has gone astray).

And here Waris Shah takes the side

of Heer, the lower:

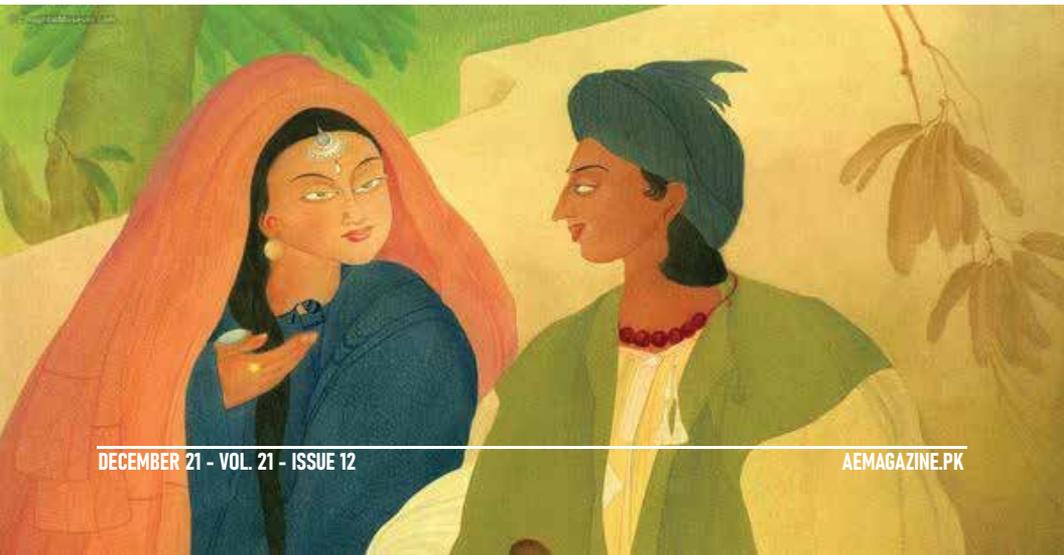
*Kiti shuru saboot hai ashiqaa di
Qazi ghafataa vich zaleel yaaro*

(The lovers have fulfilled the dictates of Shariat while the qazis have violated it and earned disagreee).

Now her parents, with the connivance of the Qazi, prepared a scheme to forcibly marry Heer and the Qazi was brought to the nikah ceremony. The Qazi already had a bitter dialogue with Heer. He tried to convince Heer with the same old set of arguments, which had already been rejected by Heer. To put force in his arguments the Qazi gave the current interpretation of the Shariat:

*Minu das Heeray kehri gal Pichay
Naal chaak muhabbataa laayaa ni
Ghar baar naahi koi khauh khalarr
Kutay pind na paerr, na jaayaa ni
Modhay gha bhoora, hath daang pharr
ke*

*Majhi kaamiaan ho charaayaa ni
Vichay chaak ro laak bedaad hoyi
Laa sattiaa sharm hayaayaa ni
Wadda adab ustaad da samjh Heeray*



*Atay maa peyaa man razaayaa ni
Hukm Shara' shareef Muhammadi
(PBUH) ne
An-honiaa mana farmaayaa ni*

(According to the Shariat of Qazi Shamsuddin, to obey parents and teachers is essential. To disobey is a sin. Ranjha has no blue blood. He is homeless, landless. He has no village and his ancestors are ordinary, unknown people. He is just an ordinary farm hand. His total assets are his coarse blanket and a staff for the herd for which he has been employed).

The Qazi further says, that which has sanction of what they call the Shariat from the times of Heer will our own times.

*Bhooray kamblaa chaa jawab dayye
Resham naal dou shaaliaa joriye ji
Bhavein lakh shanas bayraag hovey
Syed, Mughal, Pathan bee loriye ji*

(There is no relationship between silk and ordinary hand-woven grey blankets. They are two different and opposing classes. No less than a Syed, Mughal or a Pathan is suitable for Heer Sial. Ultimately the origin matters. Mares are not meant for donkeys and mules).

The Heer yells at the Qazi and taunts him in these words:

*Heer aakheya Qaazia! Dagha keeto
Keih watna es jahaan tou ji
Bina puchiaa parhi nikah mera
Eih fatwa nahi Quran tu ji
Le ke rishwataa karey khushamad tu
Nahi sangda Rabb burhaan tu ji*

(Heer says, "You have treacherously deceived me but what will you get out of this, O Qazi? You performed my *nikah* without my consent. Your act

and fatwa are not in accordance with the Quran: You accept bribes, you flatter those who support you in these immoral dealings. You are not afraid of God Almighty).

The marriage party of Saida Khaira of Rangpur had arrived and Heer had to be married to him at all costs. The parents of Heer, the Qazi, elders of the family and the town were determined to forcibly marry Heer to Said Khaira. This was done. Heer refused to accept the marriage and declared:

*Mian Ranjhya! Umr de paye jheray
Dukh dard mera kis wandna ay
Khairay naali nahi houna jorr mera
Karey talab te jhaarra chandna ay*

(Dear Ranjha, now there are lifelong sufferings for me and no one will share these with me. I refuse to accept Khaira as my husband and if he dares to come to me I will, with the help of Punj Peer, beat him up).

Heer kept her promise and never accepted the fake *nikah*. She refused to be a wife to Saida Khaira. All the time she had been accusing her parents, maulvis, councilors and government functionaries, of committing an unholy and anti-Shariat act. She kept waiting for Ranjha. And ultimately Ranjha came in disguise. Now he was a jogi trained at the historical Tilla Balnath in Jhelum. Earlier, Ranjha had refused to accept Heer's suggestion that they should elope. Ranjha was hopeful of winning her hand as her parents had given him an unambiguous assurance. But circumstances led him to believe that all moral and legal ways had been blocked by society:

*Penchaa pind diaa sach tou tark kiti
Qazi rishwataa maar ke chor keetay*

*Pehle hornaa naal qaraar kar ke
Tama vekh daamaad cha hor keetya*

(The *qazis* have gone corrupt and criminal. The councilors or elders have nothing to do with truth. Parents promise the hands of their daughters to one but because of their greed for wealth and power, hand them over to others).

In Ranjha's view, no institution was worth the name. He left with no other way except to reconsider Heer's earlier proposal. So was the case with Heer. Both agreed to run away to far away land where nobody would know them. They were escaping out of Rangpur, when the Khairas chased and caught them. They were presented in the court of Raja Adali who was sympathetic to the couple but he again sent them to his Shariat court headed by a Qazi, no less vile than Shamsuddin. He was already prejudicial against Heer and Ranjha whose affair was known to him. Therefore, his decision was obvious. Heer was separated from Ranjha and restored to the

Khairas. She was shocked at the decision. She had nothing left to fight for, but in desperation she prayed to God to reduce the city to ashes.

*Eda qehr keeta des waleyaa ne
Es shehr nu Qadiraa agg layee*

Heer never surrendered. She had to suffer a great deal but ultimately, she secured her right to freedom from the Khairas as well as the Sials.

Heer's end is a different story but she continues to inspire because of her relentless struggle for the restoration of her fundamental rights. She is a beacon light, particularly for women in South Asia fighting for their rights. Heer should not be taken as the love-lorn heroine of a romantic story.

She is a powerful indigenous champion of women's cause. She is the Joan of Arc of the women's struggle for equal rights in South Asia.

📍 poetic_spurs



“ QUOTES CORNER ”

A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.

-William Shakespeare

A full pocket shows the world. And an empty pocket reveals your own!

-Ashfaq Ahmad

We think too much and feel too little.

-Charlie Chaplin

You cannot continue to victimize someone else just because you yourself were a victim once—there has to be a limit.

-Edward Said

I like the cold weather. It means you get work done.

-Noam Chomsky

Your silence gives consent.

-Plato

God is found by those, with kind hearts.

-Bulleh Shah

All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream.

-Edgar Allan Poe

”



Faiz Mahmood

Asst. Professor of English,
Educationist, Social Worker

04 MINUTES READ

“Cramming is as widely condemned by the educators as it is widely used by the students”

Cramming is natural and it happens to all of us at one time or another. Cramming is a pretty good workout for the brain, as it improves concentration, boosts short-term memory, brushes up your ability to absorb information and develops thinking speed. Cramming can give you much needed life skills for the workplace as it teaches you how to manage stress and how to work under pressure. You can work effectively on deadlines as you know how to manage the little time effectively.

