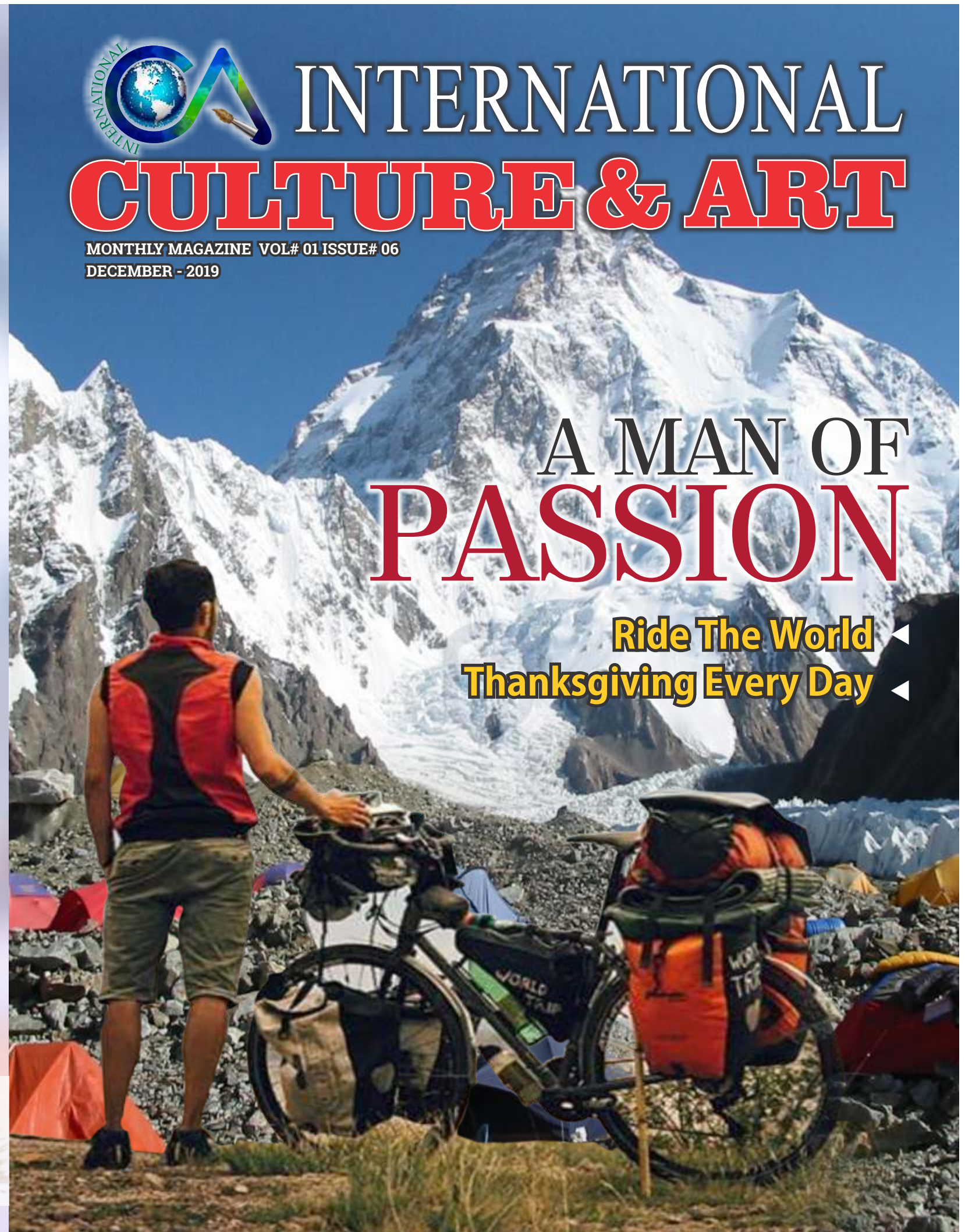




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INTERNATIONAL CULTURE & ART

MONTHLY MAGAZINE VOL# 01 ISSUE# 06
DECEMBER - 2019

A MAN OF PASSION

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EDITOR MESSAGE



Tamoor Abbasi

Dear Reader. A 1954 Pakistan Publications edition, Art in Pakistan by Jalaluddin Ahmed, updated and republished in a bigger edition in 1962, and Ahmed's monthly journal Contemporary Art in Pakistan (1960-64), surface as the earliest record of publications on Pakistani art.

F.S. Aijazuddin reviewing the book in 1991 for Libas magazine states, "Ahmed's pioneering introduction to the state of art in Pakistan up to the 1960s had covered the work of 60 painters whom he categorised not according to movements or schools — 15 years (i.e. 1947-1962) is too small a period for this", Aijazuddin maintained — "but according to generations". Another book with a different approach, sourcing past glory, tradition and reconstructive thought, A.R. Chughtai's

magnificently illustrated collection Amal-e Chughtai based on Allama Iqbal's verses was self-published in 1968. Under the hammer at auctions, this luxury edition is now in the collectible publications category.

Clippings of journalistic texts of the last three decades of the 20th century preserved in Fomma Trust's Ali Imam archives reveal that art writing continued through the '70s and '80s in spite of a stark absence of major art volumes — (an art journal Artistic Pakistan by Bashir Mirza had a brief run from 1968-1971). Much later in 1991, the second widely known art book, Painting in Pakistan (Ferozsons), written by artist Ijazul Hasan, came on the horizon. Reviewing this compilation for Libas (in 1991), Aijazuddin observed that Hasan

"has tried to see the subject in the historic continuity and in the context of the various aesthetic, cultural or ideological influences — instrumental in its fruition. His concern has been less with the artist, he admits, than with his work, for the ideas and intentions of an artist may largely influence what the artist creates but it is through the work alone that we must judge the artist." Within a year, in 1992, another Ferozsons publication, Contemporary Painting in Pakistan by Marcella Nesom Sirhandi, also framing post-Partition art within a historical perspective, referred to the art of the '70s outgrowing European influences and moving towards its own culture and identity.

In art critic Amjad Ali's Painters of Pakistan, printed by the National Book Foundation in 1995, leading painters were grouped into categories with an analysis of their styles. The jubilee year of Pakistan's creation was marked by two publications. One was 50 Years of Visual Arts in Pakistan by Salima Hashmi and Qudus Mirza. Asia Art Archive cites it as "an experimental book which documents the thinking and the philosophy of the artists of Pakistan". The second, a scholarly investigation of the history and development of modern and contemporary art in the subcontinent, Image and Identity: 50 years of Painting and Sculpture in Pakistan 1947-1997, an OUP volume, was authored by critic Akbar Naqvi.

Unlike previous publications, contemporary sculpture was given due space and he devoted a chapter to women painters to capture the articulation of self and gender concerns in their art. In 1998, critic Niilofer Farrukh's Pioneering Perspectives, a Ferozsons publication, was the first exclusive focus on three female artists — Scheherezade Alam, Nahid Raza and Mehr Afroze — whose work questions established conventions in a changing urban landscape.

A MAN OF PASSION

Captain (R) Atta Muhammad Khan



Better known in arts circle after his stint Al-Hamra Arts Council as its Executive Director from 24th June, 2014 to 2nd October 2018. Despite being a bureaucrat, he had a great love for arts and culture and truly promoted arts and culture during his tenure as its head.



Captain (R) Atta Muhammad Khan born in the small city of Arif Walla after completing his matriculation joined Faisalabad agriculture university for F.sc from where he completed his B.sc in agriculture as well. He joined Army in 1978; where he served till 1986.

After passing the exam of CSS, he left Pakistan Army and joined the Civil Services. During his deployment at Baluchistan, he was abducted and imprisoned in Afghanistan. It was a time of great depression but it passed and he came back to Pakistan safely. Cap (R) Atta was an ardent fan of Arts and a poet of himself as well. Because of his passion after joining Al-Hamra, he remained actively busy in leading Al-Hamra towards the torch bearer of cultural and social activities in Pakistan.

He took over Alhamra Arts Council on June 2014 and stayed in that position till October 2018. At the Alhamra Arts Council he directed his efforts in all the three spheres of its facets, that is, Performing Arts, Cultural Arts, and Calligraphy, Paintings, Portrait.

In the performing Arts his focus was on Musical instruments like Guitar, Sitar, Harmonium and Singing.

