Qualities That Great Teachers Have in Common

Great teachers are positive. Like many professionals, their hidden treasures will help students become life-long learners. Great teachers are really important qualities.

One of the most important qualities great teachers have is being inspirational. Great teachers motivates students to believe in learning, both in the classroom and beyond. One may not be able to get all students to learn everything there is to learn in the classroom, but the ability to inspire and motivate students to study privately on their own will help students become life-long learners. Great teachers are capable of uncovering students’ potentials by giving students the incentive to unlock their hidden treasures.

Equally important quality of great teachers is being positive. Like many professionals, teaching involves difficulties and challenges both in the classroom and outside. Students come from diverse family backgrounds, and many bring with them their troubles and worries, which may hinder their learning. Great teachers are positive, and instead of giving up on harder-to-teach students, they stay positive, work hard and build confidence in students. On the contrary, a negative attitude towards students kills a teacher’s passion for teaching, and their commitment to the students and the profession. Worne of all, negativity reflects itself in teachers’ behavior and words, which can leave a lasting impression on a student’s self-perception and growth.

Great teachers embrace the humanistic nature of teaching as a profession. Teaching entails that treating each student with kindness, dignity and respect. Being compassionate and empathetic enables great teachers to see the world through a different perspective, which is extremely important in a socioeconomically and socially diverse country like Afghanistan. A teacher’s ability to connect with students helps facilitate a conducive environment for learning. One does not have to be a great teacher to know that it is absolutely critical to abstain from corporal punishment. Punishment does not deter indiscipline, nor does it encourages academic achievement. Unfortunately, corporal punishment is still widely practiced in schools across Afghanistan. Great teachers build a home away from home to make students feel safe, secure and welcome. They treat each student as a human being that is worthy of respect, dignity and kindness so that students can excel academically, socially and emotionally.

Another equally important characteristic of great teachers is that they are approachable. Being approachable facilitates opportunities to students to get to know their teachers, and feel comfortable to ask questions, seek advice, and communicate their problems. Teachers that build a psychological wall to shut off students’ approach are less likely to foster learning and creativity in students. In Afghanistan, teachers command a lot of respect. Islam places teachers position in society equal to that of parents. Imam Ali had once said to his followers that “whoever teaches me a word is my master”. While mutual respect between students and teachers is important, it should not discourage teacher-student interactions. Great teachers do not have an inflated ego and receive their students’ questions, suggestions, objections and request for help with alacrity. Last but not the least, great teachers are knowledgeable. They are not only excellent at the subject they teach, but they are also well-informed and well-read individuals. They are experts in class management and are aware of prevailing theories of cognition and student development. They have a burning desire for learning and self-improvement. They read, learn and share. They are open to learning from their day to day experiences, their students, and wise words in books, and on the internet. They are good examples of how they want their students to be.

In a nutshell, great teachers are distinguished from others by their commitment to and passion for student learning. They feel responsible and pride in fostering students’ self-esteem, motivation for learning, and character. They accomplish the goal of student learning by giving their best to their job and students, and by being empathetic, compassionate, approachable and knowledgeable. What qualities do you think great teachers have in common?
father and was his second wife. She gave parents who provide sources of motivation and effective training for the children. It is the lead to stronger family ties and more fulfillment of other requirements of a family.

Fathers who always work to provide youth, and adulthood we have to be supple think that during our childhood, we have to be supple think that during our childhood, parents rarely had sent their children to school. Even those who were rich did not have any interest and learn how to irrigate, cultivate and harvest crops. Those who were rich did not have any interest in farming, or teaching their sons and daughters to school. Even those who were rich did not have any interest in teaching their children to school. To teach them to work with him and learn how to irrigate, cultivate and nurture plants in order to become a professional farmer like himself. Thank God for having my lovely mother who always supported me, and my father’s wish to withdraw us from school.

