



The Open Heritage

Hamza Yassin

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to all the Somali teachers, including my natural teacher, my mother, who taught me how to write my name at the age of four and also contributed to my education.

Acknowledgement

First of all, all praise be to Allah who allowed me to write this small book. Many thanks are extended to all the good people who helped me complete this book, including my mother Basra Abdi Elmi, my father Yasin Muhumed Osman, my brother Amin Yasin, my friends Abdilahi Abdikarim, Ibrahim Aden and Mohamoud Haybe and other family members, friends, colleagues for their moral support. I would also like to thank my legendary professor Tim Jackson for his continuous support and editing of this book. Last but not least, I am grateful to the CEO of Horn of Africa Creative Consultancy, Mohamed Abdikadir (Stanza) for his final editing of this book. I can't forget the helping hand of this published Somali poet and novelist.

About the Book

This book is one of the most useful books of its kind which was written by a Somali writer. It contains three chapters namely various articles, short stories and poetry. The articles in chapter one are about many different fields like politics, social affairs, religion and the likes. The second chapter contains some very short stories which are real; while others are fiction. All of the stories in this chapter are so interesting and meaningful as well. The third chapter is literature with all its four main literary genres; poetry, drama, fiction and nonfiction with each has a great life lesson.

About the Author

Hamza Yassin is a young Somali author who wrote various award-winning articles, short stories and poems. He received his bachelor degree in English Language and History from Amoud University in Borama, in 2018. He is currently working on Master of Educational Management and Administration. He has over two years' experience of teaching English language at various levels from elementary to university level courses. He is currently based in the headquarters of Awdal Region - Borama.

Chapter One: Various Articles

Is Friendship Real?



Friendship is a mutual affection between people. It is a stronger bond shared by members of the society. It has many characteristics, mainly kindness, love, sympathy, loyalty, enjoying each other's company and many more. Friendship is usually a bond between the same or equivalent aged people, but there are various aged people who are still friends. Apart from

that, friendship is nothing more than interest! Maybe it is a little strange to you, so join me in reading the rest of this piece.

We all have friends who come to our lives in different times and places. Sources of friends include neighbors, schools, sports teams and so on. Friends keep in touch most of the time and spend hours and hours together with one another by studying, playing, watching and going places together. However, when a friend of yours, who lives next to your home, moves to other parts of your city or even another city, the bond of friendship weakens as time goes on. As we all know school friends grow apart when the time of the school finishes. They may try to communicate with one another but things automatically end up in just remembering. In contrast, we make many newer friends from work places, schools, as well as cities we move to. We always save phone numbers of current friends as we delete and don't give any priority to those who belong to former classmates, colleagues and neighbors. Friendship may depend on time and occasion.

We meet many people along the way of life, but only some stay with us for so long. Some are real who share hard times with their friends, but external influences may make them fall apart. For instance, someone goes ~~to~~ abroad for studies or settlement; while friends remain in their homeland. Their relationship

unintentionally decreases as both think the other is busy or something else.

Pointing to somebody in a conference, on TV or in the market, we see some people who say, 'That was my old high school buddy, but we haven't seen and talked to each other for years and years.' It is evident that your former best friend ignores you, acting as if he/she does not see you. It seems that most of us don't practice true friendship.

Friendship is one of the greatest bonds that anyone can ever wish for. It is also the greatest gift you may present to someone. We have friends that we trust and love much, but things may depend on interest. Most friendships are temporary feeling. If you don't agree with me, where are your loved friends from just years ago?

The Status of Teachers among the Somali Society



Maybe only mothers are more important than teachers in this planet. The whole world knows the importance and role of teachers. Their

status and their income depend on which country they belong to. They don't get mostly what they deserve. Below we are discussing a little about being a teacher among the Somali people. Teachers are considered very valuable members of the Somali people, but that is not always positive. There were only Qur'anic

teachers before, and they used to be rewarded livestock which are so dear to Somalis. At the moment, everybody respects them wherever they are. In contrast, they are seen as low status people who are always broke. It is normal to see a large majority of the people who never want to be teachers. Only 7 students out of 120 said that they want to be teachers when I asked them about their future careers. Since the employment of the country is low, numerous people play a teaching role; no matter whether they are professionals.