The benefits given above are faults of cramming as it boosts up Short-term memory (STM) under stress. Cramming won't last long in

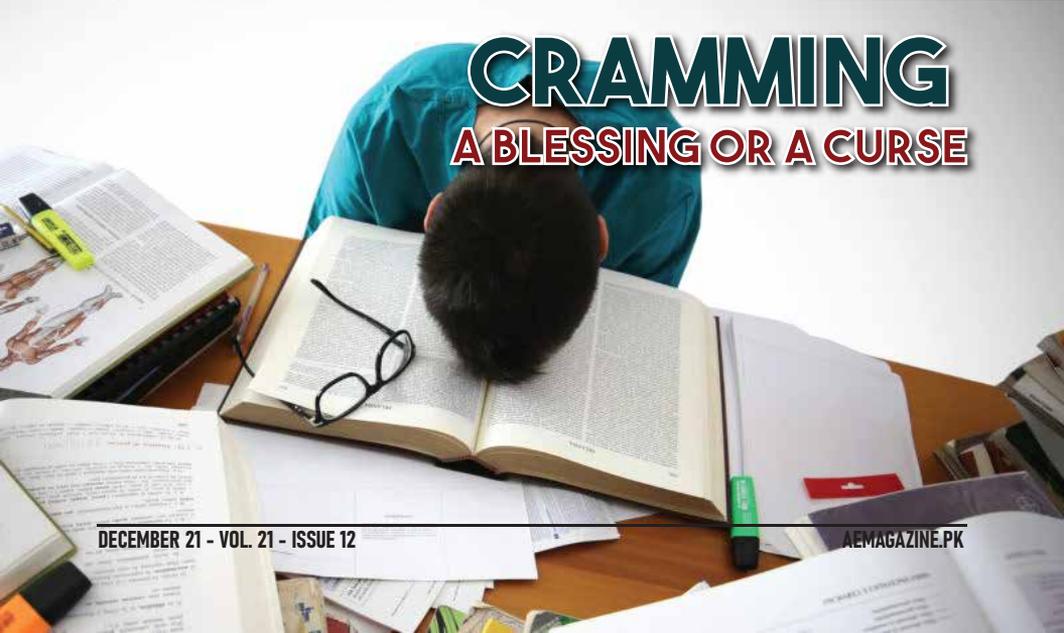
your memory and would never become a part of long-term knowledge you gained in this process.

Good study habits are an important skill for every student. The question is why students resort to cramming when they know it's hurting them more. The reason is procrastination; the habit of putting off study until the last possible second. Staying up the whole night thinking they are burning midnight oil to get through this exam maybe their misconception could harvest momentary benefits. In the longer run it may become hazardous as it is the only way they know to get through this difficult situation. Cramming gives a momentary satisfaction of getting through and trains their minds to recite the material without any deeper insight. Cramming can fetch good grades but not good understanding. That's the reason we find students having higher grades but display zero understanding of the subject. Cramming equips the society with a braindead lot whose

IMAGE : GABBITAS

CRAMMING

A BLESSING OR A CURSE



thinking power got severely strangled in the process. Although they are good workers but will never rise to the occasion to become better leaders or think out of the box. The first casualty of cramming is creativity. This system feeds the society with the lot who are less disciplined, work shirkers, time wasters, sloppy and practitioners of delay tactics. They are unable to think out of the box in unforeseen and unforeseeable problems. They may become good workers but not better leaders. That's the reason we have a dearth of leaders, scientists, engineers, teachers in the real sense of the word. In the 76 years of our independence, we have been able to get one Nobel Prize in Physics although we have got a lot of PhDs in our country.

We can get rid of this habit and develop creativity if we use these techniques:

"Spaced learning" is a learning method in which learning content is repeated three times, followed by a break after every learning. It is a much more effective technique for short-term recall and long-term retention. It helps develop the understanding of the concepts and build a long-term memory.

Reading slowly

To understand what you are reading and retain the same in your memory, "read slow and aloud" the word sound will enter your ear and be processed meaningfully by your mind and retained for future.

Taking good notes

Whether you are a student or a teacher, whether you are listening or speaking, make short notes while teaching and take notes while listening for later use. Notes will help recall

the subject long after you heard or delivered something on that subject.

Getting a good night's sleep

A good night's sleep gives you the power of understanding and retention, you can focus more and sharpen your mental abilities. If you dream-walk into the lecture room, there are 99 percent chances that you lost an opportunity to learn.

Staying organized

Stay focused on the study schedule, timely submission of assignments, tests and plan each activity of the course otherwise you will land into the land of cramming.

Studying in shorter sessions

Review material in short sessions lasting 20 to 30 minutes. This will help in improving concentration and recall material. Focus only on one topic or one section at a time over the course of days prior to the test.

"Cramming produced results gives you a bubbly fame which soon vanishes away if your knowledge is lame"

Cramming may seem like an effective way for students to prepare for a test, but it only leads to more stress and a disappointing performance. To get the most out of studying, the solution is constant, repeated exposure to the material, and a well-rested and healthy mind.

◻ Faiz Mahmood



AEMAGAZINE.PK

NICE GUYS FINISH LAST



Ummara Sheraz
Science Geek, e-Journalist,
Culture & Entertainment Writer

04 MINUTES READ

Ever had that experience when you feel highly altruistic and act like the nicest person around. Then how does this universe react to this positive energy? It presses the unbless button and sends negativity your way. Naturally at this point you regret being nice. It's like your positivity is a beacon bringing out the worst in people. But you still won't stop acting nice. Why is that though?

Is it because when being kind, people assume they can take advantage of you? Use you as a stepping stone? Step all over you? Lay the foundational core of their building on

your building block, and you still won't bat an eye? Is that where the term "nice guys finish last" comes from? Is this the collective takeaway of scores of genuine sweethearts out there over the years?

Over the years, we don't know. But we surely know some nice guys out there, and what we know about them is **nothing**. So, we just asked them to reiterate their experiences. We started with an 'average Joe' and his experiences. This marketing exec has an all-round bubbly, happy go lucky personality. So how has that fared for him? "Not too great", he said. He recalled one experience, in particular, that shook his faith in 'the power of positivity'.

"Throughout college and university, I had this great friend. She was like a baby sister for me and even my family had practically adopted her.

IMAGES: HINC. MAGAZINE



She was going through some boy troubles and like the good bro that I am, I asked her 'what's wrong and how can I make it better'. While she downplayed her situation, she later decided we can no longer be friends. Apparently, her man thought my 'nice guy act' was a cover to pursue her. So, to save her relationship she cut me off. At that moment I really wanted to stop being so darn nice. However, I wasn't going to give them that power.... To take my optimism and positivity away."

This raises the question. Did some *bhayya* out there just invent the phrase 'nice guys finish last' to deter people from being nice and making it glaringly obvious what little effort these *budhus* are putting in? Potentially yes. As a doctor recalled how people would mistake his kindness for a lack of assertiveness. They'll poke the bear assuming 'it won't do anything' until the nice guy showed them his assertive side. They're surprised when a nice guy enforces their own boundaries.

"People always step on you when you show them a nice face. Every time I am smiling and funny. So, they just unilaterally decide the arrangements/boundaries without asking. Then be upset that I treated them the way they treat me."

Another guy (with progressive hearing loss) had this to say regarding their humble outlook towards life. He learnt quickly that you catch more flies with honey, and in a world that is stacked against the handicapped, sweet-talk is a means to survival. People with physical disabilities are generally nice, simply because the world has not been handed to them on a silver platter. Be it applying for a job or going to a government office to get a hold of documents, just being a

decent human being works. Of course, you will meet your fair share of bullies in your life, some of whom you will have to teach their place (the schoolyard variety) and some that you have to put up with (an insecure coworker). But that's life."

But that's not the only way to live a life, is it? This way, if not anything else, is not sustainable. You act humble with them, and they take you for granted, you don't, and now you're rude, prude, proud, ignorant, arrogant, stubborn, aka the bad guy. Well, the nice guy waits, and waiting demands patience. With great patience, comes great power of withholding, withholding expression, withholding ideas, withholding yourself, to the point of letting go.

The nice guy syndrome comes with a built-in feature of understanding, and understanding, my amigos, is not the best thing to do, not if you're to survive in this world. Whatever you do in your life, just don't ever be the nice guy, because my friend, why be the nice guy, and suffer, and call your suffering as learning, when you can actually be the bad guy, and maybe suffer less, and suffice more.

@ ummara.work21@gmail.com

UNPOPULAR OPINION

**ELAICHI IN BIRYANI
TASTES
FINE.**





Shueyb Gandapur
Traveller

0.6 MINUTES READ

Speaking of native cultures, I think of the indigenous Emberá people who still live unconnected from modern civilization in villages, dotted along the banks of the river network of Panama in between thick forests. I went with a small group to tour one of the Embera villages. We drove in a van for two hours and then took a motorboat for another hour to reach there. The boat meandered its way through a tortuous river with thick forestation

neath the gushing water and get refreshed. But I preferred enjoying the sight from a distance, while listening to the soothing sound of splashing water.

A group of young Embera girls welcomed us as we reached their village. Embera people do not believe in covering their bodies. They leave their upper bodies entirely free of clothing and wear some loosely hanging items on their lower bodies to cover what must be covered. They use jewellery made of beads and shells and tattoos to beautify their bodies. Our guide walked us through the village and taught us about the Embera lifestyle. Emberá people live in open-air dwellings raised on stilts,



IMAGES: PINTEREST

on both sides. The water looked peculiar, with red-brownish hues. The boat looked unstable and the water, very deep. We could hear unusual birds chirping and at times saw turtles slowly climbing to the bank. We stopped at a waterfall before reaching the village. The boatman encouraged me to go stand under-

having thatched roofs made from palm leaves. These houses are typically round and have enough room for many members of a family. The villagers offered us lunch that consisted of scrumptious fish and plantain. Afterwards, they played their traditional drum music and danced in a circle. We watched and

clapped as the girls danced. An Embera girl came, took my arm, and dragged me to join their dance. Thus, one by one, each one of us was taken by Emberas of the opposite gender for a dance. We danced with the sync of our heart, some of us got tattooed. I got one on my upper arm, which stayed there for three months before it faded.