Whenever I feel exhausted, tired, upset, unhappy, discouraged and hopeless, my mom tells me the story of her own life and it provides a kind of inner energy, considering a better future. This inner energy enhances our exergy and reduces our entropy. Environmental circumstances may reduce our productivity. Her advice is for me to surround myself with kind, clever and tenderhearted people. Personally, when I feel pride and feel satisfied more than ever she is of-lers some meaningful idioms, proverbs, or a life change of myself, famous leaders, and popular characters. Indeed, it works as pouring water on a fire. No one can ignore her ability and decision making in every aspect of life. Hence, most of the time I am with my mom her behavior, personality and character greatly affect me. One day she said, "Life and its complicated situations, environment and people surround you, like cool, fresh and clean weather in which everybody can work effectively rather than work harder in such circumstances. People’s productivity and activity increase rapidly. But in hot, dusty and unclean weather people are frustrated, exhausted and activity decrease significantly." If you surround yourselves with motivated, happy and other people you can enhance your own activity and productivity.

About the author: Faraal Shefayat is a teacher at Star Educational Society. He studies Political Science and International Relations at Buhe-Siria University. He has worked as an English teacher and private tutor in the past and aspires to be a successful diplomat in the future.

A Typical Day of an Ordinary Afghan

Vol.2, No. 52

Personal Essays

The most effective person in my life

Nothing will work unless you do

About the author: Enonlul Malik “Baqer” joined Star Educational Society in 2013 to 2015. After getting his certificate participated in teacher training and TOEFL-iBT preparation joined SES as an English teacher at B-branch. He graduated from Kabul University, Faculty of Engineering and wants to pursue his master’s degree in Nonmechanical Engineering.

All people have various opinions, ideas and ways of thinking. Mostly people think that during our childhood, youth, and adulthood we have to be supported by our family, especially our parents. Fathers who always work to provide the prima-ry needs of their children, such as food, clothing and shelter. To fulfill other re-quirements of a family mom and dad should work together to achieve what they seek for the future of their family. Moreover, better and friendly communication within a family leads to stronger family ties and more effective training for the children. It is the parents who provide sources of motivation, confidence and per-severance. My mother who is 58 years old married my father and was his second wife. She give birth to seven children. There was a great disparity between my parents’ ages. My father died at the age of 78 when I was a high school student. My mom, my four other siblings, and I had a difficult life af-ter my father’s death. When I think of my childhood, parents rarely had sent their sons and daughters to school. Even those who were rich did not have any interest in teaching their children to school. To teach them to work with him and learn how to irrigate, cultivate and nurture plants in order to become a professional farmer like himself. Thank God for having my lovely mother who always supported me, and my father’s wish to withdraw us from school.

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One must wonder where this much corrup-tion origin is. Even the most trustworthy and reliable people can change to a horri-fying monster. Now if we do not look for a live example of this monster, we had better think of the reason why this country is like this. Is it only us in this world? Daily explosions, suicide attacks, murdering and harming hu-mans, widespread unemployment, the most polluted capital city in the world, highest ranking in corruption and much more; do we still love this country and identify ourselves as part of it? With all these problems, why has this country not yet collapsed? How has the nation tolerated such a government? The tolerance of these people is truly admirable, yet one must wonder why the nation has not expressed any disagreement against the government? Bravo to the politicians who could control such dissatisfaction so widely.

Despite all these challenges and con-flicts, I don’t want to say that we are the worst nation that the world has ever seen. These lines were just a description of a typical day of an ordinary Afghan and the purpose of that was just to raise a voice against the current situation. We can be better, so why shouldn’t we?

Success comes to those who surpass their limitations. When we break the shell and re-ignite the power of our wings of desire, we can take the flight to our destinations.

Once there was a chicken farmer who was also a very passionate mountain climber. One day he was climbing the mountain and he came across a nest with three large eggs. He was thinking "Shall I take one?" And the eggs were beautiful, so he was thinking "Shall I take one?". He had a henhouse and he was thinking that maybe he can put it there and the hen can hatch it. But he knew it was illegal, it was unethical, and it wasn’t ecological. He was in doubt whether he should take it or not, but took it. He put it in the bag, climbed to the top of the mountain, and upon entering to the village he put the egg in his henhouse.