Current teachers' salaries depend on where they work. I.e. public institutions such as universities or private schools. Truly, the income of the teachers is bigger than most of the civilian laborers, but that never increases the status of teachers. For instance, a girl marries a teacher whose salary is \$600; while another marries a salesman whose wage is \$300. The people see the wife of the salesman as being in a better financial condition than the wife of the teacher. We can say that the Somali people just give fake respect to their teachers and they have negative opinion on them.

Teachers themselves have negative views on their job. Most of them don't like to keep on teaching for many years, but lack of

other alternatives make them teach for a long time. They see it as a very demanding job, while they also consider current students as incompetents. We may see many men who have been teaching for decades in every educational institution. I asked Mr. Abdirizak Idle (who has been working as a teacher for more than eleven years) why he kept teaching so many years though he planned to quit within two-three years, when he was new to the job. He said to me, 'Extended family depends on me and lack of other alternatives stopped me from leaving my teaching career.' I do agree with him that maintaining the life of an extended family is so hard.

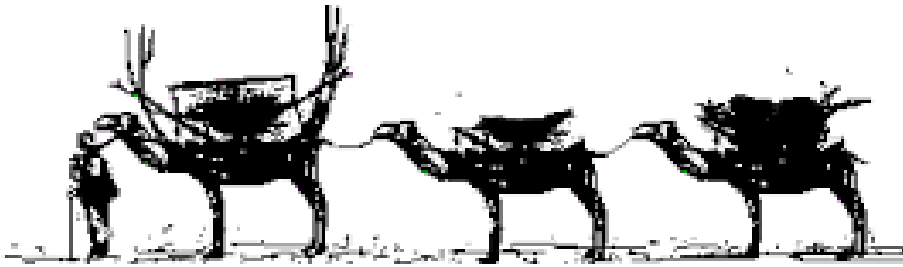
Teachers also say that nobody grows rich through teaching. They spend their salaries on their families and on themselves as they also feel broke at the end of the month due to great expenses.

Mr. Abdirizak told me that the status of teachers has been ruined by the absence of teacher's rights including lack of enough salary, lack of motivation, poor equipment, many pupils in one class and no retirement policy at all. He added that most of the country-wide schools are run by poor quality people who are handed the responsibility of the educational centers by religious

groups. There are also others who invest in schools like a business to make money. Teachers can easily be hired or fired as it depends on the ruling bodies of the school. Teachers seem to have no rights at all!

Anyway, teachers are the backbone of the sustainable development of human beings, and their importance can never be denied by any person among our community. But Somali teachers are not happy with their jobs and that may negatively affect the future of all the Somali people and our country. This issue is alarming! Alarming! Alarming! All of us need to solve things together.

Two Things to Do in Our Life!



There are about seven billion people in the world at this time, but estimates reveal that 107 billion people lived since the beginning of this universe. 107 billion minus 7 billion who are alive today equals 100 billion people who died. Currently, people are dying without a doubt. Since life is too short and tomorrow is not guaranteed, we must prepare two things before we abandon this beautiful world!

As soon as we die and get buried, two angels will come, test our faith and ask each of us these three questions: ***Who is your Lord? What is your religion? What is your faith about this person?*** These questions seem very easy at the moment, but when we go

to the graves, their answers will depend on whether we were rightly guided during our living days. If we take the right path of Allah, obey Him and do good deeds (perform prayers, fast during Ramadan and other necessary deeds), we will go to heaven In sha Allah, and we will enjoy never-ending beautiful life in paradise.