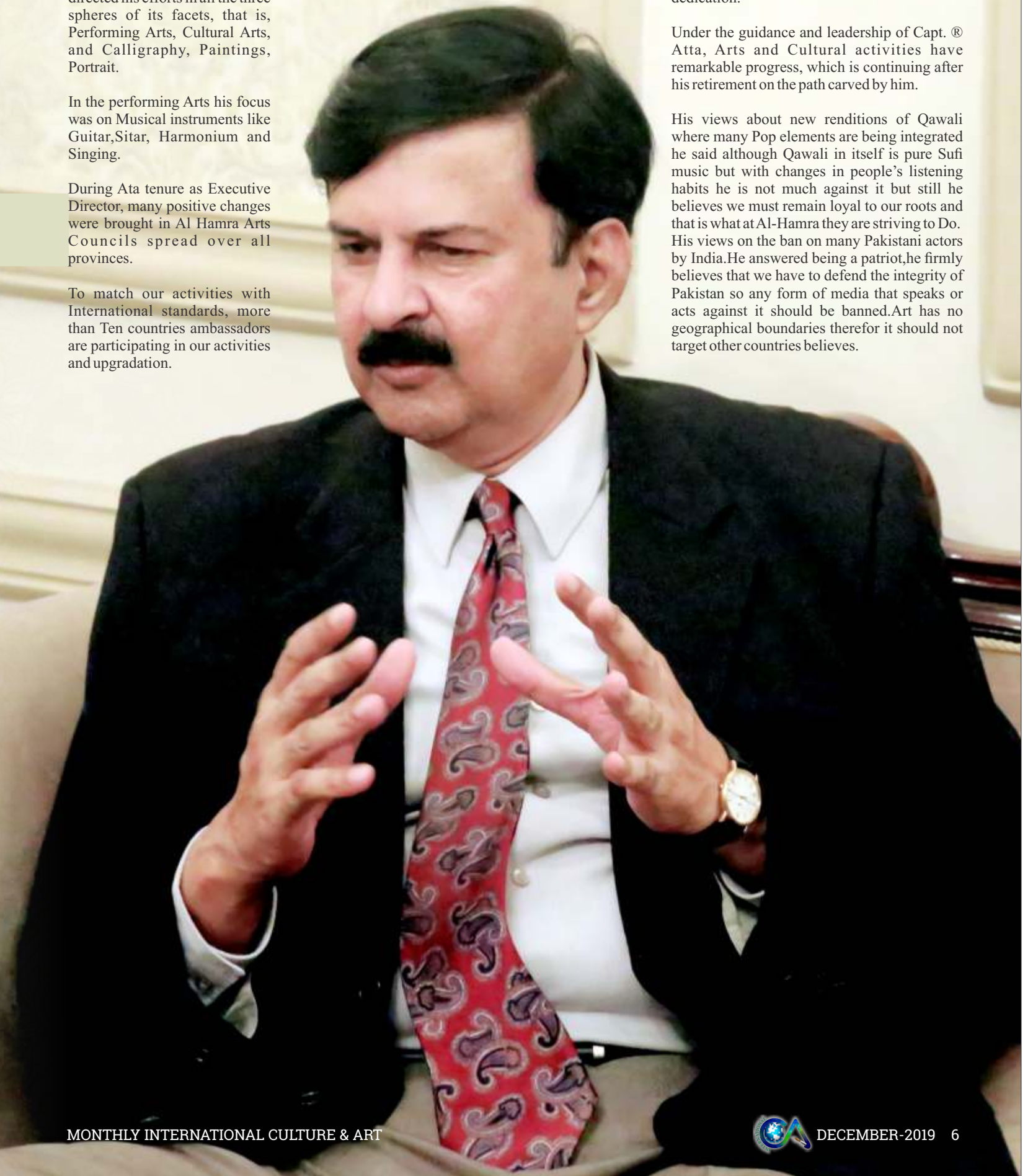
During Ata tenure as Executive Director, many positive changes were brought in Al Hamra Arts Councils spread over all provinces.

To match our activities with International standards, more than Ten countries ambassadors are participating in our activities and upgradation.

Alhamra Arts Council is providing financial help to deserving artists to improve the arts quality, and present our traditional values in befitting manner with their hard work and dedication.

Under the guidance and leadership of Capt. ® Atta, Arts and Cultural activities have remarkable progress, which is continuing after his retirement on the path carved by him.

His views about new renditions of Qawali where many Pop elements are being integrated he said although Qawali in itself is pure Sufi music but with changes in people's listening habits he is not much against it but still he believes we must remain loyal to our roots and that is what at Al-Hamra they are striving to Do. His views on the ban on many Pakistani actors by India. He answered being a patriot, he firmly believes that we have to defend the integrity of Pakistan so any form of media that speaks or acts against it should be banned. Art has no geographical boundaries therefore it should not target other countries believes.



father he has always given them liberty to choose for themselves about their future path as long as it suits their aptitude. His eldest daughter is a doctor, second son is in State bank, third is at Lums, other two are doing O & A levels.

When asked about his childhood recollections he said, "My mother used to call

me Captain and it is Allah's great blessing. He has made me Captain and Deputy Commissioner as well."

When asked how he became a poet despite being in army and a bureaucrat. He said in school his brother introduced him to poetry and ever since that has invoked his talent for it. His poetry work has been sung by Hamid

Ali Khan, Humaira Arshad to name a few.

He has written four books:

1. *Tikon*
2. *Basat-e-Khawab*
3. *Sar-e-Zindan*
4. *Rang Rasan*

His major contributions during his stint as the Executive Director Alhamra Arts Council are:

Ata organized two major events at which people from more than 20 countries participated. In this events

culture of Pakistan was depicted through various means like cat-walk show, musical and Sufi Qawalis etc. During his turnover

more than 1000 cultural event national and international program through different embassies.

Organizing Pakistan Corner at Thammasat University Thailand

Captain Atta organized an exhibition for the faculty and students of Thammasat University Thailand,

where an enclosure was organized at the Pakistan enclosure containing Pictorial, and written material about Pakistan Soft and

Colorful image. The Ambassador of Pakistan also graced the occasion.



Colors of Pakistan

"Colors of Pakistan" was an amazing and wonderful Program which was organized by Lahore art Council in collaboration with "Paper Miracles". This was a unique Program me where Ambassadors and Diplomats of 19 countries participated in colorful Fashion Show and Cat walk. The Diplomats were wearing colorful and specially designed dresses of all regions of Pakistan. The event occurred as per following schedule of Photo Shoot Press Interview @ Red Carpet Announcement by Master of ceremony.

Welcome remarks by Executive Director Al-Hamra Arts Council Capt. (Retd) Atta Muhammad Khan.

He welcomed diplomats and distinguished guests. He was of the view this show will present a softer image of Pakistan with in country and abroad. Later on different performances were shown to the audience. It was a wonderful and amazing presentation organized by Al-Hamra and Paper Miracles. Forty Ambassadors, diplomats and

celebrities from various countries appeared on stage in colorful dresses of various regions and nations and got thrilling appreciation.

During these performances' folk singer from Cholistan Krishan Laal Bhel Presented folk song Dance performance by Japanese artistes and urdu patriotic song by H. E. Ambassador of Bosina were also highly appreciated.



Unplugged Al-Hamra

Alhamra Unplugged Season 1 is a musical platform for talented Vocalists and Musicians. After other platforms like Coke Studio, Nescafe Basement, the Floor etc. Lahore Arts Council has taken the step to initiate the project "Alhamra Unplugged Season 1". This project has been completed under the supervision of Alhamra. Artists of Season 1 are young and belong to different Schools,

Colleges and Universities.

Capt. Atta Muhammad Khan (Executive Director) is the founder of this project. He initiated this program in August 2015.

Its Auditions were held in Alhamra Arts Council, Kinnaird College, University of Lahore and F.C College. More than 500 contestants participated and only 23 Artists were selected. Artists include Justin Girls,

Grandson of Ustad Tafu, Pakistan Idol Contestant, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan's student, female vocalist of Pakistani movie, Naqsh Band, LUMS Olympiad winner. Season 1 contain 8 songs. Songs were selected according to the different type of listeners in Pakistan. Pop, Rock, Folk, Sufi, Qawali, Classical. All genres were targeted because different classes of audience have different type of songs choice.