The hen enthusiastically lay on it, and after many weeks a chicken was born. His mother was very proud because it was different from other chickens. This small creature looked at the other chickens and started living with them and identifying with these chickens, thinking that he is a chicken. It was doing what other chickens were also doing, pecking around a courtyard, sometimes trying to fly few meters like chickens do (they do not fly very high).

For many years this bird lived with the chickens, acting like a chicken, doing things like them. But one day this bird saw something in the sky and was so impressed, and asked the sister chicken, “What is that?” It is so wonderful.

And the chickens said, “That is an eagle, the king of the sky, the king of the birds. And we are not part of his life. We are just meant to do what we are doing here. He can fly so ele-gantly and high…"

But something had touched him at that moment. Why? Because he was not a chicken. He was an eagle. He sighed, he continued to live like a chicken, doing what chickens do, be did as a chickens because he thought he was one.

What a disappointing story. So what do we find in this story? Is there any message that we should take? Life did not try to seek its real identity. We develop desire and conscious-ness according to our associations.

The eagle based his life on the false belief that he was a chicken. We do not always get what we expect, and if we identify with a set of restrictions then we will not be able to surpass them. Identify yourself in the role you are meant to play in that relationship. It is our choice and our right. If we want to re-main where we are, if we are happy with what we have, we can continue as we do. But if we want to, we can do that.

Reduce wastefulness in action and inCREASE productivity. Success comes through two principles. The first is “effort” in the right direction. If the eagle had focused his effort in the right direction and followed his intellect, he would have increased his efficiency.

The second principle is to know that there are many extraneous forces that work while we are putting forth our effort (destiny), to take that into consideration while we are ex-pecting success.

Do we want to store the success as med-als and wear it, or hang the failures as flags to stop us from further actions? Drop both; only then success can come to you. So if you are an eagle, then rise and achieve considerable success.
How Hazara protesters were attacked in Kabul

Demonstration, which was to carry on for an unlimited time, started at 7 am, the 23rd of July 2016 from Dasht-e Ibarchi in West Kabul. Dasht-e Ibarchi is a Hazara majority area in Kabul.

The streets were full of protesters. Old and young women were marching in front of the protesters carrying bunches of flowers in their hands. Many children were also walking alongside them. The number of female protesters was significant. In recent years, it was the first time Kabul witnessed such a large crowd mixed of men and women in a male-dominated Afghanistan.

They had come to demand their rights and justice and stand against the systematic discrimination against a certain ethnic group. Hazaras have been discriminated against, survived massacres, and endured the most inhumane degradations over three centuries. Let’s not allow them to discriminate against and degrade our people anymore. We have a very humane demand. We will never resort to violence. We demand equal rights.

The nightmare of the potential massacre, of the bloody crackdown, had turned real.

A crowd mixed of men and women in a narrow space for a non-violent struggle until their demands are met.

At the same time, the NDS announced that the explosive used in the attack was the type of RDX which is only accessible to the military.

Clearance of the Crime Scene

After the crowd was forced to leave, the Afghan government cleared and water-washed the scree of the tragic massacre in order not to leave any sign for later investigations about the deadly attack. This act of the government further strengthened suspicions of the government’s hand in the attack.

The day after the attack, Ashraf Ghani assigned a truth-finding commission to investigate the attack on the Enlightenment Movement’s protesters. But the Enlightenment Movement and Hazara people have asked for a UN truth-finding commission.

The Afghan government is a suspect in the attack and does not have the authority and legitimacy to assign a truth-finding commission.

While the Enlightenment Movement and Hazara people have asked for a UN truth-finding commission, they also not tried to recognize the hands behind the Hazara massacre. This negligence and underestimation from the international community’s side, leaves a narrow space for a non-violent struggle against systematic discrimination.

While their peaceful protests are targeted and their screams for justice fall on deaf ears, Hazara people of Afghanistan are showing themselves to be so resilient that it will be very difficult to silence their voices any longer.

