A normal day of an Afghan girl
(May we eat you - dear) they told me as they approached me. For a moment I felt, I should be very happy as the two did not touch me and just laughed loud. It was the most paradoxical feeling. Was I expecting to be happy as the two did not touch me, and that they didn't touch me... Page 2

Afghan Five-Year-Old Murtaza Ready to Meet Argentine Football Star Messi
For almost a month now, the image of a five-year-old boy... Page 4

Afghan girls cycling team, probable nominee for Nobel Peace Award
Reporters say that former U.S intelligence, Edward Snowden... Page 5

Divided We Fall: Afghan National Unity Government on Shaky Ground
Almost a full year into the power-sharing arrangement between President Ashraf Ghani and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Abdullah Abdullah, the National Unity... Page 6

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After the completion of its first semester, the news from Star Educational Society’s newest branch in Daikondi is very encouraging. The second semester has begun with a 163% increase in enrollment. Not only did we see an increase in numbers, but we are now reaching a more diverse population of learners. Most of the students in the first semester were adult learners and government employees. In our second semester, our 263 students consist of more school students, university students, and employees from NGOs and GOs.

Approximately 28% of our current second-semester students are female. We are brainstorming different ways to expand our reach within the female population in Daikondi. Some of our ideas include: opening branches in the districts; offering free tuition to the students, and employees from NGOs and GOs.

Since English language centers have a huge gap in as many ways as possible for the people in Daikondi, we aim to fill the gap by Iranian ideologies, especially the local mullahs and religious leaders who have significant influence over the local people. Poverty is a serious challenge. Most of the girls and boys cannot join educational centers. We have had cordial social interactions with the residents. In general, the community members of Daikondi are very cultural and religious. It is an area that is heavily impacted by Iranian ideologies, especially the local mullahs and religious leaders who have significant influence over the local people. Poverty is a serious challenge. Most of the girls and boys cannot join educational centers, English and other fields, due to having the financial means to pay for good quality courses. We would like to create sports programs such as football and volleyball teams for both male and female students and hold sports competitions among the schools and other educational centers. Star Educational Society’s newest branch in Daikondi is very encouraging. The second semester has begun with a 163% increase in enrollment.
A normal day of an Afghan girl

Callous blanket

Hey! Are you here? We are talking to you. “What happens to you?” My friends told me and I did not want to reply even if I wanted, I could not speak. I pushed my chair and took my backpack. I went to office but he was not there. I struck my phone to the wall. His colleagues asked me what I was doing. I said, “Why don’t you get out without answering anyone.” I was bewildered. “Where should I go?” I said to myself. I went home. I quickly broke the mirror, dishes, all his gifts and tore up all our pictures. After that I made half of my pictures and shouted. He went to bedroom and saw all things that were broken. I asked him, “Why are you doing this?” He replied, “I asked again, “I saw you with those girls, I saw you with my own eyes.” He said, “Do not forget that I married to you and I have always loved you.” Per- haps you saw someone else.” He said. “I called you more than ten times but your phone was off.” He said, “Where? You can see my phone but I knew that he had deleted.” No answer! He knew that girl was calling. I picked and frequently he caught the phone and struck it to the wall. His phone broke in pieces too. He moved his arms up with his palms open, “They are both gone!” I took the vase as flowers were falling down and water poured, I picked the vase and threw it at him. He struck his head. In a moment he moved back and sat in a corner. His head began throbbing and his hands started shivering, and I was so scared and fearful. My whole body was cold and one of the boys stepped forward and said “Where are you going - pretty!” At the same time both of them were laughing in disdain. Mocking, joking and referring to the outgrowths of my body. “Bokhorimet – Jegar!” (May we eat you - dear!) they told me as they approached me.

For a moment I felt, I should be very happy as the two did not touch me and just laughed loud. It was the most paradoxical feeling. Was I expecting more than what they did? Yes, and that they didn’t touch me was a great blessing? Perhaps again, Yes.