Palestinian Exhibition

The Palestinian Community in the United Kingdom organised Christmas fair exhibition in London. This exhibition was organised to promote Palestinian products. There were special stalls of embroideries, jewellery, food, handmade soaps and ceramics, all made in Palestine. Surprisingly, most of the products were beautifully crafted and handmade. The exhibition was attended by the Ambassador of the State of Palestine, Shadow Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture (Thurrock Council) Cllr Qaisar Abbas and other dignitaries from different walks of life.



The Palestinian Ambassador said "The Palestinian people have so much potential. They are creative, peace loving and deserve to live in peace."



Cllr Qaisar Abbas said "Other countries make arms to kill innocent people and children whilst Palestinian uses their 'arms' to craft beautiful products. I am amazed to see these beautiful products. It's so encouraging to see that people living in constant fear still have such artistic skills." The Organiser, Mr Ali El-Saleh said "We always want to show the world that the Palestinians have so much potential in every field. We encourage all to buy Palestinian products and support our artists."





'LITTLE ISLAND'

A FLOATING PARK COMING TO HUDSON RIVER IN 2021 BY COLLIER SUTTER

Floating on the Hudson River, just off the Chelsea shoreline, will soon be a 2.4-acre island oasis called Little Island for New Yorkers to escape to for some good fun.

How is this "floating park" possible, you ask? The design, created by Thomas Heatherwick, uses 132 tulip-shaped concrete columns that rise above the water to create the unique Little Island structure.

The best part? Aside from all the eye-catching nature, Little Island, will have a

700-seat amphitheater for year-round performances. Billionaire Barry Diller, who is funding the project with wife and fashion designer wife Diane von Furstenberg, has ensured that 51 percent of tickets for these performance will either be free to the public or under 30 bucks, so you can count on this to be an affordable or free activity to do in NYC.

It's a joyous feeling to see Little Island rise up in the Hudson River, and now I can't wait for New Yorkers and its visitors to cross the bridge, leave the boisterous city

behind, and play, lay back, and be stimulated every which way by the Island," Diller said in a statement.

The \$250 million public park is set to open in spring of 2021, and the landscape looks positively dreamy: rolling hills, walking paths and lawns for activities, and 100 species of trees and shrubs.



A PERSPECTIVE OF PAINTINGS IN PAKISTAN

The present trends of appreciating art of paintings in Pakistan is almost confined to the aspect of esthetics, whereas it has wider function. It is well known that an art piece provides useful information and knowledge to the society in an attractive manner, which ultimately becomes a part of history. That's why we are able to find out social, cultural, religious, economic and even political values of our past and present.

An artist gets inspiration from his environment and records his feelings on the canvas through elements of art like, forms, lines, colours and composition in such a creative approach that it catches the eye of the viewers. He not only tries to capture the natural beauty, but also highlights various issues of the society as perceived by him. However, one can see that the direction of art has been diverted from its actual function due to lack of proper understanding among the society and off course, financial needs of the artists. Since art is essential for the life being a means of putting man into a state of equilibrium with the surrounding world, there is a need to keep it on the right track.

No doubt art was primarily considered for aesthetic enjoyment, but later on realized that it had served the religion, system of life, the history, the community in general and also fulfilled passion and inner vision of the artists. The work of art created by the old Masters hung on the walls of Western museums comprising different themes relating to social, cultural and religious subjects with qualities of aesthetic are the examples. Similarly, in this part of the world one can find almost the same spirit but with difference in the ideologies.

Existence of art has links with the pre-historic period rather with the creation of mankind as Allah has given him the mind to think, which motivate him to do something creative. It can safely be said that art of drawings and carved forms in the caves was being used by hunters as language. Therefore, its roots are very deep covering centuries of process of growth indicating way of life of the generation like customs, conventions, socio-cultural and economic practices. World History of Art by Hugh Honour & John Fleming published in 1982 (p-13) indicates discovery of



Muhammad Javed
Senior Artist and Art Promoter

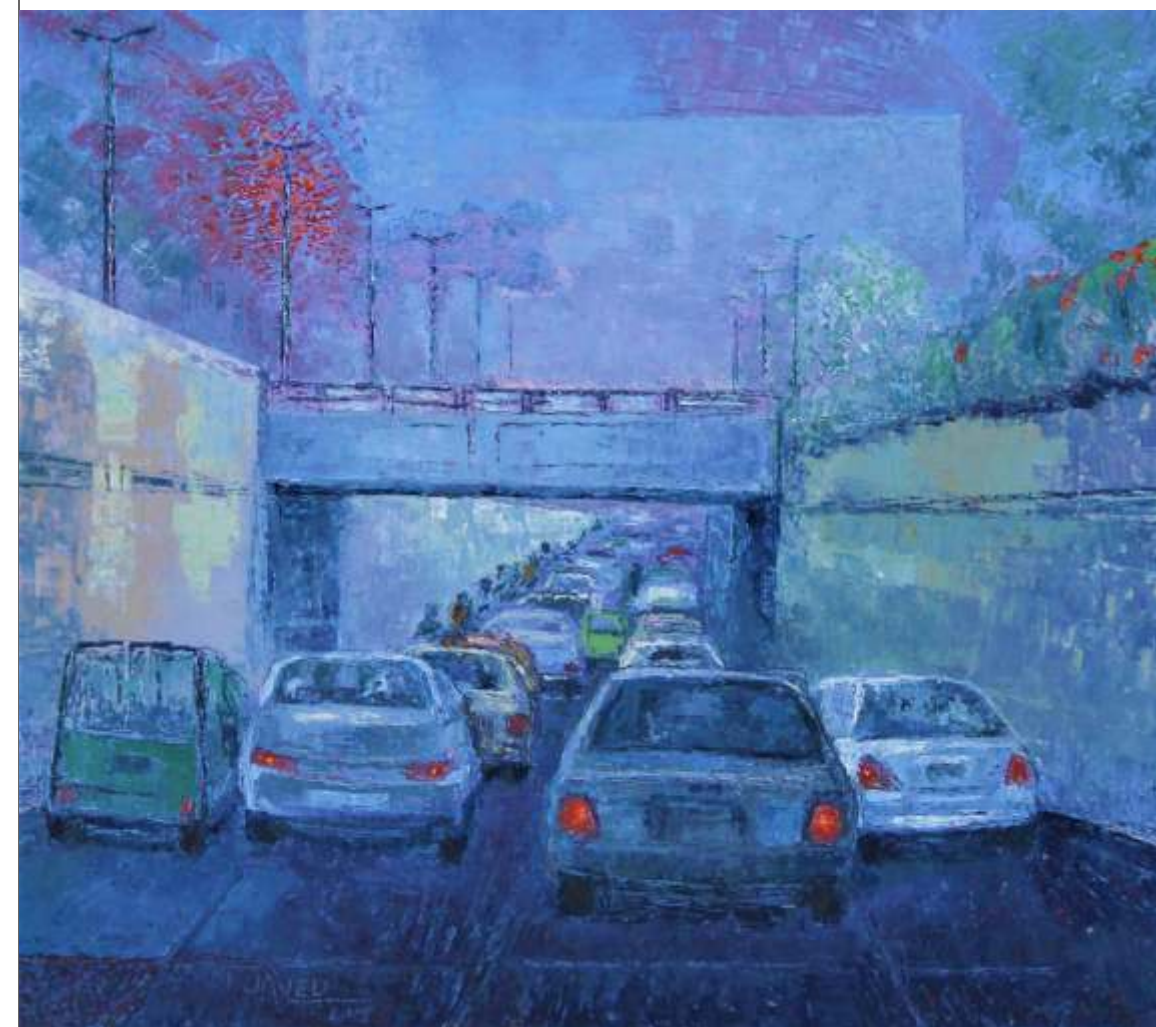


signs of art such as tools made of pebbles more than one million years ago. There were early civilizations like Mesopotamia, Akkadian Art, Babylon, Indus Valley, Ancient Egypt, the Aegean (Island of Crete of Aegean- North east of Nile Delta) and China, which witness to the activities of art and crafts of those days. The Greeks and Romans played very important role in development of arts. Later on, art appeared with strong concepts of religions like Buddhism, Christianity and early Islamic Art. Afterward European Art Movements took place, which greatly influenced art of Pakistan due to colonial system of education.

The first two decades after partition, could be considered as golden era because the

foundations of the academicism were laid down in the National College of Arts (1958) leading art institution of the country and Fine Arts Department, University of the Punjab (1940). However, gradual decrease in the system of academicism happened because of various changes in the education system. One of the reasons may be, fresh graduates were inducted to take over the responsibilities of very competent and devoted faculty of the past. Likewise, the cultural trend was such that students did not remain as committed as those of the past due to non-availability of jobs in the field.