Even though tours to Embera communities are organised in a semi-commercial way, with the whole village enacting for the tourists, it's still an insightful experience for

by the Argentinian couple, because the building lacked a doorbell. Later that day, Matias set his camera on the table with the timer on. Valentina, Naim, Matias and I posed for a photo. The photo was posted later by Matias with the title Con Amigo De Pakistán (With a friend from Pakistan).

Since a trip to Panama warranted a visit to the famous Panama Canal, I dedicated half a day to pay my respects to that marvel of naval engineering. I witnessed gigantic ships approaching from one side, entering the lock as the level of



outsiders and a good source of income for them. After eating their food, dancing to their music, and inscribing their designs on our bodies, we got back to rowing boats. The Emberas waved at us with drum rolls, as we continued the journey through the riverine network of muddy waters.

Back in Panama City, I stood underneath the building and shouted my host's names as loud as I could, so my voice could reach the seventh floor and they would let me in. This was the protocol I was told to follow

entrapped water rose, gradually lifting the gigantic ship with it until it reached the surface level on the other side. The opposite gates of the lock would then open to let the ship cross over between two massive oceans of the world through this man-made link. One felt overawed by the unbelievable human ability to conquer mighty nature. The feeling of awe gave way to boredom soon for how long one could keep watching ships come and go. Therefore, I took a cab to Amador Causeway, a 6-km long stretch of road that connects the city

to four small islands. I rented a bicycle and rode it along the causeway's track, making several stops to take in the views of Panama City's splendid skyline while enjoying Dulce de Leche ice-cream.

My last stop in the Panama sojourn was the island of Bocas del Toro (literally 'Mouth of the Bull'). It is a group of exotic islands in the Caribbean Sea. The plane I took from Panama City to Bocas was the smallest I ever travelled in and had less than twenty seats. It flew low, offered stunning views of land, and water below. My hotel was only two blocks away from the tiny-village-airport, got there in ten minutes by foot. I walked past houses painted in bright colours, covered with tin roofs. Domestic chicken pecking, in the streets. It was the eve of Christmas, but the village lacked any festive-vibe. The weather was pleasantly warm. I stayed in that night, sitting in a chair laid out in the patio overlooking the street, observing the odd pedestrian passage. I imagined that most people would be at their homes with their families on Christmas eve. The hotel manager kept me accompanied until wee hours.

Next morning, I took a motorboat from the Bocas pier to visit other surrounding islands. The wooden motorboat jumped on floating waves violently, stirring-up my internal organs. The water surface looked hard, fierce, and threatening. In half an hour, I reached Bastimentos island, where wooden buildings extended into water, built on stilts. People lay about in their hammocks drinking or reading. Everything about the place looked idyllic. I recognised a man who was in the plane with me a day before. He waved at me from his hammock. I got out of the boat and

took a path leading up the hill.

I came across a sign for a café named 'Up in the Hill' during my trek on the hill. Following a path through the heavy vegetation up and down the hill, I continued following the arrow signs for that café fixed on to tree trunks. The café finally appeared at a strategic spot on the hill, giving off a serene view of the surrounding scenery. The place was also the owners' residence. Doors of the wooden houses were wide open. Shelves in the verandah were stocked with books, handmade trinkets, lotions, oils, and fragrant homemade soaps for sale. A toddler played on the floor with no adult to watch over. I realised that the circumstances assigned me the duty of watching him over, as he was slowly crawling over to the muddy sloping path. I had to lift him and bring him back to the veranda. The baby seemed cool with strangers. But as soon as I brought him back, he again crawled back to the muddy path.

His mother finally appeared, took my order and without any verbal assurances, left me to babysit while she made coffee in her kitchen. I would have loved to be there for hours, gazing at the hills, watching over the baby, leafing through the paperbacks, sipping coffee... munching on brownies made from cocoa grown on the same hills, but I had to be back in two hours to pick my bags from the hotel and run to the airport next door to catch my onward flight to San José, Costa Rica.

© *shueybgandapur*



When Ignorance Screams, Intelligence Moves On

04 MINUTES READ

Once, in a jungle, a donkey and a tiger were having a conversation. The Donkey told the Tiger, "The grass is blue", the Tiger replied, "No, the grass is green". The discussion became heated, so the two decided to submit the issue to arbitration. So they approached the judge, Lion. As they approached the lion on his throne, the donkey

started screaming, "Your highness, isn't it true that the grass is blue?" The lion replied, "If you believe it's true, then the grass is blue". The

donkey jumped forward and continued, "The tiger disagrees with me, contradicts me, annoys me. Please punish him!" The King then declared, "The tiger will be punished". Three days of silence, he declared. The donkey jumped with joy and went on its way content and repeating "The grass is blue! The grass is blue!" celebrating his victory.

The tiger asked the lion privately, "Your Majesty! Why have you punished me? After all, the grass is green" the lion replied, "You've known and seen that the grass is

green". The tiger asked, "So, then why did you punish me?" The lion said, "That has nothing to do with the question of whether the grass is blue or green, the punishment is because it is degrading for a brave and intelligent creature like you, to waste time arguing with a fool. And on top of that you came and bothered me with that question, just to validate something you already knew was true".



The biggest waste of time in this life, is to argue with a fool, who is unaware of the truth and does not care what the truth or reality

is, but only the victory of their beliefs or illusions, or just to prove themselves as right. Never waste time on discussions that make no sense. There are people who, for all the evidence presented to them, do not have the ability to understand. Not that they won't understand, but they just want to argue. Others who are blinded by ego or hatred and resentment. The only thing that they want is to be right, even if they are not. When ignorance screams, intelligence moves on.

STAYING CONNECTED WITH YOUR FAMILY



Saad Rashid
Grade 7 Student

04 MINUTES READ

Family is an important factor as you live through your life. It's one of those few things which stays with you throughout your life. Of course, people from your family die as you move on, but new born babies also join as family members. Parents are also important for kids and teenagers. They also learn different things from their kids and other family members. Families play an important role in success. Family will always be there when you have lost your way or even when the skies are grey. But nowadays kids do not pay attention to their families and stay alone to play games on their smartphones, instead of spending time with their families.

Mobiles, laptops and tabs separate us from each other which is not a good thing. These days, kids play games from which they learn nothing rather than learning and spending time with their family. So today, I am going to give you some tips to stay connected with your family. But before anything else, let's just pay attention to the benefits of spending time with family. Spending time with family helps in identifying your skills. It's one of the main sources of seeking knowledge and learning how to handle different situations which you go through in your life. The fun which you think you'll get from gaming and social media, you can also get from your family when you play and talk with them.

But, some family members are busier than others but you should know how to spend time with them because it will affect your image and shape your character. You will learn

IMAGE: FREPIK



more about family reunions and fights. You will learn more about handling fights and staying calm. And if you stay connected with your family, your family members will point out your mistakes so you can correct them in the future. Family, no wonder, is the biggest blessing of Allah Almighty but kids these days ignore it instead of being thankful for it. You need your parents more than they need you. So, kids, it's important to get some time off from social media and games and spend time with your family. Here are some tips to stay connected with your family.

Try to get under your sibling's skin

Your brothers, sisters and cousins are a big part of your family and you must spend time and play with them. Getting under someone's skin means *tang karna* in Urdu, which brings you closer to your brothers and sisters. You should not do it all the time, especially not when your brother or sister is studying, otherwise, you can get into big trouble, but that's how your childhood passes, yes! With mischief! So go and get under your brother's skin now!

Doing Creative Things//Study with Your Parents

It's really important to be creative, like building something with a Lego with the help of your parents or learning to cook with them. This makes you close to your parents and that's the best way to spend time with your parents, especially on weekends. If your parents are busy, you can always spend time or play with your grandparents. They are also a main part of your family like parents and siblings. You can learn a lot from them. They can tell you the story of their life and the problems they faced.

You can also play games like Dumb Charades, Ludo or monopoly with your parents or gather your whole family and play. This will be the best family gathering and it will be fun. I promise it will be one of the most magnificent days you will ever have.

Going Outside as a Family/ Eating as a Family

Going out to a park, mall or to a family Gala will be the best gathering for your family. It will be fun and you can also invite your friends and cousins too. You can enjoy watching a movie or going on a hike with your family. Another best thing is to eat every meal with your family every day at the dining table together. That will make you even closer to your family instead of eating alone in your room. Cousins are also part of your larger family. You can invite your cousins to stay overnight at your house or you can host a one-day trip to a lake or park. You can also play a cricket match together.

Kids, these are some tips with the help of which you can stay connected with your family. Give some time to your brothers, sisters, cousins, parents and grandparents. It has so many benefits that would never end. Now, go and spend time with your family and live a happy and successful life!