There will come the day in which our people and our peaceful struggle will be remembered and celebrated, maybe not today, but it certainly will happen. Be sure about that.
What are the chances Donald Trump will win the 2016 election? Here’s what the numbers say

By: Will Drabold
Source: https://538.com/

There are no shortage of groups, media outlets and pundits who will tell you what to expect in November, and sorting through what matters and what’s attracting clicks, can be difficult.

Some metrics give Donald Trump a chance. Most predict Hillary Clinton will bring home an Electoral College landslide. If the self-described billionaire has shown us anything, it’s that he can come back from fatal political missteps. But most traditional predictors of who will win the White House say Trump will spend 2017 atop Trump Tower, not in the Oval Office.

**Favorability**

This favorite question of American pollsters, “Do you view the candidate favorably or unfavorably?” can predict how motivated voters are to support a candidate. Despite all his controversies, Trump has maintained a historically low percentage of voters who view him positively. Trump’s “high-point” came just after the conventions, when only 57% of Americans viewed him unfavorably.

Some recent polling shows Trump clawing back, with a new ABC News/Washington Post poll showing 60% of voters view him negatively and 37% view him favorably.

It’s hard to overstate how historically awful these numbers are. In the ABC/Post poll, the only major-party presidential candidate to come close to these numbers was George H.W. Bush. He was viewed unfavorably by 53% of the country in July 1992, before losing his reelection bid. At 56% Clinton’s unfavorability rating is also historically bad. But compared to Trump, that number feels positive.

**Polling**

Even if Trump has a high unfavorability rating, voters may be so distrustful of Clinton they will vote for him anyway, right? At this point, not by enough. Large majorities of Americans have consistently said they do not trust Clinton. But they’ve also said the same about Trump. And since the political conventions, a wide margin has opened between Clinton and Trump.

Nationally, Clinton leads Trump by about five percentage points. And things are no better for the Republican nominee in crucial swing states. In Ohio, a state every independent political president has won since 1860, Trump is down by nearly four percentage points. Polls in Florida and Pennsylvania are too close to call.

**Forecast Models**

With polling sometimes volatile and not always predictable, a number of groups and news outlets offer projections for who will win the election. No surprise — Trump fares poorly in these ratings too.

FiftyThirty gives Trump around a 38% chance of winning. The New York Times is less generous, giving Trump a 13% chance of victory. And compared to where Republican nominee Mitt Romney was in 2012, Trump is in trouble.

Sahabot’s Crystal Ball at the University of Virginia predicts Clinton will win 341 electoral votes, including states like North Carolina and Iowa that Romney won in 2012. The Crystal Ball correctly forecast all but two states in 2012.

**Voter Demographics**

Trump supporters often credit him with bringing more voters into the Republican party. He did receive more primary votes than any other GOP presidential nominee. But because general election voters are far more diverse and numerous than primary voters, Trump faces several major challenges in November.

Half of Americans view him as racist and only 7% of African-Americans view Trump favorably. Hispanic immigrants oppose Trump by a wide-margin. While a majority of U.S.-born Hispanics support Clinton. And while relatively few Republican voters support Trump, the Republican presidential candidate is not expected to win this constituency.

Trump’s biggest problem may come from his lack of support among women. A Pew Research report in July showed a 28-point gap between Clinton and Trump among women. An early August NBC poll showed that gap widening to 24-points following the conventions, with Trump’s leads among men shrinking. While history shows a gender gap is to be expected between Democratic and Republican nominees, Trump is leading his party toward a historic loss among women.

No matter how one reads it, however, the final two months of campaigning will be arduous for Trump if he cannot turn around in his favor.

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**Enlightenment Movement-Demonstrations Continue**

Members of the Supreme Council of Enlightenment Movement, in the commemoration of the fourth of Enlightenment Movement’s Sacrifices, said that if the government didn’t give a positive answer to the people’s requests and if the international community didn’t pay attention to democracy and freedom of speech, they would not only continue their widespread demonstration in Kabul and different parts of Afghanistan, but will also continue to demonstrate in other different parts of the world.