Besides, steadily habit of finding out short-cuts also played adverse role in the learning process. Despite these factors, both the institutions were



able to produced jewels who made their names in the field of art of paintings.

With the growth of educational activities, not only subject of fine art flourished but also various art institutions sprang up both in the public and private sectors. As a result, number of artists came in the market looking for work to pull on their daily life.

Although job opportunities were created particularly on teaching side but those could not suffice the need. When commercial art galleries established and started operation, artists rushed to display their work for sale purposes. Unfortunately, proper understanding about the art could not be developed among most of the art dealers and even in the interested public, which diverted the directions towards decorative art.

Commercial galleries owners being interested in making money were obliged to follow the requirements of their clients, who were mostly buying paintings to decorate their drawing rooms. Thus, galleries owners started providing information about the requirements of clients to the artists and requesting them to paint accordingly, which dominated the creative skill. This is not the case of all artists, but many were compelled to fulfil the market requirements.

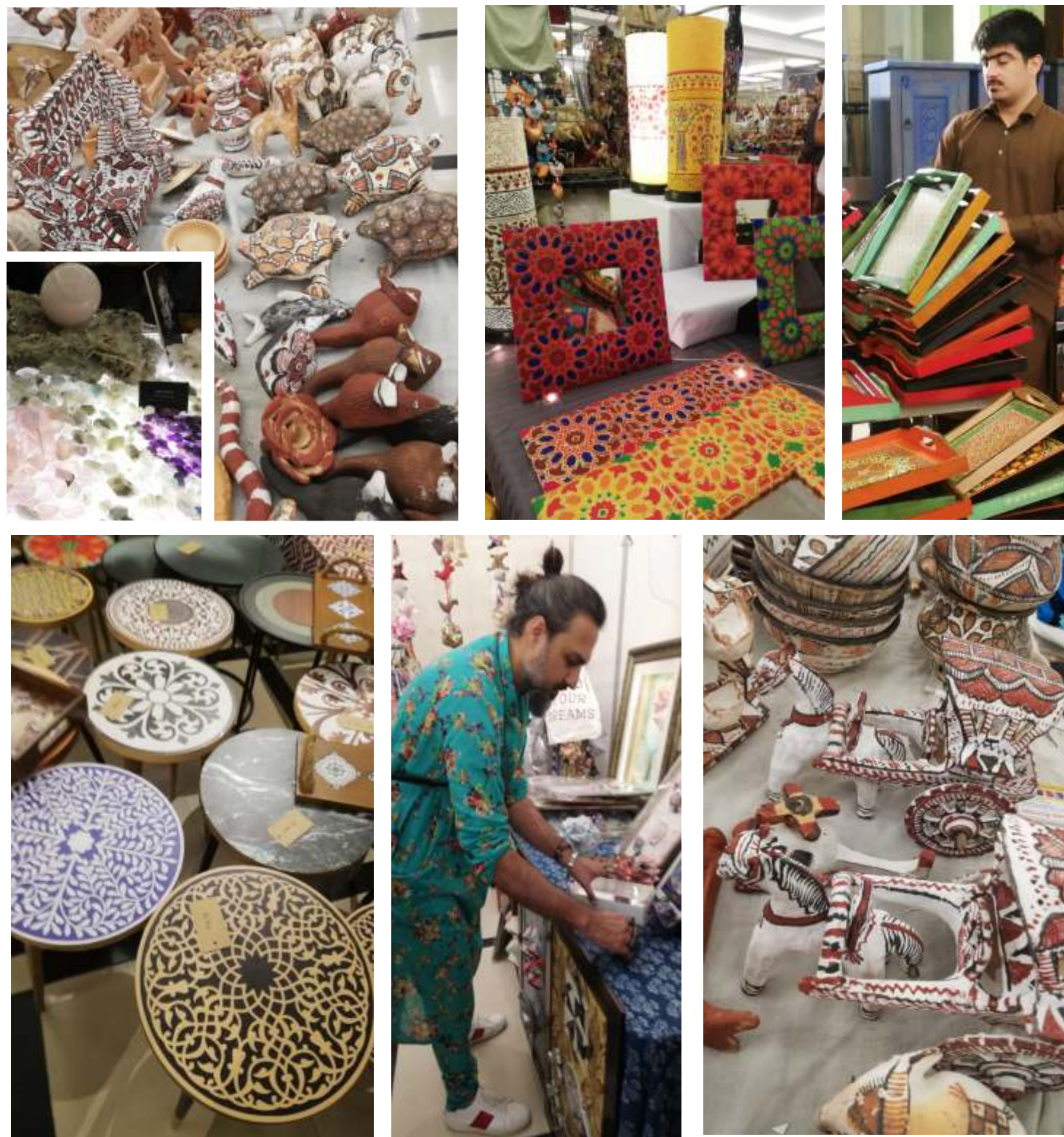
Such circumstances off course, have damaged academicism to some extent, but artists have to fulfil their creative thrust to record the history. Similarly, the current trend of holding art festivals frequently also may leads towards commercialization, which needs consideration of the policy makers in view of the literacy rate and socio-economic conditions.

Certainly, many artists are not caring for the market requirements. They are doing work in their own style portraying the environment and life of the people, which will survive on long term basis. In any case art of paintings in Pakistan is flourishing and will never dye.

ARTS AND CRAFT EXHIBITION

Daachi Arts and Crafts Exhibition was held in this November 2019 at Qasr-e-Noor, Model Town, Lahore. Featuring a variety of products ranging from Pottery to jeweler, shawl to stone Carvings, the three-day event brought together artisans and entrepreneurs from all across Pakistan As they displayed their eclectic wares under one roof.

Whether you're looking to add an ethnic touch To your home. A Large Number of stalls from the different artists were also there that you can be benefit from.



TURKISH-PAKISTANI RESTAURANT IN LONDON



A new restaurant has opened in East London, uniquely offering special Turkish and Pakistani dishes. The restaurant was inaugurated by well known social and political personality and British Councillor Qaisar Abbas, Shadow Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture of Thurrock District. Cllr Abbas, in his opening remarks said "I am very pleased to be part of this ceremony. This is a unique restaurant, offering different variety of food. Every day brings different opportunities and today is the day to taste two different styled dishes under one roof."

This restaurant is a new business venture and brainchild of well known restaurateur, Mr Khizar Hayat Chaudhary. The owner, Mr Chaudhary said "We are offering unique dine in and takeaway experience for our customers. Turkish and Pakistani dishes are our speciality. Our food is less spicy, grilled and includes healthy portions of salad. Our food is prepared by special and experienced chefs from both countries."

It is to be noted that Turkish food has become very famous in recent years among all communities in England and particularly in London.

Thanksgiving Every Day

Grateful Lists

By Ellen Snortland

I have a secular practice that is useful, no matter what faith you have or what country you live in, or whatever politics you have. I don't know of any religion that lacks the idea of blessing or non-material gifts.

When I was 19, I attended the 'est' training, a controversial "enlightenment" program created by Werner Erhard. It transformed into now what's called Landmark Worldwide. They conduct the Landmark Forum. It turned out and continues to be the best thing I've ever done. It was a secular approach to my internal life that included self-reflection about my promises to myself and others, my participation in my world and community and finally, resulted in my connecting with a spiritual side that I wasn't always able to attain with traditional worship.

I originally registered in the 'est' training, not because I was looking for secular spirituality but because many people I loved and respected raved about the program. For others, it was considered a "California American wooey wooey, fruit and nut-cake cult."

I share this background with you by way of giving some foundation to a practice that I'd like to share with you on Thanksgiving, and perhaps on-goingly. In the U.S., we have a holiday called Thanksgiving on the last Thursday of November every year, and mostly everyone has the day off from work and

school. It's a time to have dinner with family and to share what you have appreciated in the previous year.

However, I have Thanksgiving every day. How?

My late friend, Robin Carlson, invited me to join a group of other Landmark Forum grads all around the world, to participate in a daily listing of 10 things that we're grateful for and to wind that list up with an accounting of how we'd like to see the rest of our day progress.