As we see in many religious books and the Hadith narrated by Abdirahman Ibn Auf, some of prophet Muhamad's companions (i.e., the 10 people who were given glad tidings of paradise) were promised heaven while living by the Almighty Allah because of their sacrifice to the Islamic religion as well as doing extraordinary good deeds. In contrast, if we neglect to obey Allah during our short spell on the ground, we will lose forever. The deeds that may spoil us include not praying, murdering, drugs addictions, illegal sex or being an infidel. They may directly take us to hell where there is unbearable punishment. It is like choosing one of two roads that are diverging.

The second main thing is leaving your mark in this world. It means contributing to the future generation. Many people die while nobody remembers them. Many others who died thousands or a million years ago are still popular. Leaving a good mark does not depend on any religion. For instance, prophet Mohammed (PBUH) was a single person, but about two billion people follows

him today. Another example, Thomas Edison, the inventor of electric power generation, was a Christian but his name and contribution will forever be remembered. At the moment, if we recognize what we want our legacy to be, we will start building it. It will allow us to begin doing what matters now and later. It will also make us use our time, energy, and brain better and make good decisions. But keep in mind one thing! Your legacy must be positive. We know many people who left a very bad mark. Because of their notorious brutality, anyone who hears their names curses them. We should avoid that and make the next generation respect us and be proud of us.

In conclusion, a majority of the people are busy doing meaningless things despite having enough time and resources. We always regret when we lose and ask ourselves why we don't work hard. But never neglect to stay in touch with the forever living King, Allah, to get his mercy. You must also make the people proudly remember you. What are you waiting for? It is your turn now.

Life under Social Media



The rapid advancement of internet in general and social media in particular changed the lifestyle of our people in our digital age. It has both positive and negative effects on people, but youths are the most distracted who experience it. It lets people share information and have fun while it also slows down performance and the credibility of the people. We will briefly tell a little information about how social media affects our lives.

Social media has widely spread to the world for the past decade. People used to work, learn and share. Students went to schools

and learned from their teachers and textbooks. If there was an exercise, students used textbooks or related papers. Radios and televisions were the main sources of news. Youths and children mostly play different kinds of sport or watch TV for entertainment or exercise. There were only conversations between members of the families and peer groups in which they told stories like tales, fiction and non-fiction. Also direct introduction or searching for the address of the person you love were the base of the courtship. The people utilized their time as they visited relatives, studied, and had fun together. Everything seemed straight forward before social media's rise.

At the moment, almost everything has changed. People shop online though it is not something that everybody does. Students always look for information they need in the internet as they prefer it to textbooks. They don't study their lessons for much time as they are busy using Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok and others. It is very common to see small children who know how to use smartphones like viewing photos, playing games and watching through YouTube. 10-12-year-old children ask their parents to buy them smartphones. Most courtship starts in social media platforms from greeting, introduction and beyond. Current people, especially youths,

watch dramas, films, songs, religious speeches on YouTube or in the Facebook. Physical exercise has also slowed down as social media makes everyone busy.

On the other hand, social media has negatively affected performance of current students. Though school authorities try to limit this problem, it is clear that current pupils are weaker than former ones. Social media has also made most youths sleep late around 12 or 1 a.m. as they chat with their friends and watch something. WhatsApp is one of the social media platforms that extremely affect youths. Someone is updating his/her status, then some friends reply and conversation starts from there. I asked many boys and girls between 15-25 what they do with social media. Most of them told me nothing more than having fun.

Social media's negative effects on our youths can be mitigated. We have to use it in a right way. It does not mean never have fun, chat with friends or post pictures, but don't spend much time on such things. Social media is a knowledge hub that one can learn from. It enables us to communicate with our families and friends who don't stay with us. We should use it for better purposes.

Finally, social media has very positive effects on ourselves but there is a negative side as well. Let us teach our children and

students how to use social media rightly, but we should not try to stop them from using it as they have a right to.