According to the declaration released by Enlightenment Movement, they will launch another wide demonstration against “injustice and discrimination going on in the government system” and silence of the international community to create an independent committee to check the event of 2nd of April, on 7th of Mehran towards UN agencies.

Ashraf Ghani, a member of the Enlightenment Movement, who was injured in the event of 2nd of April and went to India for taking medication, came back to Kabul for this ceremony. He said that Enlightenment Movement wanted the United Nation to investigate the event that happened on 2nd of April. Furthermore, He said that UN should create an independent committee because the Enlightenment Movement believes that government’s involvement is involved in this event and the committee created by the government can’t work independently.

He said, “Enlightenment Movement has two purposes; first, the power transmission line to be transmitted through its original route (Bamiyan – Maidan Wardak) and the second; the event happened on 2nd of April should be investigated and the criminals should be prosecuted. We again want the International Community to make an independent committee to investigate the frightening event. We previously had mentioned that if the government didn’t give a positive answer to the people’s desires, their demonstration against other discriminative acts of the government would continue.

Shah Gul Rezaie, a member of parliament and one of the members of Enlightenment Movement said that government’s obstinacy against the people’s desires, would decrease the authority and legitimacy of government among the people and international community. She also added, “Government creates the Supreme Peace Council to negotiate with Taliban, but for the peaceful demonstration of people whose votes they have come to power, doesn’t have any answer and is not ready to negotiate.”

Engineer Abbas Noayan, a member of Enlightenment movement said that when the leaders of the government are silent after the frightening event and did nothing for treatment of the injuries, it was the Afghan immigrants who sympathized with the families of the injured victims of 2nd of April and helped them financially. He clarified that the contributions done by Afghan immigrants are not specified for one tribe and all Afghans who are living far from their country sympathized and felt deeply sorry for the families of injured and martyred victims. Also India has financially helped the seven injured whose treatment needed expensive operation and medication.
Band-e-Amir with Female Guards

Translated by: Essa Omid
Source: BBC

BBC via string reports from Bamyan in the center of Afghanistan looked for social and cultural change in this province.

Naceri Behzad BBC reporter has tried to cover all aspects of these changes in five special reports and this is his second report.

As the first National Park of Afghanistan, Band-e-Amir hired a number of women in guard positions, not only supporting the male guards, but also having responsibility for security arrangements and guiding female tourists in Band-e-Amir.

Disobedience and unruliness of visitors led to the employment of women guards in Band-e-Amir. All these women are local and are familiar with all points of Band-e-Amir, and all of them were housewives and illiterate.

Band-e-Amir female guards are kind hostlers and have a sincere and kind approach to visitors.

Kobra is a 38 year old women hired by a supportive environment agency four years ago as a Band-e-Amir guard. She easily broke the traditional barriers and opened her way to the most spectacular part of Afghanistan. She said, “I had convinced my family easily to let me wear the park protection uniform.”

Also she add that she ignored what people thought about her and now she has found a place in visitors’ hearts.

In addition to Kobra, four other women are employed by the Wildlife Protection Organization in Band-e-Amir as guards. They train to learn how to help visitors, how to prevent hunting wild an-imals and the destruction of Band-e-Amir’s natural resources.

Ibrahim Abrar of the Wildlife Protection Organization told the BBC, “the presence of female guards has been effective in preventing the destruction of protected areas, hunting wild animals and fish. Because 40% of visitors are female, almost all of them need the services of a female guide”.

In center of Afghanistan, Bamiyan has a lot of tourist attractions and Band-e-Amir is the most popular. Daily dozens of people come to Band-e-Amir from near and far. On Fridays the number of visitors is in the hundreds.

Visitors come to Band-e-Amir for two purposes, leisure or prayer (pilgrimage).

An elderly lady who come Band-e-Amir for pilgrimage said, “Hazarat Ali, the fourth Calipaha of Muslims has been blessed here. She came to pray here and to ask from God to solve her problems in this mountainous area.