Here's an example:

Today I am grateful for:
Being married to the kindest, smartest, most talented, funniest guy I've ever met
My parents
All the people it takes to bring food to our communities
Our neighbors next door
The opportunity to go to visit Pakistan and make friends there
My sisters
Coffee in the morning
All of my incredible friends
Oranges from our tree

Today, I'll take the time to ask each person at the dinner table what they are grateful for. I'll thank each person individually for something that they've done or said that I appreciate. All is well.

That's it! See how easy it is to start your day with listing 10 things you're grateful



Ellen Snortland

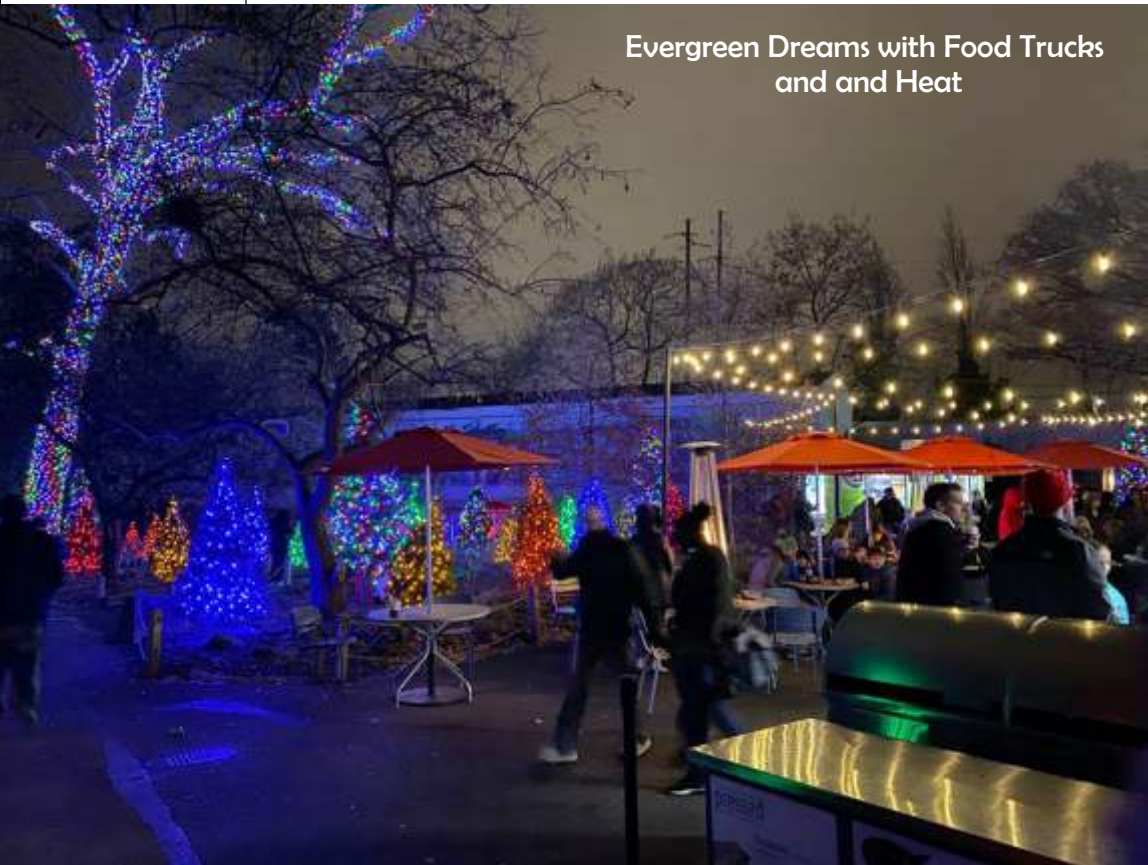
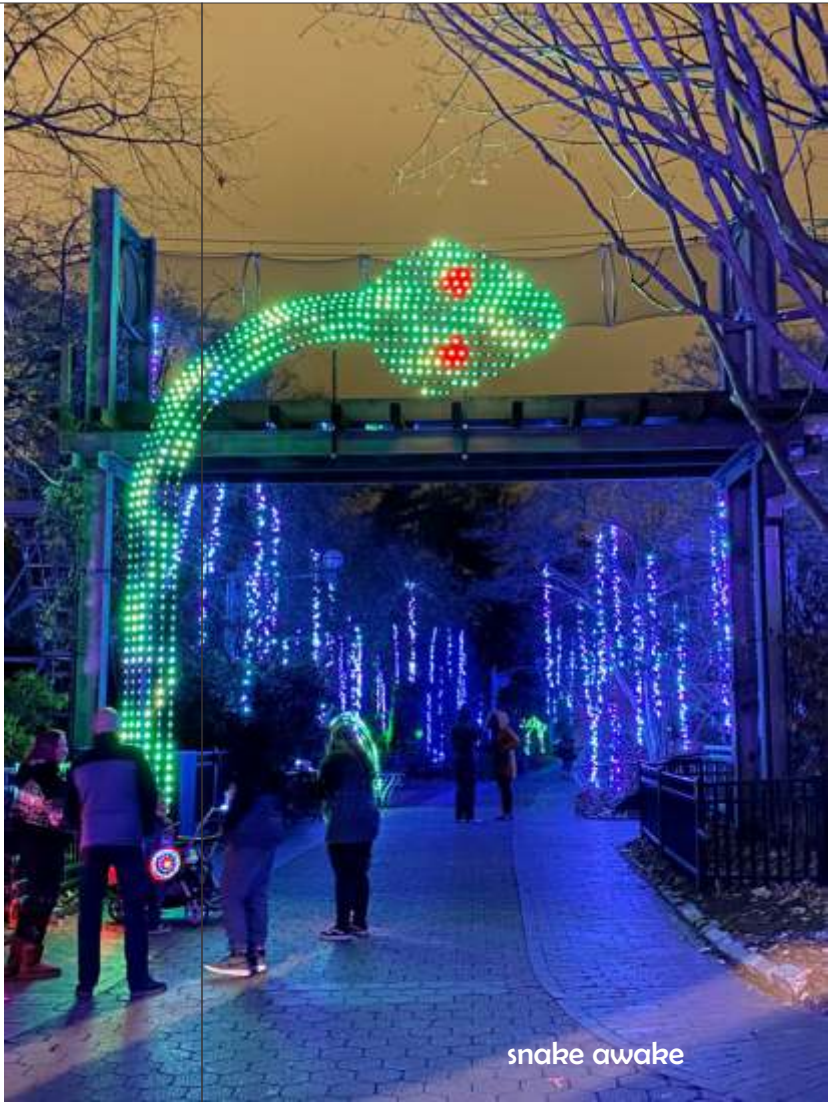
for, large and small, and then "forecasting" the rest of the day? Although the "grateful" list is not literally a Landmark "practice," it is reflective of the kind of activity that comes out of their educational programs.

Regardless of your own beliefs, from deep religious commitment to no practice, it's not even a matter of faith to see that starting the day counting the things that hurt in your life will put you on a different track for the day. Start listing your "gratefults" with a buddy, family or a list every day, and you'll see a difference in your outlook on life.

Have a great and GRATEful Thanksgiving, today and every day and think of us in the U.S. and how much we care about you too!

Ellen teaches a writing workshop in Altadena, California. Contact her at: www.beautybitesbeast.com







A TALK WITH ALVARO RODAMUNDU

RIDE THE WORLD

By Tallat Ch.

Alvaro, Rodamundu is a world-renowned Spanish cyclist who recently came for a tour to Pakistan. During his visit we were fortunate enough to have a chat with him.



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Alvaro, Rodamundu is a world-renowned Spanish cyclist who recently came for a tour to Pakistan. During his visit we were fortunate enough to have a chat with him.

Alvaro introduced himself as a normal person who without prior experience in large crossings was spending his life as everyone did by having a job, stable couple and almost children. But suddenly an epiphany struck him and the utopian dream of travelling the world became possible.

In his current and first visit to Pakistan, He entered in Pakistan by China-Pak Border and started touring from then on all the way to Northern Areas of Pakistan. The visit seems impossible on a bicycle to us lazy common folks but not for the passionate him who enjoyed every moment of it. The breath taking scenery, the ardent desire to explore and innate will to conquer all that has yet to come ; fueled his energy and made the journey possible for him. Seeing all the scenic beauty of northern areas of Pakistan, it was like living in a dream and he didn't want to miss even a single bit of it. By staying in his camp at the "Babu Sur top" he felt alleviated. The organic food and sumptuous dishes of northern areas was the icing on this already memorable tour which he enjoyed to his heart's content.