The Colonial Impact on Our Current Curriculum

European colonizers made things fall apart as they had an enormous influence on the people that they occupied their countries. The British and Italian colonizers changed many aspects of life. Since Somalis are 100% Muslims, their education was based on Islamic law, but things changed dramatically. Let us look back at the colonial era's impact on our present curriculum.

Islam entered Somali territory soon after the Hijra, so Somali people have been practicing Islamic sharia for centuries though inter-clan hostility existed at the same time. Somali children went to Quranic schools (*malcamad*) where they had an access



to Quran, Hadith and other materials. They also attended hymn (*xadro*) where they learned more about “Mawliid” and “Munaaqib” as the Qaadiriya was the oldest order (*firqa*) in the Somali territory. No other subjects such as sciences or arts were taken or even known. The colonizers had two main agendas when they

came to Somalia: Christianity and commerce. They opened a mission school in Daimole near Berbera, and they converted some children in that school to Christianity. Sayid Mohamed Abdille Hassan noticed this and witnessed the issue which later quickened the emergence of the Dervish movement led by the Sayid. This movement’s aim was to avoid spreading of Christianity to the Somali society and remove foreigners from the country. After more than two decades of bitter war and

destructive military confrontations, Dervishes were defeated by air bombardments.

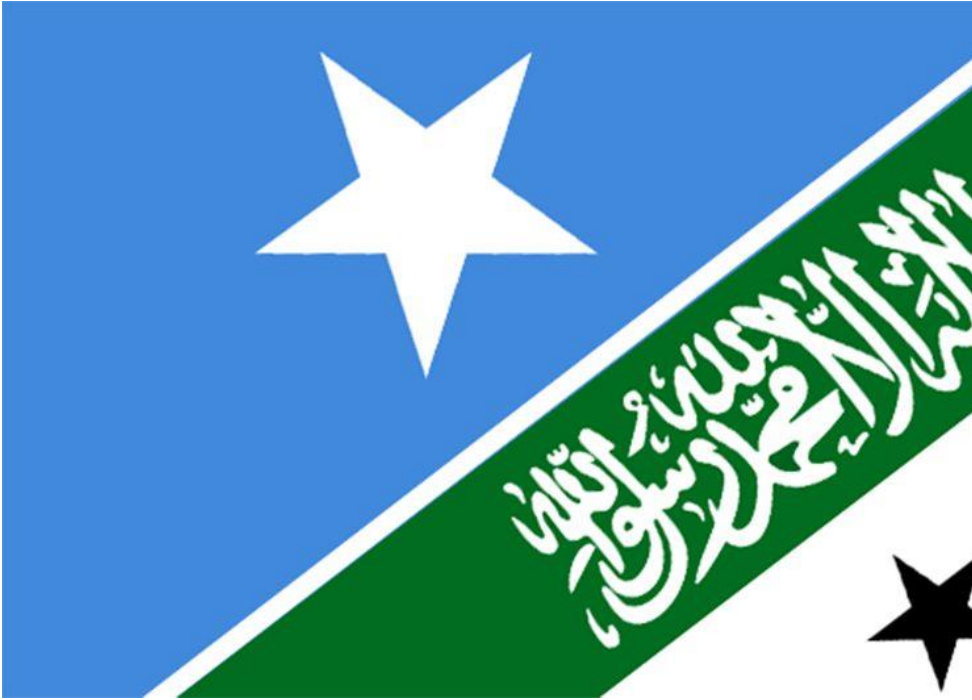
The British colonizers stopped mission schools (Christianizing schools) that cost them a lot (war on Dervishes), but tried to replace them with typical schools which offered normal courses like science, geography, math, English and so on, but nobody attended these because Somalis were afraid of being converted to infidels. This in mind, they boycotted the colonial mission schools.