Life is a journey and I’m having a tough time and feeling like I can’t do much. This is not a subject of their pleasure.

Features from Ali Reza Yasa’s Creative Writing Class

Page 2

Vol.1, No. 27

FEBRUARY 13TH, 2016

He is my husband, I cannot break this relationship. He celebrates the snowy days with me and the rainy days with others. He brings the yellow flowers to me and gives the roses to others. He changes his perfume every week, it is not my choice. I can make busy myself during to the day but nights he is just for me. We sleep under the callous blanket; our home is callous not just our blanket. He is my baby’s father and what else can I do? I cannot even hit his sour talking body as he snores with his half opened mouth...
The old man put his hand in his pocket, pulled out ten afghani and gave it to his grandson. "Take this money, my dear grandson. I can't go," said the old man to his grandson. The little boy took the money and ran to the balloon seller. He bought a beautiful blue balloon for himself and felt that he was holding the world as it gently floated in sky above him.

Rod Nordland, international correspondent at large for the New York Times, thinks Canada would be the very best place for Afghanistan's Romeo and Juliet. The veteran journalist was Kabul bureau chief for the NYT in March 2014 when he first wrote about Zakia, then 18, and Ali, 21, the young Afghan couple who risked all for love. Nordland's story about the defiant lovers who went into hiding to escape death threats from Zakia's family, captivated readers around the world.

The American novelist wrote more than a half dozen follow-up stories about the star-crossed pair over the next year. So why revisit their story in book form now, Nordland was asked in a phone interview from New York on Tuesday, the day of the launch of The Lovers (Harper-Collins, $33.50).

"There was no way I could do justice to it through newspaper stories," he says. "It was just very liberating to be able to perform vividly to life — it's easy to fall under the spell of the impetuous yet devoted couple very much needs." Nordland brings Zakia and Ali's romance vividly to life — it's easy to fall under the spell of the impetuous yet devoted couple.

He hopes the book will garner so much attention that it will inspire or shame someone in authority to help the couple who are still holed up in Afghanistan.

"In the United States, we say to a refugee, OK, after we finally let you in after years and years, now we're just going to let you sink or swim, you know it's up to you," he says. "Whereas Canada gives people more of a safety net and literacy training and language training that this couple very much needs."

Nordland brings Zakia and Ali's romance vividly to life — it's easy to fall under the spell of the impetuous yet devoted couple. But he moves The Lovers beyond that narrow narrative to locate their love story in the harrowing reality of what it means to be female in Afghanistan today.

"Some of those stories are pretty horrifying," he says. "It doesn't get much worse than the story of Brishna, the 10-year-old raped by her mullah [a religious leader]. Her family tried to arrange to marry her to her rapist and was supported by the president of the country."

Though Nordland admits he's felt at times that there is nothing anyone will ever be able to do about the situation in Afghanistan, he adds that we can't just say a pox on all their houses.

"There are women in Afghanistan whose expectations of a better life and freedom from this patriarchal terrorism they live under have been raised. They really do have a lot of hope for the future. If we turn our backs on them, they won't have any hope at all. In the end, as discouraging as the whole picture is, we need to try to do something about it.

The Egyptians had their pharaohs. The Americans had their presidents. The Afghans had their esthetics and artists, and now they have their Everywoman."

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The Egyptians had their pharaohs. The Americans had their presidents. The Afghans had their esthetics and artists, and now they have their Everywoman."
Afghan Five-Year-Old Murtaza Ready to Meet Argentine Football Star Messi

About the Reporter: Najiba Madadi has graduated from Maredar high school, Kabul, Afghanistan. Currently, she is a junior student pursuing her major in Economics and minor in Anthropology at American University of Central Asia. She wants to break the silence and raise the unheard voice of suffered people of Afghanistan through writing. She writes for the Global Voices and one of her articles was picked as the number one Global Voices stories in 2015. 

Murtaza, whose family is unable to provide him with a genuine Lionel Messi football shirt, grabbed the attention of local media and subsequently the international agencies for his apparent devotion to one of the greatest footballers of all time.