From there on, he travelled on his bicycle to Lahore Where he visited all the famous places and frequented many restaurants. He started his travelling four years back from Alaska. Now he has crossed 50 countries .He shall be leaving on Oct 29 from Pakistan to India and he will continue his traveling onwards.

Prior to his visit to Pakistan, he was apprehensive about the security situation here. But seeing is believing and after touring throughout the country he felt elated to have made so much connections with so many wonderful people who are not only friendly but very hospitable as well. He walked through the streets only to find people with courteous smiles and humble attitude ready to help at any time.

He is famous in the world by "Roda Mundu" which means to ride the world as he is Spanish and spends his life in We wish him best of luck on his all future endeavors and hope to see him back soon.



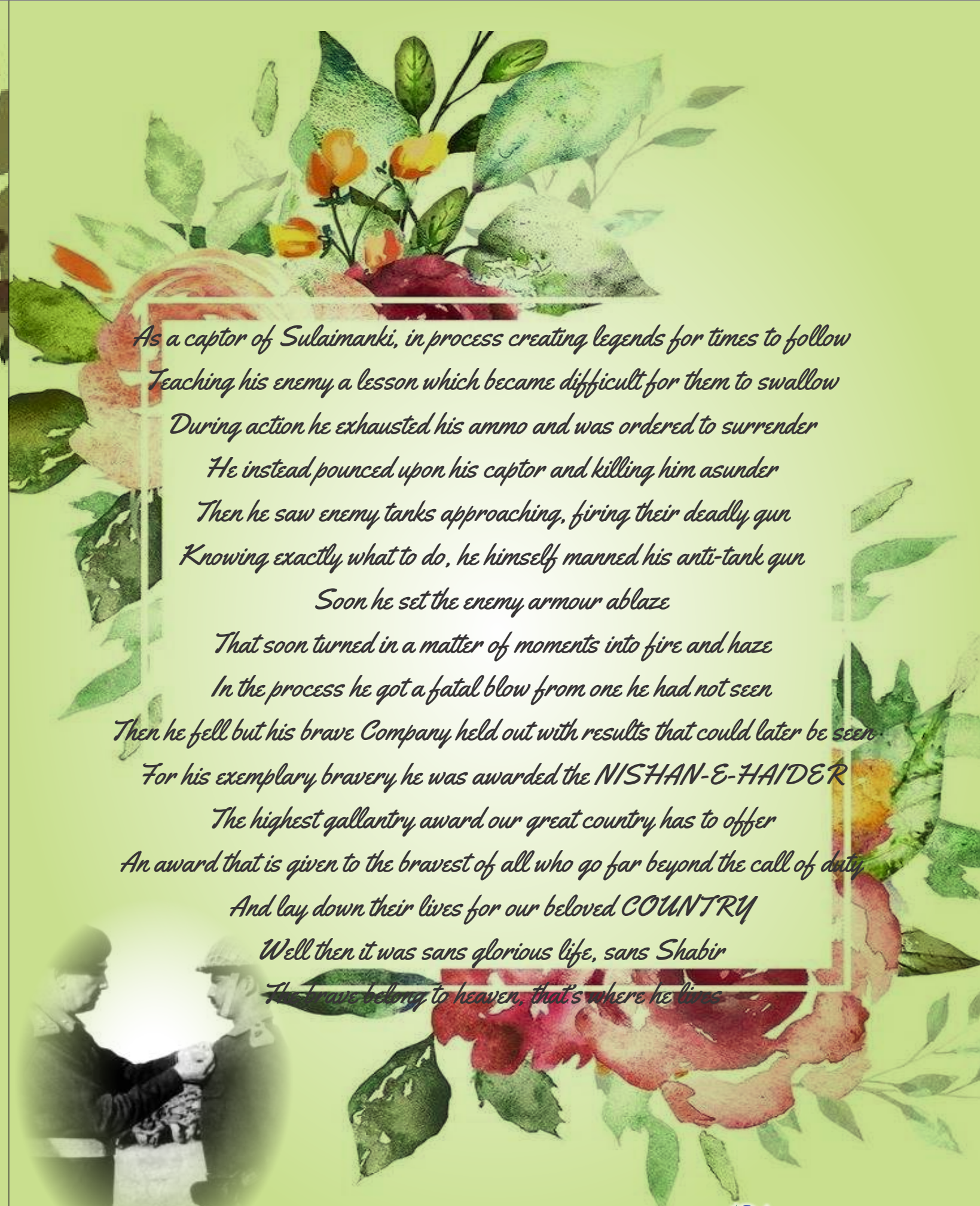
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WHAT MORE CAN A SOLDIER DESIRE

(A tribute to Shabir Sharif, NH and SJ)

Major Shabir Sharif Shaheed left for heavenly abode on 6th December.
I wrote a poem on my friend in 1976. I am producing extracts from that poem to remember
him and let everyone else remember him today.

By Azam Qadri, Nowshera 1976



*As a captor of Sulaimanki, in process creating legends for times to follow
Teaching his enemy a lesson which became difficult for them to swallow
During action he exhausted his ammo and was ordered to surrender
He instead pounced upon his captor and killing him asunder
Then he saw enemy tanks approaching, firing their deadly gun
Knowing exactly what to do, he himself manned his anti-tank gun
Soon he set the enemy armour ablaze
That soon turned in a matter of moments into fire and haze
In the process he got a fatal blow from one he had not seen
Then he fell but his brave Company held out with results that could later be seen
For his exemplary bravery he was awarded the NISHAN-E-HAIDER
The highest gallantry award our great country has to offer
An award that is given to the bravest of all who go far beyond the call of duty
And lay down their lives for our beloved COUNTRY
Well then it was sans glorious life, sans Shabir
The brave belong to heaven, that's where he lives*

Christmas

In the last week of November, people around the world including the United Kingdom and Europe, begin decorating their homes, streets and towns to celebrate upcoming Christmas. Every town and city endeavour to decorate it in different, unique and beautiful way.

All the colourful and glittering lights and decorated streets bring sense of joy and happiness of festive season. Christmas trees, which are available in all sizes, are decorated with twinkling stars, candles, lights and are placed indoors and outdoors of homes, offices and town centres. Christmas tree tradition was originated from Germany in the 16th century and is now integral part of the festival. Yes, for children, there is no Christmas without Santa Clause (also known as Father Christmas) and his gifts.

Although Christmas is a Christian religious festival, it is also now culturally celebrated in almost all countries of the world. Christmas day is a public holiday in many countries. Christmas is primarily

celebrated as the day of Jesus' birth. Although the exact date of Jesus' birth is unknown, in the early fourth century, the church set the day of 25th December to celebrate Jesus' birthday. However, some Orthodox denominations of Christianity celebrate it according to the Gregorian calendar in January and some even in June.

There is a huge significance of Jesus (PBUH) in Islam. His name is directly or indirectly mentioned over 187 times in Quran. Thus, he is the most mentioned person in the Holy book of Quran. In Surah Maryam (Mary), the Holy Quran says "And He hath made me blessed wheresoever I be, and hath enjoined on me Prayer and Charity as long as I live; "(He) hath made me kind to my mother, and not overbearing or miserable; "So peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)!" (Verses 31-33).

The priests and senior Christian clergy hold special prayer ceremonies at their respective churches on the night of 24th

December as well as during the day 25th December, which are attended by large number of people including children. It is also a tradition to invite friends and relatives, cook traditional dishes and to make special cakes to celebrate this day. It is customary to give gifts to your family members, relatives and friends on this happy occasion.

Various political, social, religious and business organisations also organise special parties to celebrate Christmas. Shopping malls and stores introduce special discounts during this season and billions of pounds worth business is now associated with Christmas. On this occasion, charitable organisations also do their utmost efforts to help the poor so that there is no one left hungry.

Don't let anyone trap you in hatred, embrace love, spread happiness and celebrate Christmas. Death to Hatred; Long Live Peace; Happiness forever! Happy Christmas to everyone.



By Qaisar Abbas

ENLIGHTEN FACE OF FAITH & INTER-FAITH HARMONY



By: **Muhammad Sohail Babar Khan**
(Senior Solicitor)

“
There
comes two
definitions
of faith in
mind; one
is generic
definition
of faith
and other
is religious
definition.”

According to generic definition, complete trust or confidence in someone or something is called faith. Biblical or religious definition of faith will be considered as it is a connecting power into a spiritual realm which links us with God and makes Him to become a tangible reality to the sense and perception of a person. Divine code of conduct revealed by the link or source of Divinity for the benefit of beings and Human beings is called faith.