Band-e-Amir has seven deep blue lakes connected to one another. There are abundant fish and wild gazelles residing around it. Also rare animals have been observed there.

Afghanistan has many fascinating historical and natural areas but many routes leading to these areas are dangerous and marked by rough roads. It should be noted that in Bamyan province there are fewer domestic and foreign tourists than in other provinces of Afghanistan.

Surprising Decree

Translated by: Yasin Rezayee
Source: 8 Sobh

After beating reporters in Bameyan Province to inaugurate some of the development projects, some of the presidential guards, Ashraf Ghani ordered Rural and Urban Administrative and Nai organization, which supports Media in Afghanistan to investigate the event. This decree was surprising for people of Afghanistan.

When Mr. President went to Bameyan province to inaugurate some of the development projects, some of the reporters were beaten by the National Security Forces and the presidential guard due to broadcasting the demonstration.

Hamid Rahimi, one of the local reporters of Radio Piwand in Bameyan province, said that he and some of the reporters went to Bameyan to prepare the demonstration in Alkain Square at the same timing that Ghani went there, but they were beaten and mistreated by police and the PPS (Presidential Palace Security).

Mr. Rahime said,” Security Forces threatened us to live the area otherwise, either they would beat or take us to the prison. Some of the Civil Activists and reporters were beaten a lot.” The local reporters emphasized that this kind of attitude was not yet seen.

Mr. Najib, another reporter in Bamiyan province, said that Ashraf Ghani’s travel to Bameyan was secret and they did not allow the reporters to cover and broadcast the news. He said, in the hall where Ghani had conference, he was threatened by the employees of presidential palace press conference. Moreover, he said that he and one of the reporters were sent out from the conference hall and till the end of the conference they were not allowed to move anywhere. After this violence against the reporters by the security forces, Media Supporting Organizations had tough claims against the government and wanted the government to find out the suspected criminals and punish them.

However, the presidential office, because of a lot of complaints announced that Ghani ordered to investigate the case.
Advantages of Co-education

Mohammad Munib Ibrahimi is one of the most popular people in Afghanistan. He was born in 1976 in Kabul City. He started working in the areas of culture and civil activities when he graduated from university. He aims to promote peace-building and, as a result of being the first-ever cultural fashion model in our country, he has gained much popularity among Afghans.

The only motivation for his activities is his love of Afghanistan. He is a civil activist who makes cultural and traditional clothes for Afghanistan’s multiple ethnic groups. Until now, he has made 40 different clothing designs. According to Afghan Model, the clothes he sews have their own messages for Afghans. For example, the wooden clothes he made carry the message of brotherhood because the names of most ethnic groups are displayed on the garment. The vests he made also carry a message because they include a symbol meaning “no narcotics” on the left side. As of now, he has made clothing designs for the following nations: Pash-tuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks, and Pushtayi. His goal is to make designs for all ethnic groups that exist in the country.

For the first time, Ibrahimi made clothes out of wood, including sleeves, necklaces, and vests. To encourage the municipality workers, Ibrahimi made special clothes. The clothes are designed with Afghanistan’s flag. He also designed clothes for the National Army that show his patriotism. Afghans’ national flag and map are commonly included on almost every clothing design he makes. He makes clothes not only for men and women but for kids. Ibrahimi chose clothing as the medium to use to spread his message for the solidarity of ethnic groups. He is passionate about solidarity and the removal of prejudice.

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About the author: Nematullah Anawoosh is a high school senior and a Star alumnus. He is a passionate writer and plans to study computer science in university. You can follow him on his blog here: http://anawoosh.wordpress.com/
My eldest brother had asked him to deny his inheritance to his daughters as they were already married.

He sighed and smiled at him:

"I am the daughter of a farmer. My aatay had never read."

He probably has billions

"He is such a cheerful guy."

If you cried instead they said:

"Poor little thing, it's such a shame what happened to him?"

If you were laughing, they felt sorry for you:

"Such a beautiful sunset!"