Murtaza’s makeshift shirt was fashioned for him by Homayoon Ahmadi, his older brother, who posted a photo of him on Facebook.

His father Mohammad Arif Ahmadi told local station Ariana TV: “He loves football and he loves Messi. He asked me many times to buy a Messi shirt but I could not provide it because in the village where we live, there is no such shirt.”

Ahmadi also spoke of his wish to see a football stadium in Jaghori district, Ghazni, where Murtaza lives. “We do not have any personal desires but what we expect is opportunities for our children to have a better future.”

After foreign internet users first saw the mystery boy, a rumour developed that he was a Kurdish child from Iraq. That belief was given added currency when Kurdish TV reported that a boy called Homin, located in Dohuk province, Iraq, was the subject of the photo.

Supervisors control most governmental institutions in western provinces

Many governmental institutions are being governed by overseers in four western provinces.

Based on hash-t-e-sobh report, 31 offices from 70 governmental offices are being governed by overseers. This report shows that provinces such Ghor, Badghis and Farah are controlled and governed by overseers. Many people are wandering because of these posts between Kabul and provinces suburbs. The determination of this process commenced since the administrating the National Unity Government. The departments of education, sectorial and technical services, refugee affairs, airport, urban development affairs, Afghan Helal Ahmar, public health, lands airport, urban development affairs, Afghan Helal Ahmar, public health, lands.

In addition, supervisors do not have the authorities as the officials do. Therefore, it creates various problems and delays the process of works.

Political experts criticize slow replacement of employees. Furthermore, after passing over one year from the administration of National Unity Government, the cabinet has not even been completed and also most of deputy ministries are working as supervisors.

As supervisors are holding the offices and to officially gain the required post, they live in Kabul rather than provinces.

But then Twitter user @ilMindO-Robin claimed that he had made up that story to draw attention to the town where his parents were from.

Earlier this week, the Afghanistan Football Federation invited Murtaza and his family to Kabul. Keramuddin Karim, the federation’s president promised to grant him an opportunity to meet Messi.

“We have already contacted Barcelona club and they will respond within 4-5 days about the time and the place where they want to meet Murtaza,” the federation chief said.

Murtaza appeared photographed in an official Barcelona kit. An Afghan Facebook user commented:

Every one is waiting to meet #KingMessi

But because of that we love Messi and soccer

Although Barcelona has not released an official announcement, BBC Persian reported that the Spanish Embassy in Kabul said that they will try to provide the opportunity for Murtaza to meet Messi. His father has said the meeting will take place in Barcelona at the club’s famous Nou Camp stadium.

This would be somewhat ironic as European countries line up to slam the doors shut on migrants from war torn countries, including Afghanistan, but Murtaza’s family is unlikely to refuse the opportunity of acquainting him with his idol.

In the meantime, football fans around the world have been displaying their envy:

What happens when people find out that a boy wearing a polythene bag football shirt has the chance of meeting Messi.
Published information demonstrates that Afghan girls cycling team has been nominated for Nobel peace award.

Reporters say that former U.S intelligence, Edward Snowden, who released mysterious documents on U.S, worlds catholic leader, Afghan girls bicycling team, an Ezady woman who escaped from ISIS, and other individuals and group activists who served global peace are among probable nominees of the Noble prize.

According to Salam Watandar, Afghan girls bicycling team have been proposed as candidates for Nobel Prize by Italian Parliament and 118 members of Italy Parliament.

Nobel Prize selection committee in Oslo, capital of Norway, every year accepts 200 nominees from authorized institutions and keeps their backgrounds confidential for 50 years. Committee Juries never publicize nominee’s names, because Nobel Prize regulations have guaranteed the confidentiality of the information for 50 years. Nominees can reveal their names by themself, or the institutions who introduced them will reveal their names.

When the nominees list are finalized, 5 jury members from committee prepare a short final list of the nominees on February first. After discussing background and qualification of the nominees, the prize will be given to an active person or group as last year, the award was given to a Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet.