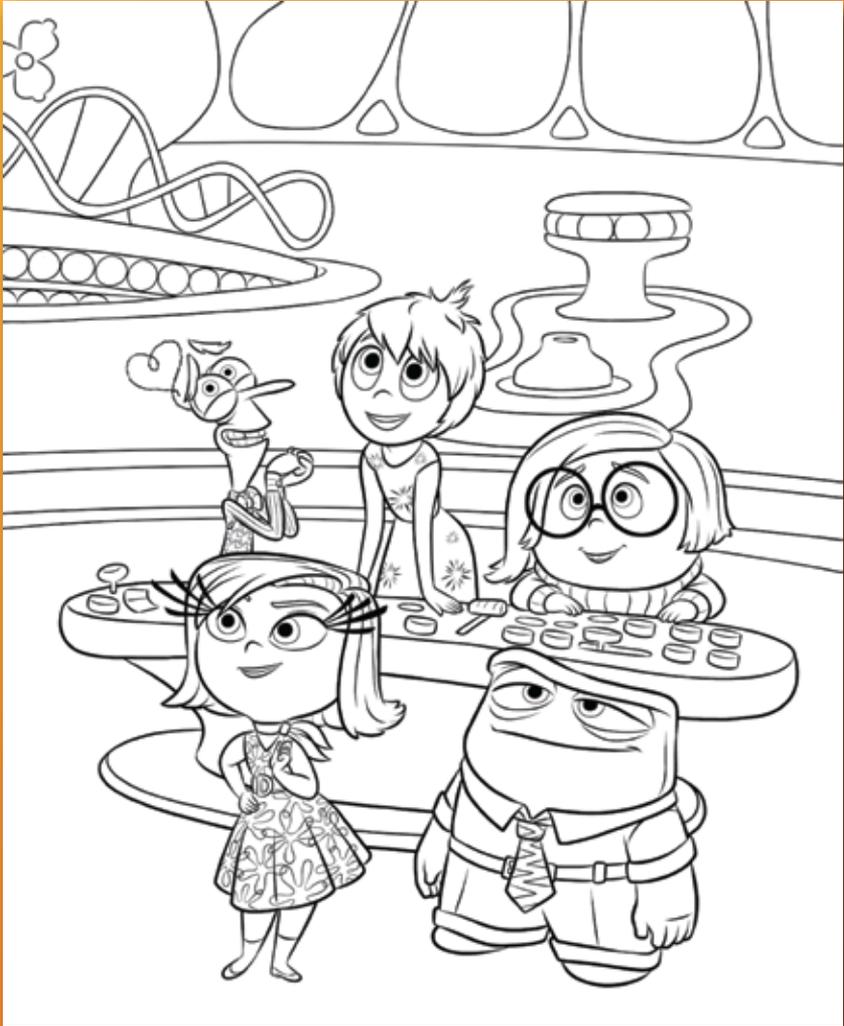
@saadrashid.pk@outlook.com

UNPOPULAR OPINION

**KEHWA IS
BEST
SERVED
WITHOUT
SUGAR.**



COLORING ACTIVITY



HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU FIND?

D	N	I	M	L	M	Y	E	L	I	R	H	O	Y
M	S	N	N	Y	R	O	M	E	M	E	R	O	C
S	M	E	M	O	R	I	E	S	M	M	A	E	S
R	A	T	O	S	E	N	N	I	M	A	E	J	A
H	L	L	A	B	F	O	O	G	H	I	E	O	D
H	D	B	A	N	G	E	R	A	S	I	E	Y	N
H	E	A	D	Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	S	N	E
N	S	I	Y	T	S	E	N	O	H	H	A	E	S
F	O	S	D	A	S	N	B	R	A	I	N	G	S
L	E	S	N	O	I	T	O	M	E	H	N	M	C
H	M	A	U	B	Y	E	R	R	E	H	T	O	M
O	A	H	R	O	I	S	L	A	N	D	S	E	A
E	E	M	S	N	B	I	N	G	B	O	N	G	E
T	N	H	O	C	K	E	Y	N	F	Y	G	O	D

EXPLORE MAGAZINE FOR KEY



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



Artists

OF THE MONTH

Fatima Shahid is a contemporary visual artist from Pakistan who lives and works in Lahore. She completed her BFA from the University College of Art and Design, Lahore in 2018 with a major in Painting and her MA in visual arts from National College of Arts, in 2020. She exhibited her work twice at Young Artist Exhibition, Al-Hamra, Lahore. Her work primarily revolves around the conflict between the relationship in family and psychology of domestic life. Her works are mostly done in mediums of oils, acrylics and graphite pencil



Syed Seerat Zainab is a contemporary visual artist from Pakistan who lives and works in Lahore. She completed her M.A painting from Punjab University College of Art and Design, Lahore in 2017 and her masters in visual arts from National College of Art Lahore 2020. She belongs to a middle-class family that's why her art practice is centered around middle class

women and portraying her domestic life through domestic objects, her works are mostly done in oil on canvas.



More than Paint and Brush Strokes



Arooba Haq

Student, Self Proclaimed Artist

04 MINUTES READ

For some artists, like Van Gogh, art is about capturing beauty where it already exists. They do that in their own unique styles. They want people to see the world from their eyes. I believe it is more important to find beauty where most won't. My art is about the unsaid and unheard. The things our collective humanity enables us to feel, but the quiet and unassuming ones like me fail to put into words.

Not being able to put something into words sounds strange coming from someone who does this for a living but I haven't learnt to introduce myself as a writer yet because I will

always be the person who draws before the person who writes. I had to learn how to write but I never had to learn to draw and I never really did. From an early age, I just had to pick up the pencil and everything else just came naturally.

This makes me insecure about the fact that my art may not be good enough but then art doesn't have to be pretty or perfect. You're meant to experience it and feel what the artist wants you to feel. The first black artist in America who rose to fame in the whitewashed world of art didn't paint pretty pictures to look at. He painted abstract and absurd images which said what he wanted to say about America, about art and about being black in both worlds.

Art in the philosophical sense is *more than just paint and pencil marks* on a canvas or paper; it is a message. It aims to make an impression on the

IMAGE - PINTEREST

observer. They process the artistic expression and evaluate it. They experience it with the backdrop of their own point of view. Art is therefore not just a one-sided expression of a conception. Art is a form of communication, as it enables you to feel, but also serves as a window into the past.

There is a universal language of art, which all humans know, which takes shape and visibility through artistic and spiritual research. This language links past, present and future, by means of a feeling inherent in all men of all times in every place.

Every artist has something to say through their art. You find that in common and recurring themes in their art. Frida Kahlo's art was all about her loss and her experiences with disability. Edward Hopper captured the alienation and loneliness of living in a large city like New York.

Not that my art will ever be as great as these people but as I mentioned earlier my art is or I should say I want my art to be about the unsaid and the unheard, the dismissed and disregarded injustices happening to women, the unseen and unappreciated beauty of brown women, the subdued and suppressed emotions that are a part of our collective experience of being human but yet we can't share them.

It enables us to see what we won't otherwise. It helps us to give a physical form to feelings, thoughts and ideas. Inexpressible emotions can be conveyed through art. Revolutionary ideas are often first embodied in the form of sketches and drawings. While logic and science address the brain, art addresses the heart. It is not for nothing that artistic activities are often used as therapeutic measures

for people who are ill in various ways.

The universal language of art speaks from the heart and addresses the heart. When a work 'works', that is, it moves, points directly to the heart and is printed in the viewer's memory. The principle of creation of all the works is the same, which is why an ancient sculpture excites as much and in the same way as a contemporary one. What drives artists to create is the infinite search, and the eternal works, the ones that will always excite, come from the same point, speak the same language and are directed to the same place, look for the same thing and take away the user making him travel in the world of emotions.

A work of art is the materialization of a feeling. Thus, this thesis leads to the question of what importance do reality, distortion or myth have in the creation of a work? For this, the intention of the creation and the social framework in which the art exists is, of **decisive significance**. Art can deceive and can make everything clear. Thus, art on the one hand is a mirror reflecting our perceptions and also an instrument of indoctrination.

@ aroobaanwaar@gmail.com



My Way to *Wu Wei*



Madhubanti Chanda

Dancer, Research Scholar

PhD candidate at Heidelberg University

06 MINUTES READ

An integral part of the larger notion of Chinese Philosophy is the concept of Man as a part of nature, rather than man as the center of nature. Western artistic techniques of perspectivism, vanishing point and illusionism carve out a space to illuminate the human figure in lieu of the nature surrounding them. For all its vastness and beauty, this art reflects the larger contract that classical Western philosophy spells out- that nature is of use for man. Consider a Chinese painting; the whiteness of the canvas is not filled up in earnest respect of that elusive element called *space...* nature is not an ornamental

space-filler lurking in the background. Man is not the center, but a very continuation of the forces of nature. Out of this grand tradition of philosophy is where Wu Wei takes birth. Unlike the popular notion that it was Taoism that engendered Wu Wei, the concept actually developed out of the *Confucian* tradition, the religion primarily of the ruling class, where it meant attaining, through practice, the perfectly virtuous disposition, that made one worthy of being part of the cosmos of a political kingdom - here everyone's place is fixed, while the person of the king towers above all. Yet, **Taoism**, which was the philosophy of the radical, the natural-spiritual worldview of the peasant and artisans shifted Wu Wei to a practice of attaining oneness with the primordial nature; in fact, it is attaining through letting go. Lesser

IMAGES: PINTEREST



desires, lesser wants, breathing, easing out, aligning with spirit, and letting it guide us into a natural spontaneity and harmony, sans the weight of greed and more greed, fear, jealousy.