The British colonizers sent six Somali boys, including the late Mohamud Ahmed Ali, to study in Sudan. When they graduated, they were placed in higher positions in the British administration to motivate other people to start going to schools. But this again had no influence. Later they came up with another idea which made their dreams come true. The colonizers went to Sheikhs who ran Quranic Schools and convinced them to add to their curriculum extra basic things like geography and the 3Rs (reading, writing & arithmetic). Sheikhs were also promised a monthly salary. For many years, children learned this way.

When the colonizers realised that their curriculum was adopted heavily, they cut the wages of the sheikhs, but kept giving salary to the other teachers like teachers of geography, math and other subjects. This was made to make students hate religious education. Quranic schools later became primary schools such as Sh. Abdirahman Sh. Noor Al-Qaadi Primary School in Borama and other schools throughout the country that were named after such Sheikhs. Ever since then, subjects in the sciences and arts have been taught.

At the moment, public and private schools offer the arts, sciences, and Arabic and Islamic studies, but Islamic studies and Arabic are not considered in the same way as the other subjects. Our present curriculum is based on the colonizers' policy on education even though they were gone scores of years ago. Still they help us with education. I hope we will be free from their so-called aid they use to implement their own views.

The Unsettled Issue



It is not strange to see regions that broke away from their countries and then gained international recognition like Bangladesh which seceded from Pakistan in 1971, Eritrea that seceded from Ethiopia in 1991 and South Sudan which seceded from Sudan in 2011, and many other states.

There are also several other regions which ended up in political uncertainty; unable to gain recognition from the international community, including Somaliland of Somalia, Abkhazia of Georgia, Nagorno Karbakh of Azerbaijan and the likes. Most importantly, the issue of Somaliland and Somalia looks to remain unsolved forever as a result of reasonable factors which we ignore.

Somaliland separated from the rest of Somalia in 1991, following the fall of Siad Bare's military regime which left a chronic chaos in Somalia. Since then, Somaliland has its own flag, currency, army and some kind of democracy. Its people enjoyed peace for many years, but did not get any kind of recognition from the global community. There was almost no effective administration in Somalia, yet for the past decade there has been a working government which Somaliland needs to talk to. Somaliland says that reunion with the rest of Somalia is impossible, yet there are many Somalilanders who advocate and campaign for unity. Also, Somaliland has representatives in the government of Somalia since Somalia sees it as a part of its territory. The highest officers from Somaliland include deputy PM, chief of justice, speaker of the senate and some ministers. But Somaliland does not recognize them as its representatives and argues with its people

to never go to Mogadishu for holding any political office. It also banned Somali government officials from Somaliland from returning to Somaliland.

Somalia always says that the unity of the country is undebatable. Its government does not rule the breakaway Somaliland; though the world considers Somalia as one and has a direct relationship with Somalia as a nation. Unlike Somaliland, the Mogadishu administration uses soft words to talk about this outstanding issue. They claim that whatever made Somaliland declare independence should be solved by means of Somali negotiation. They also call for dialogue repeatedly to settle the three-decade-long matter. Since Somalia got federalism, it thinks Somaliland must join it.

The two opposing sides had dialogues from the ministerial level to the two presidents in the UK, Turkey, Dubai, Djibouti and Ethiopia with no greater success at all. Each side seems unwilling to reach agreement with other party because they don't talk about the sensitive issue of unity or separation, but just smaller things like peace, transportation and smooth commercial cooperation.

Negotiators from Somalia include members from Somaliland by clan, so secessionists are always opposed to talking to their own

clan members and then negotiations immediately fail. Many people believe that the negotiators must not be all politicians but comprehensive from all societal sectors. Both the two said sides must also reach compromise with each other about this sensitive issue.

The unresolved matter between Somalia and Somaliland is getting worse. The main conflict is a game between unionists and separatists. The pro-unity people see secessionists as vicious; while the secessionists do the same. This game will continue if things don't change through dialogue.