Rabindranath Tagore says

“ Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark ”

The Holy Quran laid the foundation of interfaith dialogue; the models of dialogue in the Holy Quran are stated clearly “ Say O Muhammad (P.B.U.H) come to a word that is common between us and you ”

The real concept and outcome of faith is to integrate one person to the other but not to disintegrate. No religion in the World teaches or preaches anything wrong but the interpretation of the religion by the pseudo intellectuals create a gulf among the people of different faiths. Every Muslim is a believer of one hundred and twenty four thousands messengers of God which means each Muslim has a faith on all the Divine Books, and all the religions and such concept of believing inculcates uniformity among all the religions and their believers; it means believing on everyone becomes a fundamental element of faith and at the same time, it inspires to be connected with everyone without discrimination of colour, race, creed and religion.

Such concept makes the horizon broad to accept everyone from the core of heart with honour, dignity and with respect.

But when unfortunately, religion is interpreted in a different manner for different and personal purposes, then there creates a gulf among all the faiths which is resulted unrest, friction among the social fabrics and gives a birth of viral disease of extremism; if this disease is not treated and controlled on time, it becomes congenital which overpowers even the most literate minds in the society and entire social wisdom gets surrendered before fanaticism.

The World is in a dire need to heed these noble concepts at a time when civilisations are getting fragile, violence and extremism have become a cross-border global crisis. What the World need today is the formula for the attainment of religious harmony.

The death toll due to ethnic, religious and sectarian extremism is more than the first and second world war together in 20th Century. The few leading and prominent Countries in the World should step up and play a role as torch bearer and take initiative to promote and initiate a dialogue for inter-faith harmony to promote diversity and equality in the World. This can be a culmination point of interfaith harmony if we touch the level to bring all the people of all faiths under the umbrella of one platform without any discrimination.

I would like to quote **Rumi** who projected Interfaith under these golden words “ **All religions, all this singing is one song, the differences are just illusion and vanity. The Sun’s light looks a little different on this wall than it does on that wall, and a lot different on this other one, but it is still one light** ”



“LABOUR PARTY WILL CREATE £1 BILLION ARTS FUND”

The snap election in Britain will be held on 12th December 2019. The election was announced by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Mr Boris Jhonson on 6 November 2019 by saying “no one wants it but we have no choice”. The last general election took place in June 2017 and was called by then British Prime Minister Theresa May. The country is in political turmoil since EU Referendum of 2016.

The United Kingdom’s main political party (Labour Party) leader Mr Jeremy Corbyn visited Thurrock on Sunday, the 24th November 2019 as part of his election campaign. The Party leader was received by our writer and local British councillor Qaisar Abbas and his fellow area councillors. Mr Corbyn was warmly welcomed by enthusiastic local residents and party supporters. The local children presented him flowers and hugged him.

Mr Corbyn spoke about number of issues

including the economy, foodbanks, health services, employment, education and Brexit. Mr Corbyn, in his speech said “Right now, in Telford in the Midlands, the area where I grew up, the Conservative Party is launching its manifesto – a manifesto paid for by billionaires, written for billionaires and will be delivered for billionaires, but the problem is the rest of us will have to pay for it. Nine years of austerity has seen poverty levels that I never thought I would see again in this country.

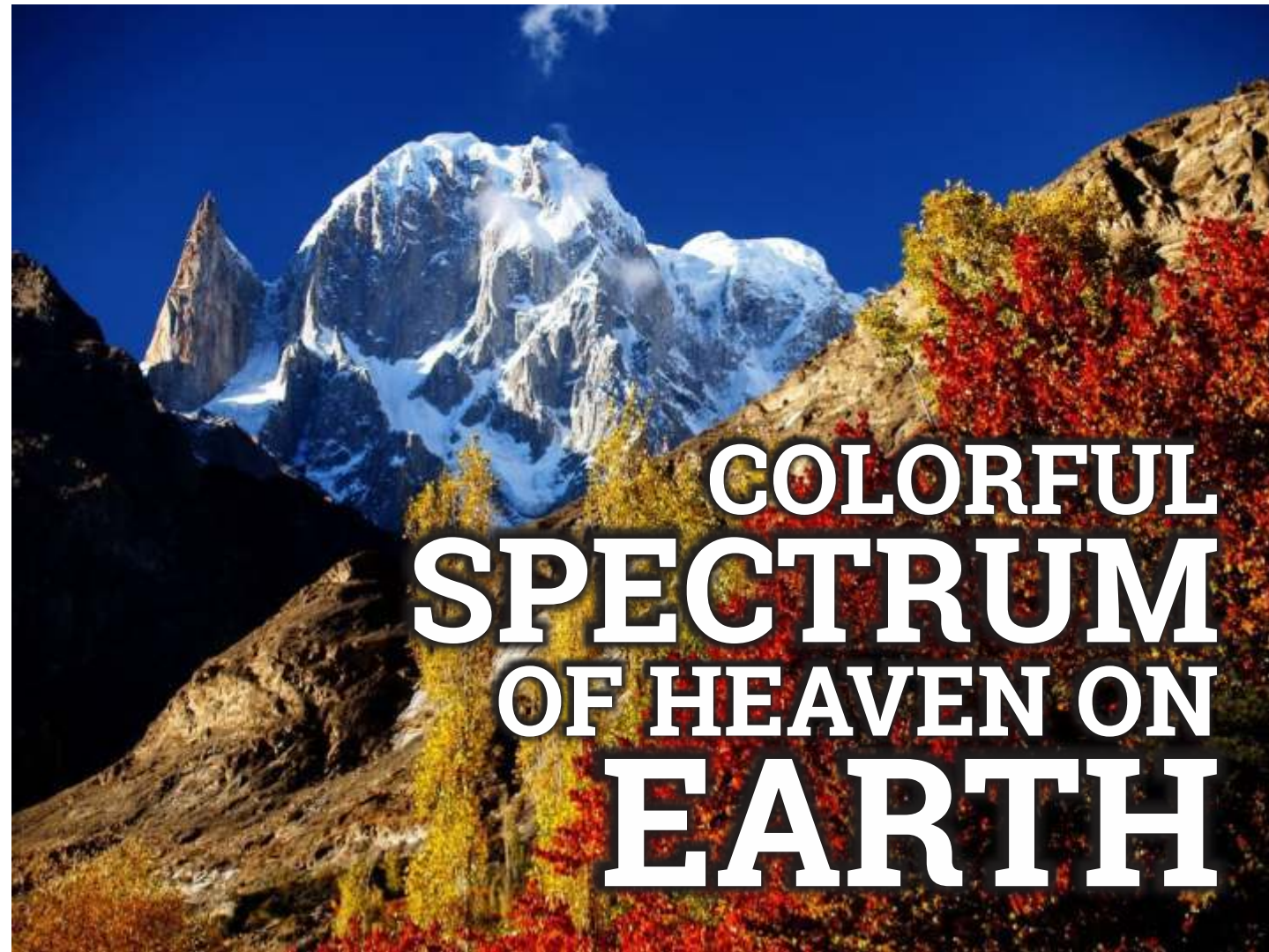
Nine years of austerity has seen investment in luxury homes kept empty as an investment opportunity for the super-rich. Nine years of austerity has seen 150 billionaires in Britain. Nine years of austerity has seen roughly 25 per cent loss in spending power of working-class communities. It doesn’t have to be like this.”

Later in the evening, the Labour leader

unveiled an arts manifesto in Stratford. Addressing the crowd, Mr Corbyn said: “I love theatre, I love art, music, I love the inspiration that it brings to all our lives. Arts, music and culture are not separate from science, engineering and ideas. You need that inspiration in whatever you do. Our arts policy is to create a £1 billion arts fund, and that will ensure that the libraries, theatres, and the local arts facilities are improved and remain available for all.”

The Labour Party’s new manifesto also includes free Fibre Broadband across the country and the minimum living wage of £10 an hour. The party has also promised to offer free annual dental check-ups and fee free prescription for all patients. Under the Labour Government, the University tuition fee will be scrapped and one million affordable homes will be built.





Epic peaks, rushing water and a chill in the sweet mountain air characterize the picturesque valley of Hunza, nestled deep in Gilgit-Baltistan, and engulfed by the great Himalayan and Karakoram ranges.