I give a sketch of its history for it reflects the pattern of many of our lives. Maybe one day we are tired enough of our lives and decide that we want all the positive energy the self-help books, selling by the roadside, or screaming across the internet, tells us we can have. And thus, we start with all the affirmations, and lists of gratitude, whether we feel it or not, hopeful of attracting what we want. It is not unlike the Confucian view of *prim and propriety* where you are required to fit into the world, not with your wholeness, but your veneer of **“positivity”**, in a bid to not disturb the order. But what about the monsters of our jealousy, rage, hurt, years of wounds, emotional triggers that creep in and thwart my sandcastle of positivity?

But it is the very nature of castles to get destroyed, no matter how high a wall we build. I had to find something like clay, something that allows me to mold, create, dissolve, and recreate, without the fear of it all falling apart. When a torrent of rainfall washes over an idol of clay, the clay mingles with the flood of water to become mud - the idol only changes form, it does not break. This constant creative energy for me is what Wu Wei has become over these months as I would wake up to bad dreams that would make my sleepy nights restless and my mornings numb, and heartbreaks that would keep my days filled with affirmations of something being wrong with me. To understand Wu Wei as a rough translation of *“the art of doing nothing”*, is to firstly under-

stand Lao Tzu’s fundamental dictum that nature, and thus, we, in extension are already beautiful and all we really need to do is to return to our spirit, which will guide us into entering that state of nonchalant flow! How redeeming it sounded to me that one day I could find within myself the effervescence of a free-flowing waterfall, at once connected, dynamic, free and a force to reckon. What I learnt back then was, Wu Wei is about not being passive, but deciding to set some intentions, letting go off attachments but deepening connections, and doing your part and letting that space for the yet unknown to unfold in its own rhythm.

The first thing I learnt was that, I need not crush any of my demons, because all of my greed, jealousy, came out of a fundamental, ancient wound- a fear of not being (loved) enough, that is at once personal and universal. Yes, certain things could awaken our demons but an integral part of the practice of Wu Wei is to create that deferment between the event and our response to it: to make space for our first, unfiltered reaction to just be felt inside our body. Slowly, the threatening tremor becomes a wave of physical sensation that passes away, without awakening the oft-repeated story of “Yes, I am not good enough”. And that is another part of my Wu Wei practice, to acknowledge and honor that inside of me is an ocean of space where my fears can float in safety and kindness without being brutally suppressed to look “nice” for the world. And it is allowing that space that becomes the sacred alchemy by which I am no longer deciding my actions motivated by fear, but also one that tells me, like the Japanese art of Kintsugi, I am fulfilled and beautiful even with my cracks and all. The

imagery of beautiful golden lines suturing the broken parts of the ceramic always reminds me to not be disappointed if the bubble of my positivity feels thwarted at some point of the day. Wu Wei, and its belief in the eternal spirit tells me that I am inherently and perfectly valued no matter what. I am more than a bubble that can be burst with one negative thought, I am space, holes and all and I am indestructible. And this brings me to my last practice, that of forgiveness. I have been seeking beauty and love all my life, but the thread that

eternal, radiant spirit is more important to you than to keep yourself tied to the familiar tentacles of suffering.

Wu Wei then became a continuous practice for me, to understand that I am blossoming in a network of inter-dependent relationships and not the egoic center of the world; that instead of constantly working to be positive, I have to only channelize and redirect my energy towards fostering connection to my ever-present essence, and let that guide my actions; that as only an element, and not the center of this



connects them both is harmony- and what is harmony without calmly letting go that which does not serve us or proactively growing more metaphorical arms to cut off that which we know is harming us? That is exactly what forgiveness does: sets you free. Most of all, forgiveness is just about making space for an intention: that you are ready to not let another's action keep hurting you, that you are ready to believe in the other person's capacity for change, that being connected and moved by your

energetic world, I am co-creating and not controlling, I have to let space for the unknown, let space to others; and most importantly, that arriving at my own harmony is more important than living up to others vision or expectations for me, and I will keep doing a thing or two to constantly arrive at that harmonious flow of energy.

📍 [madhu_gitanjalidance.shillong](https://www.instagram.com/madhu_gitanjalidance.shillong)

YARA GEE AMAN KARSO!



Muhammad Ali Farooqi
Ph.D. Scholar, Historian,
Critic

02 MINUTES READ

How often do we get to see Street Theatre or just theatre, in Pakistan? You know the answer. But finally, someone did it. **Makhotay**, in collaboration with *The Curtain Raiser Productions* did it. Kudos to Team **Makhotay** for breaking the *qasam*. Hats off to the creator, the man behind the thought - Sibte Hassan (applause). The play, titled *Yara G Aman Karso*, the thought behind the play is very simple, and presents a very good outlook towards life i.e., “*live and let live*”. However, this is only the thought, which is very simple, and presents an ideal scenario, but the plot thickens as the curtain uncovers. Street theatre is performed out there in the open, the cadence, the charm, live interaction, live performance, and live reaction. I have performed street theatre in Interior Sindh, and it gets a bit difficult with the crowd, as you're unaware, how they might react. Particularly, when performing, something of this nature.

The plot revolves around social disorder in the society. Where different characters portray different mindsets of the society. In terms of scripting, a well-written script, great characterization, good situations provided to the characters, but the dialogues however were not the best, if you compare the situation with the characters.

Well, the characters were interesting, and denoted different classes of the society. The way they respond to a

certain situation was well-managed by the actors. Dialog delivery was on point. A big yes to the performances. Another interesting aspect, which is to be noted, is how well the actors play with the ground: i.e., how well can they put the ground to their best use. Acting, particularly theatre, is all about improvisation, and the actors managed that in a brilliant manner. Street theatre ain't easy to perform.

A beautiful rendition to this street-theatre portrayal was another street element; rap. Hiphop is one of the most vocal art forms. It's very raw in its nature and rap, if performed rightly, compliments any given scene, as in 2018, we performed rap in our play: “**Girah**”. Good situational rap by the two rappers as it complimented the whole act, and the enactment, the only criticism that I have, is that it's 2021, and still rappers cannot identify their own voice, as hip-hop is all about being you, with your own voice, and not of Bohemia's, or any other *galli* rapper, who *yeahs* or *aahs* at you whenever you talk to them. SMH.

Direction was well-handled. Kudos to the director, inconveniences were avoided, and that is the beauty of direction, and shows the skill of a director. There's more to management, than to play, or portray in terms of direction. In all the courses of action, direction was at the top, then acting, then script/plot. If I were to rate it, I wouldn't, 'cause it's art, and there are no judgements or indictments or rankings, in the end, art wins, theatre wins, well done Team **Makhotay**, thank you for reigniting the spark. Hope the pursuit follows. In the end... well-played!

@ alifarooqi@aec.org.pk

Thalaivii: *The Kangana-Arvind Show*



Sheheryar Shahid

Film Critic, Theatre Artist, Writer,
Psychotherapist in Training

04 MINUTES READ

The undisputed queen of Bollywood, none other than Kangana Ranaut, stuns us yet again with the spectacular biopic *Thalaivii*. Based on actor-turned-Chief Minister Jayalalitha's life, the flick predominantly chronicles the journey of Jayalalitha's personal life, with the gorgeous blending of her powerful political career. Brilliantly helmed by Vijay, the multilingual film is like a roller coaster which encapsulates the ups and downs of Jaya's life in a dynamic fashion. The film begins with Jaya (Kangana Ranaut), a playful and straightforward girl, who is forced to choose film as a career by her mother (Bhagyashree), and how she meets MGR (Arvind Swamy), the superstar of Tamil Nadu. MGR and Jaya gradually form an intimate equation, and soon after his political career kicks off, Veerapan (Raj Arjun) suggests MGR to put his ties with Jayalalitha to rest. MGR's departure from her life coupled with her mother's death makes things devastatingly tough for Jaya. However, later on, on MGR's suggestion, Jaya joins politics against Karuna (Nassar) and makes Tamil Nadu proud by her sincere services towards people.



The crown of the film categorically goes to Kangana Ranaut... My God! I feel she has emoted scores of expressions in the film effortlessly. She has put on a few kilos for the film, which she handles gracefully, furthermore, she is so authentic in the film— I mean she does not try to imitate Jayalalitha, which snowballs the challenge for her as an actor, and she pulls it off quite wisely. Her transition from a chulbuli larki to an honest CM is so smooth and surreal. Kangana's classical portrayal of the character could be used as a study guide for the

people who are looking to master their dialogue delivery skills, expression games and even characterization tendencies. Kangana's presence in MGR's death scene is superior to the whole career of some actresses; she

emotes agony, pain, loss, and humiliation in a single sequence so exceptionally; and the whole sequence bursts you in tears. Furthermore, another jaw-dropping performance has been given by Arvind Swamy; he delivers a controlled yet captivating performance. His chemistry with Kangana is extremely flamboyant and touching. It feels like you are actually watching the real MGR on screen, so realistic yet exuberant and exquisite. Besides, Raj Arjun as Veerapan is so convincing, he just aces his character through his eyes and paralanguage. Moreover, witnessing Bhagyashree after ages was a sheer delight, she still

looks absolutely charming. Other characters including Nassar and Madhoo assist in moving the story forward.