The Multi-Enemy



The Iranian revolution was a Shiite revolution, but it had never been an Islamic revolution as Shia claims. Iran was ruled by a dictator called Reza who wanted to change the culture of his people to a western one. Even though his policy was bad, the so-called Islamic revolution is worse than that. Iran's authority is

evil because they do what Devils do. I want to give a small explanation about their mistaken faith and their enmity against the true Muslim people in all over the world.

Shiite minority people led by the so-called Islamic Republic of Iran believe that they are Muslims. Islamic religion has five main pillars. The first, which is also the most important one, is “There is no true God but Allah, and Prophet Mohamed (PBUH) is his Messenger of Allah.” Every Muslim must follow the way of Allah and his Messenger. In our prophet’s era, some people said, “Prophet Mohamed’s followers were cowards, they ate more meals, and they were reluctant to fight.” When Prophet Mohamed (PPUH) heard that statement, he said, “They are infidels!” As we know, Shiites deliberately insult some of the closest friends of Prophet Mohamed whom are widely praised in the Quran. If those people who spread that rumor about our Messenger’s followers were recognized as infidels by Prophet Mohamed, what about the Shiites who publicly criticize and insult the honorable ones? We can easily realize that they are not righteous Muslims.

Shia and Western Christian States want to destroy true Muslims. I.e. Sunni. Every day, they kill civilians in Iraq and Syria as we have seen in Aleppo. Westerners only condemn Shiites’ brutal actions, but they do not take any action against the killers. US,

UK and France claimed that they were defending the civilians when they destroyed Libya. If this was true, why are they watching what is going on in Syria? Why didn't they attack Shiite rebels that overthrew the democratically elected government in Yemen? If westerners see some Sunni ruler who are not doing as they want, they strike quickly, but Shiites are their hidden friends.

What one believes is always right to him/her, but the reality is what remains forever. Shiites and all non-Muslims target Sunni people in everywhere in the globe. Hindu kill them in Kashmir, Jewish kill them in Palestine, Buddhists kill them in Rakhine, Shiites kill them in Syria, Chinese kill them in Uighur land; while Christians fight them many other areas. It is time to end animosity.

We Need a Change!



Listen international employers, we are sick and tired of your employment conditions! You don't entirely take care of our situation. But give us what we have a right to. Migrating is better

than staying in the country for many Somalis and other African youths. Lots of international NGOs and UN work here in Somalia/Somaliland with no greater job opportunities for us.

I am the first member of an extended family who graduated from a university. I was invested, and I emerged as one of the top talents in my university. My family expected that I would soon truly flourish after the graduation. My father does very hard jobs to keep us happy, and he is confident that one day I will make him live like a king. But things are falling apart.

As soon as I graduated from the university, I tried to apply jobs, but I was shocked by the conditions especially the “experience”. Every job needs two up to ten years of experience. Of course, experience is good for the jobs to take place smoothly, but who is born with years of work experience? For instance, employer A doesn’t hire you and employer B wants you to have worked for the employer A for years! I have a fresh mind and energy. Also, I have enough knowledge and ability for some jobs but not every job. We Somali youth feel that we are clearly underestimated as every job has difficult conditions.

Thousands of Somalis graduate from local and abroad colleges each year. Most of them end up in chewing khat, illegal migration or sitting in tea shops. We always see former graduates who are still unemployed. This bequeaths us with frustrations that are waiting for us, when we finish our studies. A twenty-four-year-old boy told me that I should have five years of experience and two Olympic medals if I need a job. This is not real but realistic.

Somali youth are keen to obtain a better life, employment and opportunities. Most of the international organizations have foreign workers though we can do what they do. We need to be trusted as the citizens on the planet without the condition of years of working experience. Then, we will show our abilities.

Our youth mostly believe that they cannot hold higher positions at global agencies and organizations. They don't even try to apply to demanding and well-paid jobs, as they think that they will never be selected for those jobs. But I want to say our best days are still ahead of us.