Pennsylvania University has announced Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit as one of top organizations in Central Asia. This listing is held as plan of research and civil society organization annually. This classification is being conducted annually to investigate effecting rules on public policy and research organization. The report of the classification which was published in this week shows that Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit has ascended from 14th position in 2014 to the 9th position in 2015. The classification of this year by subject of (Why Research Organization has Importance for the people and policy makers? ) has been held in more than sixty countries.

Nader Nader the chief of Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit says that policies cannot change the people’s life into positive ways until it not based on impartial and independent researches based no impartial evidences. Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit has played an effective role to provide such policies last year. Nadery adds that they provide researches based on evidences and they also thoroughly share the results with the policy makers, civil society and people to take part in the process of making a better Afghanistan. Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit is an independent research organization the target of which is awareness and efficiency on policies by conducted researches on policy in Kabul.

Since establishing Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit in 2002, this organization has published more than 600 researches and reports on government, political economy constitutions, gender, natural resources, alternative livelihoods and public care.

Announcement from:
UWC National Committee for Afghanistan

Full and Partial Scholarships to United World Colleges around the world

Applications for the United World College 2016 cycle are now being released.

Write to interstellarbulletin@gmail.com for an application.

If you have any other questions, please contact: info.af@nc.uwc.net

Who can apply?
This is a pre-university program.

Students are typically aged between 16 and 19 years.

UWC schools and colleges are located in 15 countries and follow one of two models: Schools for students across a wide age range, providing students of all ages with the opportunity to gain a UWC education, and two-year pre-university colleges teaching the IB Diploma.
Government on Shaky Ground

Almost a full year into the power-sharing agreement that was granted after a series of emergency consultation meetings with civil society organisations and political leaders. Thousands of young Afghans are losing hope and are leaving the country, as that of Ghani.

Since it undermines the logic of the network state in post-2001 Afghanistan, where key ethno-regional patrons controlled strategic parts of Afghan economy and policy: hence, it is a key incentive to maintain the status quo.

However, in a bid to control and expand his power, Ghani is undermining the overall appointment of civil servants. He has deliberately sidelined the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission, which is responsible for the appointments of civil servants. Ironically, in the past, Ghani had been extremely critical of Karzai’s propensity to make appointments sans procedure. But now, he is undermining the very mechanism he had previously championed.

This sudden shift in power is risky as it undermines the network of patronage politics along ethnic lines—in Afghanistan. For instance, the rice surplus in the northeastern provinces reveals the intensification of patronage politics along ethnic lines. For example, the President’s Office on Administrative Affairs (OAA) is predominantly composed of Pashtun technocrats. Not only that, it is predominantly eastern Chilizai Pashtuns at the expense of southern Duranni Pashtuns. Most Afghan rulers were from Durani Pashtuns including the former President, Hamid Karzai.

Analysing the ethnic composition of the senior appointments made at OAA, immediately when Ghani took power, he betrayed a clear favouring of technocratic Pashtuns: 75 percent (or 22 appointments) are Pashtun against 14 percent (or four appointees) Tajik. His list of advisors, are also mostly people of eastern Pashtun origin. As General Dostum, Atta Mohammad Nouri, Haji Zahir Qadir, and Mohahqqeq Mohahqqeq to flourish. Both Ghani and Abdullah must understand that the (ab) use of patronage and ethnicity can only further empower ethno-regional leaders and spoilers, giving them more space for political manoeuvering, at the time when they are on shaky grounds. Let us not forget that the Unity Government compromises was the result of a threatened coup attempt by members of the Abdullah camp who occupy positions of power in key coercive institutions such as intelligence, army, and police.

The recent debate on biometric identity card shows provided an excellent occasion for spoilers to intensify their ethnic rhetoric for their personal gains. Slogans such as “If you are not Afghan, leave the country” by some radicals is detrimental to the progress Afghanistan has made in the last 14 years. It threatens the existing fragile political stability and order in post-2014 international military exit in Afghanistan.