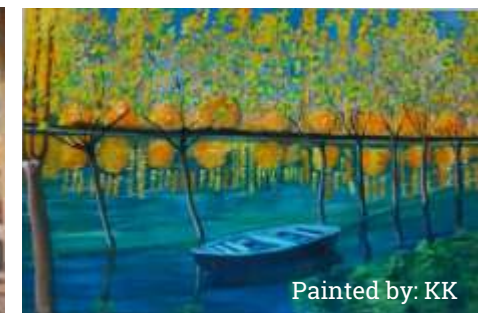
Explore the valleys of Hunza, Shigar and Khaplu via the renowned Karakoram Highway and immerse yourself in the startling scenery that compels you to not miss even a single gaze from the window of your vehicle without blinking for fear of missing the majesty of this exquisite landscape or one of the astounding suspension bridges that cross the surging rivers with snow melt.

Hailed as “Heaven on earth” Hunza valley has everything that the vivid imagination of us mortals can picture. Summers are the ideal time to pay a visit to this valley; it offers a respite from the intense heat prevalent in the rest of the country yet is still warm enough to be pleasantly welcoming. Hunza is a favorite among holiday-goers both for its amazing natural beauty and the extensive cultural heritage it houses.

To add more to this the warm welcome of people, the centuries old history, the juxtaposition of granite greenery, the chance to walk through an age old apricot orchard along water channels cut by hand and the blazing snow covered glory of Rakaposhi and you must acknowledge there is a grand adventure ahead. This tour might start as an adventure but it surely will turn out as memories for all times to come.



Painted by: KK



Painted by: KK



By
Azhar Pasha





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Group LCC
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📍 Luna Grand Hotel,
185a Aghmashenebeli
Ave, Tbilisi, Georgia



Free WiFi



Airport
Shuttle



Free
Parking



Family
Rooms



Non-Smoking
Rooms



24-Hour
Front Desk



Rating for
Two-Person Trip



It all started with the Native Americans. They had a rich tradition of commemorating the fall harvest with feasting and merrymaking long before Europeans set foot on their shores. European invaders copied the tradition trying to make friends with the Natives, and framing it within their Christian traditions, which emphasize thanking God. In 1565, for instance, the Spanish explorer Pedro Menéndez de Avilé invited members of the local Timucua tribe to a dinner in St. Augustine, Florida, after holding a mass to thank God for his crew's safe arrival. On December 4, 1619, when 38 British settlers reached a site known as Berkeley Hundred on the banks of Virginia's James River, they read a proclamation designating the date as "a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God."

What we today, however, remember as the first Thanksgiving is what happened on Thursday, November 28, 1621, when the

Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast. In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers—an assortment of religious separatists seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith. Throughout that first brutal winter, most of the colonists remained on board the ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious disease.

Only a half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from an Abenaki Indian who greeted them in English, and taught them how to plant corn. In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited their Native American



friends, including the Wampanoag tribe chief Massasoit, mindful of their traditions, to share in the bounty. This forged an alliance with the Wampanoag, which would endure for more than 50 years and tragically remains one of the sole examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans.

In 1789 George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the national government of the United States: in it, he called upon Americans to express their gratitude for the happy conclusion to the country's war of independence and the successful ratification of the U.S.

Constitution. In 1817, New York became the first of several American states to officially adopt an annual Thanksgiving holiday. In 1827, the noted magazine editor and prolific writer Sarah Josepha Hal (author, among countless other things, of the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb") launched a campaign to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. But it wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

What do people do for Thanksgiving? It is the time when families come together for a

feast. Everybody travels to see their ageing parents. The busiest travel day of the year in the US is the Sunday after the Thanksgiving holiday: 42.5 millions people were travelling on that day in 2018. In the US. The feasting centerpiece is the turkey, a large North American fowl that can feed a family with more than 20 lbs of flesh.

The staple is so ubiquitous, it has become all but synonymous with the holiday. Nearly 90 percent of Americans eat the bird, leading to the killing of about 46 millions turkeys every year in the US for that feast. This wholesale slaughter prompted a new tradition in which the president of the US has "pardoned": one or two Thanksgiving turkeys each year since the mid-20th century. Interestingly, the condiment traditionally paired with the turkey—cranberry sauce—is severely disliked: 29% of the celebrants find it unappetizing in both appearance and taste.

The other thing to do is: shopping. Thanksgiving as a holiday falls right at the beginning of the Christmas shopping season and retailers are eager to clear their inventories by slashing prices. They also hold lavish parades to attract customers. Thanksgiving Day Parades have become an integral part of the holiday in cities and towns across the United States. Presented by Macy's department store since 1924, New York City's Thanksgiving Day parade is the largest and most famous, attracting some 2 to 3 million spectators along its 2.5-mile route and drawing an enormous television audience. It typically features marching bands, performers, elaborate floats conveying various celebrities and giant balloons shaped like cartoon characters.

And the day after Thanksgiving became known as the Black Friday, the day when stores open early in the morning with dramatically reduced prices. Some people sleep in front of the stores after the Thanksgiving dinner, and fights are known to occur between shoppers elbowing to get what they want at those prices. Black Friday now often starts on midnight, and it is also joined by the Cyber Monday, when people can still pick up remaining good deals online. The holiday created to give thanks for the bounty the nature/God offered to us, thus firmly became an unbridled celebration of the conspicuous consumption.

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KOREAN BUDDHIST MONKS VISIT PAKISTAN

“A delegation of Korean Buddhist pilgrims visited sacred Buddhist sites in the Hazara division, performing religious rituals and prayers.

The group was led by Ven Wonhaeng, president of Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism. The delegation's pilgrimage includes historical Buddhist sites located in Lahore, Gilgit, Hunza, Islamabad, Taxila, Peshawar, Takht-i-Bahi and Chota Lahore in Swabi. They offered prayers at Buddhists sacred sites for international peace and interfaith harmony.

Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism President Venerable Wonhaeng said historic pieces of the Gandhara civilization are precious and well preserved at the Lahore Museum. He said that was the reason the delegation was happy to visit.

Wonhaeng wrote comments in the guestbook. During his visit to the museum, the Buddhist leader took interest in various art galleries and the Gandhara culture's art and crafts. He described them as the best collection in the world.

“I am visiting Pakistan after 20 years and I am glad to come here,” he said. “It is commendable that the government has preserved Gandhara artifacts so beautifully in the Lahore Museum,” he added.

Wonhaeng said the delegation has come here to find spiritual peace. Other members of the delegation are also happy to see how Gandhara's relics have been preserved. “The museum contains valuable Gandhara

art and crafts that are not available anywhere else in the world,” he said. The delegation also spent some time in worship and performed their religious rituals, while other members pictures with Gandhara artefacts, kept at the museum. The ladies accompanied by the delegation included Young-Mi Lee and Jun Mi Lee. One of them stated that visiting the Lahore Museum was an old wish which had now come true.

“Coming here is one of the most memorable experiences of my life and the Gandhara art and crafts here very valuable,” said Lee. Director Lahore Museum Tariq Mehmood Javed said the museum preserved thousands of years of civilization in Pakistan.

“We are proud of the fact that not only the finest antiquities of the region are present in the museum, but also that research work on them is underway,” he said. The delegation was welcomed by Museum Officer Asim Director Tariq Mehmood Javi and others. The delegation was also briefed about the Gandhara Civilization and its antiques would be other places containing art pieces of Gandhara Civilization.

“The museum contains valuable Gandhara art and crafts that are not available anywhere else in the world,” said Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism President Venerable Wonhaeng.

By Jahanzaib Khan





ANNUAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW 2019 JILLANI PARK LAHORE

By: Irfan Akram

The annual chrysanthemum (translates Gul-e-Daudi) show was held on Friday 29 November 2019 at Jillani. More than 200 varieties of chrysanthemums were put on display at the show organised by the Parks and Horticulture Authority.

The winter flowers exhibition attracted a large number of people from all around the city.

More than 200 kinds of flowers and plants of the medicinal value were displayed. Although the exhibition was initially planned to be 10 days event, following the interest of the citizens, the exhibition was extended.

On the occasion, the visitors said that more plants can increase rainfall in the metropolis as plants are the stabilizing factors, which have the ability to

control negative impacts of the changing climate.

Aesthetically planned arrangements of plants and flowers were made with floriculture and nursery techniques by specialized horticulturalists and gardeners who also used trash and broken pots to exhibit the flowers.