Bewilderment about Khat



khat is an evergreen shrub that is widely used in Somali territory. Its leaves are chewed in every town, city, and village. Mostly, it comes from Ethiopia and Kenya. Somali people spend huge money to import it to the country. There are different arguments about banning khat. It has been debated about its use which has been undergoing since the 1940s.

Everybody knows that khat has a lot of disadvantages, when we compare to its advantages. However, many people claim that it has advantages. They argue that the fall of Somalia's government

has caused destruction, and the country does not have a strong central government. This led people to become poor and to suffer from poverty and joblessness.

Many people trade khat with the locals to earn a living for their daily life, because other jobs are not enough. By selling khat, parents can earn-money to feed their children. If this stops one time, many we will face a lot of hardships, like unemployment. Most of the khat-sellers say that they are not happy with their business but have no other choice. There is a web linking from those who import khat to the mothers who sell it on the streets as retail. “Many mothers sell it in order to support the life of their children,” said Khalid Aseir. Those who support khat say, “Government gets huge money from the taxing of khat. That money facilitates lots of government services, so if it is stopped we may face financial crisis.” One of the khat-sellers said, with a smile, “Khat reduces the act of stealing and robberies, because robbers are busy with chewing khat.”

So their main argument is, **at this moment, we can't stop khat**. But if you ask them about its negative effects its supporters say that they admit less, but they hide much about its impact.

Most educators, especially doctors and religious leaders, warn the people not to chew khat. ~~However~~, its use continues. Many local organizations work to warn the people against chewing khat, but they aren't successful. There is no organization or person that praises khat publicly. The majority of the people condemn khat.

The opponents of khat argue that it has a lot of disadvantages. **Khat damages health, wastes time, reduces income and causes social problems.** It is a drug, and it changes the minds of users. It can cause sleep disorders. "When I take 1kg of khat, I may finish chewing about 8:00 p.m., Then, I can't sleep till 4:00 a.m.," said Jamayare, who is one of the khat chewers.

Another argument says that khat is a waste of time. Its chewers spend more than 15 hours chewing; this time is too much. You can use this time to do many things. This drug is addictive; if you don't have money to buy it, you beg someone for it. Khat chewers have a tendency to do this, because they can't be without it. Also, khat reduces the income of users, because the people spend so much money on it. For instance, a man needs 5 dollars to buy it. Since the income of the people is low, spending 5 dollars daily damages the finances of families, which is already weak. Khat also causes social problems. "Khat is the main cause of divorce

among the Somali families. Men chew khat and they don't take their responsibility; they don't pay the bills for the family, and they aren't aware of the condition of their children, so this may cause the children to be neglected," said Abdifatah Arab, a member of a campaign against khat. The government must ban it.

We all know this is a problem, but it also has, at least, some positives. It is true we get tax income from it and many people depend on it for their daily life. But if we stop it, can't we use that money to invest in our local businesses? Yes, we can. Is *this the time suitable to ban*? Will the situation get better or not? It is one of the most controversial issues among Somalis.

The Bleeding Nation



Hearing murder is something that many Somalis experience daily. For nearly three decades, south and central Somalia is still in the middle of major violence caused by rebels, extremists and foreign enemies. The aftermath of the above said disasters became unending war, famine, rape, inequality and country's

wide destruction. The capital city of the Somalia hosts the most painful events in the country.

There was an attack which was carried out by a man dressed as a woman who covered his face with a veil. He blew himself up in a hall hosting a graduation ceremony. Most of those killed were graduate students, doctors and ministers. A missile hit a wedding ceremony that instantly shed many attendees, including the bride and the groom, to pieces. Many families were totally destroyed by explosions. One of the deadliest blasts happened in the capital city that left scores of people dead; the victims were almost all students waiting for scholarship examination results. The most horrendous attack has ripped through a very busy street in the capital killing over six hundred innocent people. The scale of the loss makes the attack one of the most lethal extremist acts anywhere in the world for many years; some say that it was the deadliest one after September the 11 2001.