Table 1: Ethnic composition of President’s Office and List of Presidential Advisers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office of Administrative Affairs</th>
<th>List of Presidential Advisers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pashtun</td>
<td>69 percent (or 22 appointees)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajik</td>
<td>19 percent (or six appointees)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbeks</td>
<td>7 percent (or one appointee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazaras</td>
<td>3 percent (or 1 appointee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3 percent (or 1 appointee)</td>
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The Unity Government’s appointments suggest a shift of power from Karzai’s former clients, mainly former jihadi elites, to a mix of western educated technocrats and former middle-ranking jihadi. Powerful and influential figures such as the liberal reformers Rangin Durrani and Omar Daudzai, 25 provincial governors.

Table 2: Ethnic composition of Abdullah Abdullah and Mohammad Mohahqqeq’s Offices

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<tr>
<th>CEO’s Office</th>
<th>Mohahqqeq’s Office</th>
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The failure to critique these actions has led to many from other ethnic groups to speculate that Ghani and his team in the palace are supportive of such views.

What ordinary Afghans need at this time of sensitivity and transition is unity and harmony. The Unity Government must overcome their differences over appointments and control of the state resources, and need to be careful of future appointments to ensure inclusive government for all Afghans that is based on merit. The slogan below—which reads, “Not Pashtun, nor Tajik, nor Hazara, nor Uzbek. We are just jobless”—captures the general sentiment among many Afghans, particularly the youth. The government must do more to focus on security and economic recovery than exacerbate policies that could intensify ethnic divisions and provide space for spoilers. The Afghan state remain fragile and divisions along ethnic lines could further destabilise the country. The Unity Government leaders must take steps to avoid the fragile sentiment among many Afghans, particularly the youth. The government must do more to focus on security and economic recovery than exacerbate policies that could intensify ethnic divisions and provide space for spoilers. The Afghan state remain fragile and divisions along ethnic lines could further destabilise the country. The Unity Government leaders must take steps to avoid the fragile sentiment among many Afghans, particularly the youth. The government must do more to focus on security and economic recovery than exacerbate policies that could intensify ethnic divisions and provide space for spoilers. The Afghan state remain fragile and divisions along ethnic lines could further destabilise the country. The Unity Government leaders must take steps to avoid the fragile sentiment among many Afghans, particularly the youth. The government must do more to focus on security and economic recovery than exacerbate policies that could intensify ethnic divisions and provide space for spoilers.
About the author: Hadi Zaher was the first graduate of Quetta’s branch of Star Educational Society in the year 1999. He has an MA from the University of Wollongong in Australia and is currently a post-graduate student at the University of New South Wales.

Stories
My Grandmother Told Me

I may have been younger than 10 years old when I became the family shepherd. I was young and also the darling of my parents, but that didn’t make shepherding any easy. I had to shepherd the family flock from one hill to the next, from one grazing spot to the next, negotiate narrow pathways, look for water reserves, and hope that I don’t run into a wolf, a pack of wolves, snakes, some chim-safeed fox and jackal, or any thieves.

I got used to doing the work. I enjoyed the company of the mountains, the rocks and the open skies. I was a shepherd. I yelled, made noise and sang everything that came to mind during my ascent and descent from the hills. I suppose all that noise made me feel less scared, and alone.

I made some good friends along the way. There was Bakhitawar, and her sister Hakima. They were the daughters of my father’s Deplo, and lived on the same farm as we did. There was Minahib, my cousin and the shepherd for her family. And the cheeky girl in the group was Maryam, Mulla Rabzan’s young sister. We left for the hills at the same time in the morning and returned home at the same time in the late afternoon, but we made sure we were not seen returning together.

We wanted our families to think that we were hard at work, and responsible for the flocks. We were friends and sisters. We sang together, yelled at one another across the hills, and helped one another. Sometimes, we got up to no good. We stole apples, grapes, and carrots from other people’s farms. We filled up our scarves and pockets with fruits, and took the loot up into the hills. Each of us brought our own share. We would scrub carrots against a rock surface until it turned into shreds. We ate the shreds. We called it carrot Halva. It tasted great.