The film is through-and-through a wholesome experience. It encompasses drama, emotions, reality, power, politics, glamour in a very pragmatic manner. The USP of the film is that the director Vijay paints the biopic without over-dramatizing the events. Each frame depicts the remarkable vision of the makers coiled around the facts. The director highlights specific chunks from Jaya's life which makes you ponder and admire her struggle, her influential persona and infectious chirpiness. The pace of the film is relatively rapid, which I believe, has been done intentionally by the director to showcase the multiplicity of Jaya's life. However, I feel, the film is more about the love story between Jaya and MGR, and less about Jaya as Chief Minister; this could be a slight disappointment for the viewers who have known and seen her as an upright politician.

The dialogues by Rajat Arora are superb, and define the classical era of India. However, for me, what lacked is good music. The songs by G.V. Prakash Kumar is quite run-of-the-mill, and could have been made better by adding a more pleasing touch to them. From all the tracks, Nain Bandhe Nain is the one which will spellbind you by

immensely soft yet bewitching vocals of Saindhavi; the track is soulful.

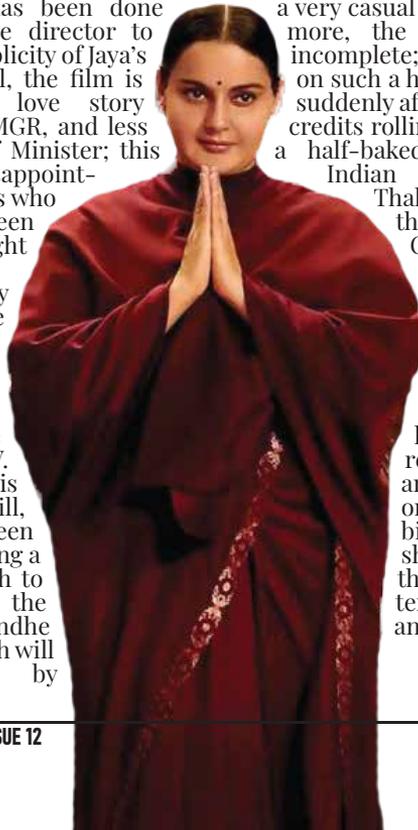
The special mention should be given to designer Neeta Lulla, for such wonderful transitions, all the characters had strong resemblance with the real stars. In the second half, the manner with which everyone grows old is so awe-striking. At this point makeup expertise of the artists speak volumes. Hats off to the team.

The first half of the film was superb and touching, whereas the second half defines the film and the titular character in the true manner. However, the only thing which disturbed me were the several yet clear flaws in the editing, the abrupt cuts to the other scene were quite bizarre, which gives

a very casual impression. Furthermore, the climax seemed so incomplete; just imagine it ends on such a high-spirited note and suddenly after a while you see the credits rolling. It feels like having a half-baked Medhu Vada (an Indian snack). Hope that Thalavii 2 hits the theatres soon.

On the whole, the film is a must-watch, specifically if someone wants to witness some astonishing performances from the Hindi Cinema, and here I am definitely referring to Kangana and Arvind. Thalavii is one of the finest biopics ever made and should be included in the curriculum in terms of performances and makeup skills.

© [the_boring_admi](#)



Love, No Season Knows nor Clime



Sara Noor
Lecturer & Writer

04 MINUTES READ

He was a competent and reputable professional man of forty who considered himself well past and above the idiocy of love. Therefore, he found it very strange that a rational man like him was being irresistibly pulled towards this woman he had met at the education expo a few weeks ago. He could not get her out of his mind for many days afterwards. How he had wished he could find out more about her! Fate granted him his wish, even allowing him to talk to her at length. She was a faculty member and the moderator of the conference he was speaking at a university. Soon after he came back, he found himself wishing that he shared the same workplace as her.

Her memory kept intruding on him often, in class, amongst friends, during his solitude, when chewing down on a lump of food... In those moments, tears welled up in his eyes; his heart went aflutter, threatening to break his rib cage and fly towards her. His emotional agony and mental unrest became unbearable. His heart worded a silent wish to be near her, but he kept forcing her out of his mind.

A few months later, when the dean welcomed a new faculty member to the department a lightning bolt struck him. You! The bewitching soul I am desperately trying to escape! The goddess divine I am humbly bowing towards! He wanted to shout this, but somehow his introduction flowed

from his lips. He behaved as he would with a new colleague irrespective of his heart jumping to his throat and chest aflame with an unseen fire. She was telling the dean about her research. He found himself reverently listening to her, wanting her to never cease talking for fear that the universe would stop if she did.

The dean asked him for his critical opinion of the newcomer's research project. His heart was bent in prostration before this majestic lady. How dare the dean invoke the rude interruption of reason! He made a few polite, academic comments. When the meeting was adjourned, the dean,



also his former supervisor who was very friendly with him, said, *"This is the first time you've not objected to or criticized or suggested any change or given your opinion on a research. Highly uncharacteristic of you!"*

"Sir, have you ever found that any of the changes or objections or criticisms or opinions I have made so far were misplaced?"

"No, indeed, I have always found you speak with an intellectual poignancy and integrity few possess. And that is why, I believe that you might've finally met your intellectual match."

"I consider my colleagues and my students as my equals."

IMAGES: PINTEREST

"Ali, you are being humble."

On his way home that day, his heart was thumping with exultation and anxiety. He kept driving aimlessly here and there. There was so much he did not want to face. Intellectual integrity, as his professor had said, demanded that he speak the truth to himself also. Was it not true that his wishes with regard to that girl had come true? Was everything a coincidence? Is there really a God beyond coincidence? How can I explain this emotional stirring? He shook away these thoughts and engaged himself in routine matters.

It was years ago when faith had deserted him gradually and surely after his family had been murdered one by one because they were part of a minority community. The hurt and the pain had been so utterly unimaginably unbearable that he plucked his heart out of his chest and threw it in the deepest and darkest pits of cold and indifferent rationality to which no light or laughter could reach. He had been driving aimlessly for years now.

A few more months passed in this agonized state of mind. He found himself defeated in his silently growing passion for that girl. Familiarity with her had only fanned the fire within to an inferno. He was less himself and more at one with her. The one-sided nature of love intensified the pain he felt. All he desired now was peace of mind. I should talk to her. But before that I need to untangle the mystery within. He finally became determined to address the reality avoided for so long.

One night, he laid open his heart inside his journal:

"I have tried to justify everything physically and objectively without God. Yet, today, all my reasoning has failed me. If

I cannot explain this longing and selfless devotion which makes me forget my professional principles, neglect my social standing and ignore my personal commitments, what must the love of God be like? If this single emotion cannot be explained or understood by me and I am forced to accept it as love, then reason speaks that I cannot explain or understand God rationally. I can explain the physical world, but God... I cannot deny Him any longer. It is the heart which testifies to His greatness and oneness. Reason and emotion all point only to Him. In my love for Shama, I have rediscovered faith. I now understand what it means to accept Him and submit to His Will. Therefore, I accept that there is no god but God."

The affirmation poured from his heart and nerve and sinew, completely overwhelming him. Born of neither culture nor inheritance, the testimony emerged from the combined appeal of his heart and mind. He felt as if peace was overflowing him with its softness, fragrance and lightness. In the coming weeks, he gathered courage for letting love enrich his life. This time, he consciously worded a prayer: Grant me the privilege and honour of calling her mine and sharing all that I am and all that I have with her and only her. Whether Thou will it or not, I shall be forever grateful to You and only You.

Shama was considering the two proposals. One was a well- educated, well- bred young man who was just starting his career. The second was someone currently working in the same department as her, well- settled, but divorced and middle aged. Should it be Shama-e- Ali or Shama ...? After pondering for long, she decided to settle the matter by prayer.

© saranoor722@gmail.com



Sanctuary



Wajiha Imtiaz

PhD Scholar, Learner, Dreamer

04 MINUTES READ

The doctor's waiting room felt stifling and poorly ventilated. She swallowed hard at the sight of a news report that had prompted a sinister blood rush to her ears. Some girl named Noor had met the fate she had been anticipating for herself, the incident had jolted her out of her passive hopes that she phrased often as *"it's all in my head"*.

In a few minutes she would be the next to see the doctor for a therapy session. Where should she start and till when should she describe her experience? From the early days of her marriage perhaps? How the traumatic first year of living with husband had substituted her enamour with grubbiness of a limp vegeta-

ble. How he would take pride in criticizing her each gesture to a point where she had lost it all and became an object that would robotically take his orders and complimentary slaps. Maybe, to the day when the hitting had turned into a gruesome beating, or perhaps to her present circumstance where she lived in a constant fear of 'how painful an end he must be planning for her?'

Dr: *"How are you feeling today, Ms. Gulshan?"*

She had been practicing CBT during the past sessions where the therapist had helped her overcome panic attacks through rational thinking and mindfulness.

Gul: *"I think he will harm me very brutally and no one will blink an eye."*

She recalled how he would put blame and threaten people for anything, how he harmed people in the name of punishing them, called

others incompetent, threw tantrums and would constantly glorify how he was such a connoisseur that others simply could not match up to his intellect and sophistication. He could never see life as a series of setbacks and wins. He only wanted to win at the expense of others, to him the only life worthy was his own.