In the evening, if the moon brightened the night people complained:

"It's a very dark night! Such a disgrace!"

If you were laughing, they felt sorry for you:

"Such a beautiful sunset!"

Once upon a time where you don't know neither do I

There was a country called the country of liars

In that country

No one ever told the truth they never called by its name neither the tooth

Lie was compulsory

And when in the morning started the day

"Such a beautiful sunset!" some one immediately said.

In the evening, if the moon brightened the night people complained:

"It's a very dark night! Such a disgrace!"

If you were laughing, they felt sorry for you:

"Poor little thing, it's such a shame what happened to him?"

What is it to blame?"

If you cried instead they said:

"He is such a cheerful guy. He probably has billions on which he can rely."

They called water the wine and chair the table they overturned the words

In the best way they were able doing differently was not allowed but they were used to it and understood anyhow.

One day a little poor man to that country was lead that the liars code had never read.

Boldly he walked around calling day the day shoe the shoe and never said a word that wasn't true.

Overnight the man was arrested and in a nuthouse he got blest.

"He's a nut. He always says the truth!"

"Come on, keep your mouth shut!" I swear on my honor:"

"Come on, keep your mouth shut!" I swear on my honor:

"He's a nut. He always says the truth!"

"Come on, keep your mouth shut!"

"I swear on my honor: he is an interesting case many professors will come in order to study his brain."

The story of this strange disease was described in 33 episodes on the "Journal of lie" and immediately succeed.

The country of lies

Translation by Nicole Valentini

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An Interview with Jalil Ahmad Jilili, Senior Teacher at Star Educational Society

Could you please introduce yourself? I am Jalil Ahmad Jilili. I started my elementary school at Al Qasem Public School in Pakistan. Then I entered 7th grade at the Pakistan International Public School in Peshawar. In 2003, when we returned to Afghanistan, I started from 7th grade at Habibiya High School, from where I graduated in 2007. When I took the university exam, I studied in the Construction Engineering Faculty of Polytechnique University. My specific field is hydraulic engineering.

When did you join Star? I joined Star as a student at Level Five after I was given the placement test and speaking test by Mr. Hussein Yousufi. I graduated and got my English Language Diploma from Star in 2007. The reason why I chose Star was that Star has been the best English Language Institution in Kabul.

When did you start teaching at Star? I started working as an English Instructor at Star Educational Society in late 2008, when a lot of people sought the position of English Instructor, especially at Star Educational Society. I was studying at level six when Mr. Yasa called me to his office and asked if I wanted to take classes at Star. I was very excited and I accepted his offer. In the following days I got two classes at B-branch of Star Educational Society in Dash-e-Barchi. Unfortunately, I had to leave those classes in the middle of the semester because I had to take the University Exam. Having taken the university exam, I joined Star Educational Society as an English Language Instructor in late 2008 and I am still teaching at Star.

How did Star change people’s lives? I have been teaching at Star Educational Society for seven years and during these years I knew a lot of people who learned English in my classes. Some have very good positions and some are studying at prestigious universities of the world.

What are your future plans? When I come back to Afghanistan, I want to conduct some projects in the central parts of Afghanistan, focusing on rivers, especially hydraulic structures, which can create economic development in Afghanistan. Furthermore, it can create jobs for Afghans. This is my specific plan for Afghanistan.

What helped you to become a Fulbright Specialist? Now I am a Fulbright finalist and I got accepted for a Fulbright Scholarship, which is a very prestigious scholarship in America. I gained admission to Aawern University in Alabama. Definitely, Star played a great role in contributing to my being awarded a Fulbright scholarship. You know that Fulbright is a scholarship, in which all the students are taught in English. I have learned English at Star and I have taught English at Star. Thus, Star played a great role in my success.

About the interviewer: Hakim Sorush has newly joined Star staff to help with photography, film-making, website management and reporting. He is a Star alumnus and a photographer. He graduated from the Fine Art Faculty, Cinema Department of Kabul University. He plans to be a film director in the future.