I don’t know what happened to my friends. We were all married off young. Bakhitawar, and Hakima left the village along with their family. I never saw them again. Mullah Rabzan’s sister, Maryam was married off to some village far away. So was my cousin, Mirsa-hib. I don’t know if they are still alive.

I was five
A black mole grew on my fifth finger
A fifth of the world darkened

I was fifteen
A pup patch flowered...
On my chest
Fifteen of the world’s every hundred forest went up in flames

Now I’m fifty
Mottled by fire and ash
And the tigers that are racing from the cage of my heart

Mottled by fire and ash

By Sharif Saeedi

Sharif Saeedi
Grand contemporary poet of Afghanistan

Sharif Saeedi (born 1970, Jaghoori) is a poet from Afghanistan. Saeedi lost his father at the age of four. He emigrated alone from Afghanistan to Pakistan and then to Iran when he was a teenager. He studied for four years at the Zulfigar School in Isfahan and then went on to study in Qom. He studied Arabic language and Literature and Islamic Studies, English Language, and Political Science at different Universities in Iran. In 2001 he moved to Sweden and obtained degrees in International Relations and another degree in department of Oriental Studies in Persian Language and Literature.

Saeedi began poetry in his childhood. During his time in Iran, his appreciation for literature, especially poetry, grew. His first poems were published when he was 19 years old and continued to be published in different journals and Iranian media. He spent eight years as a poetry critique with the Tales and Poetry Forum of city of Qom. During these eight years of teaching in this forum, around 800 students took lessons on poetry critique and story writing and graduated successfully.

Mohammad Sharif Saeedi first gained fame in Qom with invitations to poetry congresses in the cities of Tehran, Mashad, Shirinz, Isfahan, Kishan, Tabriz, Yazd, Kerman, Sabzevaran, Saveh, Sanandaj, Qazvin, Khomeini Shahr, and Mazandaran. In addition to studying in Qom, Saeedi was the chief editor of the first literary and artistic bi-weekly called Gol-bang. He was a member of Cultural Center of Afghanistani writers in exile and cooperated with the journals of Siraj and Dor- e Dari. Saeedi was a member of editorial board as well as managing poetry and translation section of the journal. Several articles of Saeedi’s were published in this journal. ‘Modernism and the obstacles of Afghanistant poetry’ was among the most influential articles of Saeedi. Saeedi was editor of the magazine “Solidarity” and published poetry, stories and travelogues in this weekly journal.

In Iran, Saeedi has been involved in teaching literature and journalism. In Sweden, he has been engaged with interpreting and translation centers of the Swedish Ministry of Defense, cooperation with the international Swedish Radio and also teaching in Swedish schools.

*halva = pudding
*Degho = farmer
*chim-safeed = brazen, impudent

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Fifteen of the world’s every hundred forest went up in flames

Now I’m fifty
Mottled by fire and ash
And the tigers that are racing from the cage of my heart

Mottled by fire and ash

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Houmaira Fayazi: an emerging talent in the field of drawing

Could you tell us about yourself? I am Houmaira Fayazi, 21 years old from Jaghuzi, Ghazni. Now I am in Kabul with my family. I am a student at Gawharshad University in my second year of Law. I have done drawing on my own since two years ago. I started it when I was in the 11th grade at school.

Why did you choose drawing? It is an interesting question. It is a dream since my childhood. When I was still a child in Iran and started school there, in my notebooks there were drawings, no notes. But at first I was just copying. Later on I become more interested in drawing. When we returned to Afghanistan, I finished school here and joined some drawing courses. The first course wasn’t very interesting for me, therefore I stopped and went to Ustad Ghulam Mohammad Raha and started drawing seriously.