Dr: *“What makes you say so? Are you following the rational thinking pattern that we had perfected last session?”*

Gul: *“Yes. The same happened to Noor.”*

Dr: *“No, it cannot possibly happen to you because you are very enlightened upon the narcissistic tendencies, and I have discussed in detail how an empathy needs to stay clear of any connection with a narcissist, so they need very firm boundaries for self-preservation. You will not go to see him or maintain any sort of interaction with that person.”*

Gul: *“He is a plotter, he will put me in a fix; as Noor was tricked.”*

Dr: *“Your ex-husband has severe narcissistic personality disorder. NPD is often associated with substance abuse as was his case. His character pathology shows a grandiose self, lack of empathy, haughty attitude, and alarmingly exploitive behavior. Your family could not comprehend these traits at the time of your betrothal. Your brother had held high regard of your then ‘to be husband’ who maintained the façade of a scholarly, foreign qualified man. Had they an inkling of your marital life turning into misery, they would have refused the proposal with no qualms. I am sorry that your personal experience of abuse with him distorted your sense of reality. You couldn’t speak for yourself. You did not inform any one of your consequences till it got discovered. Now that you have severed all ties with him and as you work on rebuilding your life, I am here to help you through this process of self-recovery.”*

Gul: *“I didn’t save myself, nobody told me*

I needed to save myself.”

Dr: *“Can I do anything to make you feel safe now? What will make you feel safe?”*

For a moment her dismayed past self was hopeful. A sanctuary and a compass might save her future self.

Gul: *“A death sentence for Noor’s murderer. And a rule book on who is to be trusted.”*

© wajihaimtiaz@yahoo.com

Addicted to Diction

Mama Put: A street vendor, typically a woman, selling cooked food at low prices from a handcart or stall. Also a street stall or roadside restaurant.

Self-isolate: To isolate oneself from others deliberately; to undertake self-imposed isolation for a period of time.

Unfathomed: To come to understand something mysterious, puzzling, or complicated

Quilling: The action or practice of bribing electors in order to gain their votes, especially by providing free alcohol and free biryani in Pakistani context

Pronoid: A person who is convinced of the goodwill of others towards himself or herself

Binge Watching: When watching several episodes of a series in quick succession over an extended period of time.

Doom Scrolling: Reading the news on social media and expecting it to be bad – so much so that you become obsessed with looking at updates

99.9% RECOVERY

CHALLENGE TO SOCIAL PROTECTION



Muhammad Awais
Development Consultant,
Trainer, Writer

04 MINUTES READ

Microfinance for microbusinesses through interest free in-kind or cash financial support is always an eye-catching endeavor from a social enterprise to alleviate poverty. Several public and private sector organizations are supporting and executing this activity through domestic and international funding or donations. Concept of such a remarkable effort is that instead of feeding someone fish, tell them how to catch a fish and keep this chain developing and growing. This is purely a social concept and well-acclaimed by executors that they are doing this activity for a noble cause. However, while establishing micro-enterprises or scaling someone's micro-establishment; the executing agency makes business models for sustainable growth avoiding risk. This way, the executing agencies try to recover the donated funds in the shape of small and easy-to-pay installments and put funds into revolving streams to help others and keep this chain going. There are challenges one can face during running their businesses



whether it is based on donated funds or other financial resources and interest-free or with interest streams. There is a natural statement that one is aware of when doing business: Profit and Loss. Here we are discussing micro businesses based on interest-free financial support, so consequently one will establish impacts on a noble cause e.g. increase in income, better living standards, scale-up, schooling of children, accessibility to necessities, and affordability etc. The execution agencies and policy communicators always try to address challenges faced by micro-entrepreneurs and rightly so: "ready to accept the losses as well". Having said this, a question arises "why are most of these agencies claiming 99.9% recovery and how do they ensure this unnatural impact?" During global economic unrest, profit schemes shrink, and inflation rises. Micro-businesses face tough times to earn for their necessities and pay liabilities through their respective micro-establishments.

During the current pandemic or particularly, in any crisis, social protection becomes mandatory for any society. Significant ratios of

society that fall under the poverty line are called as vulnerable, however, they are the middle class and some upper class fall just at the edge and become a silent part of the aforementioned vulnerable part of society.

A recent case is the private school system, which charges about Rs.500-2000 per month. After the first lockdown (March 2020), school fees were affected. A dip of 60-70% and 40-50% in monthly fee in the month of April and May 2020 respectively was observed. A little ease in the lockdown situation made the people go back to work, so the fee collection in the month of June 2020 brought back near to normal i.e., 70-80%.

Here the social protection speaks louder and clearer that only a mishap or crucial event pushes the middle class into poverty line and alleviates the already vulnerable, more vulnerable. The current pandemic situation triggered three stringent tests; (a) Strive for food and necessities (b) Meeting the norms of society and (c) Avoid family system disturbances. Government helped the vulnerable through charity. However, the above-mentioned dip in collection of school fee highlights how a weak social protection system shattered for two months and dues were not to be paid. As soon as life came back to routine, societal norms were happily exercised.

One viewpoint is that if such a crisis happened two or three decades ago when we were stronger economically, due to less cultural disparity; the second and third stringent tests could be healed easily. Social norms in close-knitted societies help protect people's societal rights, but sadly those norms have been replaced by money race in every element of society.

Social protection is a phrase commonly used by various schools of thought and socio-economic sectors. Most of the time, policy designers and decision makers focus only on those who fall under the poverty line and can survive with smaller donations. However, those who live above the poverty line are so susceptible that even one salary delay, or halt of business operation can push them towards poverty line, and hazardous society norms pull them back; as they are stuck mid-air and bear crisis miserably. A humble suggestion to policy and decision makers; please look down and see for yourself. It will help you in exercising social protection with solid rationale.

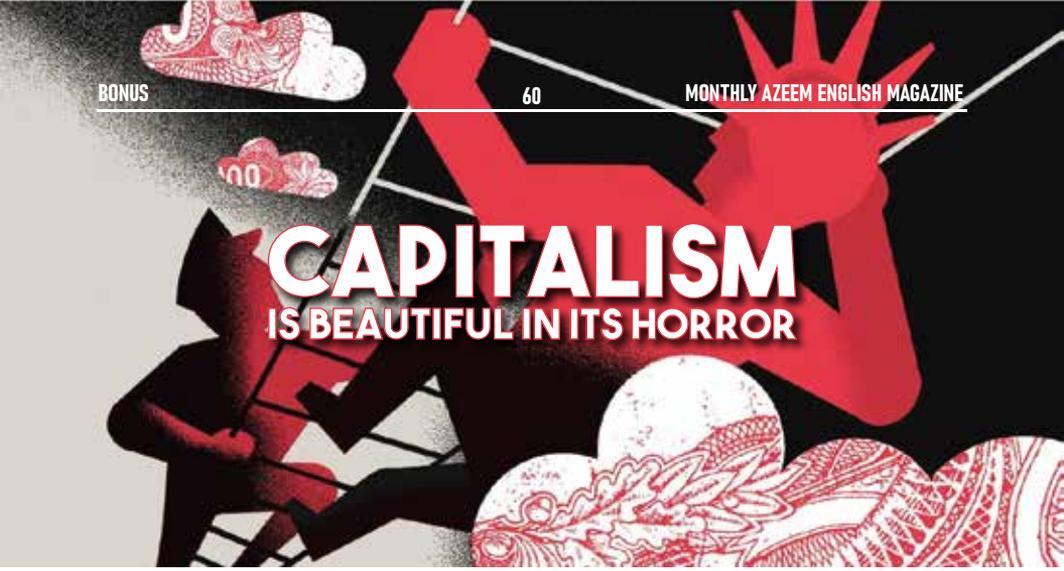
Considering normal and abnormal business routines, it seems unreal to understand and believe how we forget laws of nature while doing business Profit and Loss. I don't want to make the 99.9% recovery claim doubtful but would like to insist on the social impact of donated microenterprises by treating them especially in vulnerable conditions that they face and deal with. Our focus as a social enterprise should facilitate the support of the vulnerable and motivate them to pursue microbusiness, addressing their real time challenges for sustainable growth and progress. 99.9% recovery may be a big hurry, but not an impactful achievement.

@awaisaja1@hotmail.com

UNPOPULAR OPINION

**TAKING A
BATH BY
BUCKET
IS BETTER
THAN
A SHOWER.**





CAPITALISM IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS HORROR



Kaswer Hafeez
Writer. Stoic. Capitalist

04 MINUTES READ

Over the past few centuries Capitalism has become the driving force in this human world overturning all that stood in its path. Few aspects of the essence of Capitalism still require explanation.

Nassim Nicholas Taleb has written extensively on an idea called “*Anti-fragility*”. In simple terms, an anti-fragile system is one which gets stronger each time it is hit. As a system Capitalism has been challenged many a times with continuous collapses, cartels and attempts from old systems of control to subdue it. Each time capitalism yet again emerged stronger than before.

Two things must be addressed here. Anti-fragility within a system does not render it invincible, it can be broken with a strong enough blow. It means that there is a natural

time between the blow and the recovery. As we see the crises confronted by capitalism, we can clearly see that its recovery usually takes less time. For instance, the Great Depression lasted decades. The recovery of Europe and Japan post World War 2 under the Marshal’s Plan and the Japanese Economic Miracle were both shorter and more successful than the plans to end the great depression. The rise of China was even shorter, and India is said to be set on the same path. The economic crises launched by the Coronavirus pandemic is expected to last an even shorter time. The time period and the strength of the blow required to take down capitalism is only increasing with time.