What do you think of people interested in drawing? In my idea, art is a very crucial part of our life in a country. In Afghanistan, there is no value given to arts. The youth going to drawing courses soon become discouraged when they find no opportunity to follow it or start wobbling. Sometimes there are people passing it regularly. I know many people who had no workshops or place to attend to learn drawing but they followed it at their homes with very simple tools and I know people who had all opportunities for learning drawing.

How are the drawing lectures? Well, in the current situation of Afghanistan we cannot be very hopeful but I believe that it belongs to the person himself/herself. When we work hard we will reach the better place. When I see our drawing course while the teacher is not present, the students run the course themselves and it makes me very happy.

What do you think, why don’t people show enough interest in art? In Afghani stan, people are not very interested in art. Mostly they prepare to buy nature scenes instead of buying artistic works that can be more expensive. I think people in our society or country have not realized the value of art. Some days ago we had an art festival in the Presidential palace. The president liked our works and selected some of them to buy. But when the program ended, they did not call us and we haven’t received our drawings yet which seems to show a lack of interest. Drawing can often be fun, but sometimes it can be very hard to think of ideas for what to draw. If you practiced drawing eyes for weeks, draw some more with variations. Unfortunately especially in Afghanistan people do not show interest in art and drawing.

Do we need to choose any special field to study art? I really don’t know. Art is a talent and everybody cannot have it. As I think, art has all its own beauties. The artist’s ideas are different from normal people. For example: when I see a leaf, I don’t throw it aside. I think about it and I try to figure out when drawing what colour to use in it to look more natural. Art degrees can prepare you for many creative careers including studio and visual and many more and also you can take your works and drawing anywhere you want.

Do your family and relatives support you in your job? Definitely, my father is my supporter, despite that art has not found its place among the people in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, there were some problems and disagreements from my family at the beginning that caused me to be away from art for a while. But these problems were gradually solved and I could continue my way. The first ones in my family who persuaded me to pursue art were my father and mother. Afterward I could get support from other members of my family. My father who lives abroad supports me the most. He used to paint very well and he encourages me more. When I send my drawings to my father, he likes them very much. He was an artist too but did not work much. So he is there to support me the most. And my mother supports me too, she bought me all the things that I needed in art and drawing.

What is your method in art? Do you have a special method? There are different methods in art and each of them has their own beauties, meaning and messages such as Realism, Cubism, and Impressionism. In my view, artists should figure out in which method they are successful before selecting their method. Then they can convey the message to their audiences in a better way and become successful. In terms of mine, my method is realism and most of my art works are using that method. I am following different ways of realism like Cook, Pastel, Madad Rangi, Ab Rang and Hrang Boghari but my efforts for a work of art is to show the people who has inspired me to the realism art work is how to deliver and explore them by what my heart says should be the combination of colours. Realism is the realities which are around us such as daily happiness, sadness or work behaviour and habits of people, the traditions that all reflect the reality.

Whose drawing methods do you like the most? I always love the national and international artists’ methods and I am inspired by them. The works of Wangam, Susana and the artist who inspired me to the realism method was Babirasm and all of his works and drawings are realism. Babirasm was the person whose works and drawings I was inspired by and my eyes have been more attracted to art and nature. I am attracted to beauties of nature, colours, flowers, rivers and mountains by seeing Babirasm’s drawings. Each colour he used in his drawings makes me love more drawing and unknowingly I came to art. I love the method of Ustad Ghulam Mohammad Raaba, Ustad Wodod and Ustad Maimanaki among national artists, as each of them has their own method, drawing and their own beauties and deep attraction to the visitors. It is worth to mention that the drawings have their special beauties and attractions. So these faces and methods have affected my works strongly and I always try to develop my drawings and works.

Have you showed your works and drawings to someone? Yes, definitely! I always show my drawings to my teachers, my family and my friends who are artists and ask their views and the works and drawings. I would like to have artists and art seekers’ critiques and suggestions as these points will help me to find out my weaknesses and fix them to make my drawings better. I have posted my drawings in some art festivals in Kabul, some of my friends saw and gave their ideas and I sometimes show my drawings to Ustad Raaba and use his guidance in my future works and drawings.