If capitalism is truly a system which is Anti-fragile in its nature, then what are the causes of it being so? Firstly we must address what has been called a rival economic system to understand what the causes of Anti-fragility are; “**Communism**”. Karl Marx in his writings extensively

explained and described the system of capitalism and broke it down to three basic components: Capital, Labor and Land. He also expected that the final stage in the evolution of Capitalism would be Communism. He was correct. Communism comes with nice slogans but in reality it meant that the ownership of everything was given to those people who owned the state. The people were told that they owned everything but in reality, they did not even own the very clothes they wore. The entire state was controlled by a tiny minority, not in the sense of today's capitalism, but literally. All houses, clothing, food and even social security were administered by a small minority on top with no hopes for none in the bottom of the pyramid. Capitalism compensates for this with social mobility, places such as Europe have achieved 11% social mobility from the bottom strata to the top strata with the US lagging behind at 8% but that is enough, considering that the theoretical maximum: if we take into account randomness is 20%. This data was obtained from the Economist Social Mobility Survey published on 2021-11-6. Functionally, Marx was correct but in reality, he simply conceived of a system which was a reformed version of capitalism, instead of a separate entity.

Why is this important? Because the reform of Capitalism intended to end the exploitation of the masses. This is important to understand. Capitalism functions because it exploits weaknesses within the system. Is there not enough health care? It allows you to build hospitals. In turn, those hospitals contribute money to the owner of said hospitals and the system of capitalism only gets stronger. The same goes for any flaw in the system, each emergent

crisis is automatically rebranded as an opportunity for people to make money from it as long as they solve it. Not enough food? Make more farms, sell more food at higher prices and you are rewarded with money.

If Capitalism were a person it would say: "Please exploit me and the people, I will reward you for it and get stronger". It is nigh unbeatable. There are repeated stories of people talking about Late-stage capitalism. Lest it be forgotten, Marx said he was in late-stage capitalism. So did Lenin, so did Mao and so do we today. However Capitalism is not going anywhere, it gets stronger by the day and it will stand for the next thousand years. Issues such as climate change too will be confronted, each crisis is an opportunity to exploit the system and it will be done.

What now? Truly speaking we have no alternatives. The problem with Marx was not that he was a radical but that he was not radical enough. We do not even have a system which could conceivably replace capitalism. The only path to the future lies through **Accelerationism** as said by Nick Land. The path to the future must be even more radical than we can imagine it being today.

@ kaswer.h@gmail.com

UNPOPULAR OPINION



ANY SPORTS GAME IS BETTER ON TELEVISION.



Fatima Altaf
Psychologist, Painter

06 MINUTES READ

Magical thinking infiltrates as many acts and events are accredited to supernatural and ritual, such as prayer or sacrifice. Evolutionary, social, and cognitive psychology can explain some of the behaviors and behaviors of cult members. There is a possibility to investigate why members join cults, why they are easily influenced, and why they stay. **Cult leaders** use their personality and charisma to attract followers. Succeeding a pyramidal sort pattern, earlier members in cults will attract newer ones, building the cult framework. Cults are experts on who to target, time and again directing on people who have recently undergone

The Mind Benders

a personal or professional loss or moved and are vulnerable. With the influence of both the charismatic leader and forms of persuasion, the cult member has trouble making formal judgment and decisions. They have trouble processing or deciding actions to take. Let's see things in a different way such as the power of situational and communal influences and the consequences of a leader using such influences to devastatingly manipulate others' behavior.

Hawkes Bay Incident

1983 when 38 Shia pilgrims from a village in Chakwal Tehsil were directed to the Arabian Sea led by Nasreen Fatima. Nasreen Fatima claimed to have direct contact with the 12th Imam, Muhammad al-Mahdi. She was supported intensely by her father. Naseem Fatima claimed that Mahdi told her to go to the Arabian Sea, where its waters would part and allow her and her followers to walk to Basra and finally to the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala both in Iraq minus to pay for the journey. Nasreen Fatima claimed that Mahdi told her to locate women and children in locked trunks for the journey. However, most pilgrims who took part drowned,

IMAGES: JOHNS HOPKIN



including Fatima herself.

The Burari Deaths

The renowned show on Netflix, *House of Secrets: The Burari Deaths*, was based on real-life occurrences, in 2018, in Burari, Delhi. Where 11 members of the same family were found dead in their home, blindfolded, gagged, and hands tied behind their backs. Some handwritten notes were also found in the house, which highlighted that the family was into spiritual/mystical practices. After the death of the head of the family, the family accepted Lalit as their leader. Lalit would talk and act like his father, he also used to instruct and guide the family, as his father would do, by journaling. Just a few days before the mass suicide, in the last note of the diary, instructed by the said-to-be deceased father's spirit, to hand themselves as a ritual to lead a better life. Through this, they can lead a righteous and pure life.

Shrine Mass Killings

No different than the incidents quoted above, in 2017, twenty people were intoxicated, tortured and then murdered with clubs and knives at a Pakistani Sufi shrine. The dead included six women. The killings were professionally carried out by the shrine's upholder. To cleanse them, the custodian used to beat and torture his followers. A primary investigation showed that the custodian of the shrine had many devotees who would visit the shrine just to get tortured in the name of religious cleansing. The custodian Waheed would visit the shrine twice a week from Lahore, and his followers would willingly submit to beating and torturing with a red-hot iron rod. After being arrested the custodian,

Waheed, told police that he killed the people because they tried to kill him in the past, and again they were there to kill him.

Numerous incidents took place in history if we start digging into it but keeping in view these three incidents, the only question which I am sure ascends in the minds of uncountable readers/individuals would be WHY? Why do they even follow this path of absolute insanity? Why Nasreen Fatima was not questioned on presenting the idea of getting locked in the trunks, and waiting for waters to part to let her and her followers pass? Why wasn't the custodian of the shrine asked how torturing and beating could cleanse one's soul? Why Lalit wasn't questioned by not even a single member of the family how this precarious ritual could lead to a righteous life? A person may follow a cult leader because of limited decision space. Cults seek to control their members in every respect; these can be seen from personal relations and family to financial assets and living arrangements (Lalich, 2017). Emotional comfort is central to the charm of cults. Persuasion is a form of social influence that involves changing other's thoughts, or behaviors by applying rational and/or emotional arguments to convince them to adopt a certain position or view (Cialdini, 2017).

These three cases mentioned above are some examples of cults. When beliefs are influenced and abused by leaders, it results in massive destruction of humanity. The cult leaders use mind control techniques by manipulating them emotionally, usually by inducing fear or guilt to gain the loyalty of their followers. They consciously or unconsciously convince the followers to

self-incriminate, they succeeded in persuading their devotees. Persuasion is seen as a power tactic to get cult members to participate in behaviors they otherwise would not. Some methods of cult influence include techniques of compelled persuasion involving guilt, shame, or fear. (Lalich, 2017) Nasreen Fatima, Lalit and Waheed successfully distorted the perception of their followers by abusing them emotionally and inducing fear, loss, and fault and were able to gain their followers' obedience and loyalty, to the extent that not even the adolescents interrogated their irrationality.

Cult leaders use the **power of the crowd** influence in controlling others' behavior, brainpower, thoughts, and emotions. This includes inaugurating inflexible rules and guidelines, withholding or misrepresenting information, using hypnotic trances, and generating guilt and fear among followers. The followers believe the leaders and engage in rituals with the intention of accomplishing an extensive set of desired outcomes, from plummeting their anxiety, relieving their grief to accomplishment in competitions. Cult members then make decisions followed by literature and forced rationality. Lastly, practices of influence like obedience, conformity, and submission keeps the followers in the cult and psychologically ceases them from leaving.

Cult members behave in ways that are in conflict to or against survival. Endangerments, injury, illness, harm, grievance or even death do not generate emotional responses. They will behave in far-reaching and undesirable ways that may hinder revision.

This is one variance that discrete cults from other groups is *Deindividuation*. Cults act as a collective.

There is no difference of separate personality, emotions, or thoughts, seen in cult members. They adopt identical behaviors that they tend to become de-individualized and lose self-awareness. The bigger the cult, the greater the facility of changing mindsets and swaying emotions (Darley & Latane, 1968). The cult may also control the members by using psychological tactics like brainwashing. The followers with time start to get inclined by the brain frequency which is shared by the cult leader, which could lead to a rare condition, known as a shared psychotic disorder is a rare disorder regarded as by sharing a delusion among two or more people in a close relationship. *The inducer* (primary) with a psychotic disorder with delusional influences, another nonpsychotic individual or more (induced, secondary) based on a delusional belief. Amongst these psychological holds are several forms of social influence which are correlated with the natural need and drive for belonging that humans possess. These forms of social influence somewhat overlap in definition but have distinct differences and play a major role in being submissive to the cult leader.

This is how I tried to reason the obedience of the cult members, do share your opinions and understanding on the subject matter.

@fatimaaltaf924@gmail.com

fatima_strokes



AEMAGAZINEPK

اچھی سچی کہانیاں

STORIES OF PROPHETS
EXTRACTED FROM QURAN

Ft. Dr. Muhammad Azeem Farooqi



Only on



www.drazeemfarooqi.com

Dr. Muhammad Azeem Farooqi   