A father travelled from London and came to Mogadishu to attend his daughter's graduation, but he attended her funeral, after she lost her life in the blast. The stories of those killed there made all Somalis in the world weep and react angrily.

Five brothers were killed on their way home from their aunt's burial. You cannot imagine the number of educators, Islamic scholars, journalists, and elders whom were killed in the coastal city.

The world does not forget Somalia's story, but intentionally ignores it because they don't want to build an effective army. Instead, they fund thousands of so called AMISOM forces, including Ethiopian forces and Kenyan troops. It is just like Indian forces who are keeping the security of Pakistan. Only Allah can save us from the foreign enmity and violence.

The Greatest Food



Today I would like to tell you about something that Somalis highly value in their culture. What do you think it might be? It is not clothing, poems or land, but it's a kind of food locally called "muqmad" or "oodkac." There are other things that Somalis culturally do such as rearing animals (e.g., camels, cows, sheep

and goats), singing traditional songs, and making art, but there are other communities who do these same things like us.

Muqmad is a very special food that is only used by Somalis. It is a very specialized food made from meat. Since we are good at welcoming guests, we give them *muqmad*. Although it is a delicious food, foreigners do not know about it, whether they are Africans, Arabs, Americans, or others. I'll explain how it is cooked, and eaten with normal meals, for good health and for weddings. Only someone who has tasted *muqmad* can know its value.

When roasting *muqmad*, you need meat, especially from camels, cows, and goats. First, you have to cut it into small pieces with a knife. Second, you must clean the meat with water. Then, put it into a pot with oil and add salt. After one hour, you have to filter the meat from the oil. Once you have done that, add some spices in order to make it smell good. For the last step, you need to make it dry. In the end, you can add ghee (called “*subag*” in Somali language) if you like. Now you have a unique Somali food.

Muqmad is used for normal meals although it is not eaten by itself alone. It is eaten with our traditional food called “*canjeero*” or “*loxoox*.” Like other people, Somalis have three meals a day. These are breakfast, lunch and dinner, and the main meal is lunch. Muqmad is mostly eaten for breakfast and dinner, not for lunch. Truly, muqmad is not cheap, but everyone who can afford it buys it. It increases the appetite, so anyone who is reluctant to eat other foods becomes happy if he gets it. For example, I personally like it very much, especially when I get sick and tired of eating *canjeero* every morning. Everyone relaxes while eating it.

If someone is critically injured by someone else, he is treated by using medicine. Once the victim gets better, culturally, he needs *muqmad* because it contains proteins that help him to recover and regain his weight, his energy and anything else that he lost because of his health problem. Mostly, it is believed that giving *muqmad* to anyone who gets critically injured will help make him better, but it is after the treatment of doctors. Offenders must pay for the *muqmad*. It is important for the recovery of the victims.

Muqmad is also commonly used after weddings. In our culture, Somalis help every new couple. More than 700 kilograms of sugar, flour, rice and other supplies are collected and given to the couples, but the most important thing is *muqmad*. *Muqmad* is put in the middle of what we call “Xeedho.” It is a special gift for the new family. The man invites his friends to share his *muqmad* with them while some of the food is stored for the couples only. A gift is one of the usages of *muqmad*.

In conclusion, muqmad is a very beloved food among Somalis, if not the most loved meal. It only requires meat, a pot and a fire to grill it and it is not a difficult job. In order to make our guests happy, we always do anything that we are able, particularly giving them this kind of food. One of the best characteristics of this food is that it doesn't change even without putting it in the refrigerator for a long time. The relatives of anyone who gets married offer it after some days after the wedding ceremony. In addition to that, it is something given to an injured person for nourishment. You can see and taste this great food if Somalis live in your town, and I am sure you will appreciate it. It is something which has existed from our ancestors up to now.

We Live in a World Where ...



We live in a world, where peace is not for everyone. Many nations fund peace building missions as they create more battlefields.

We live in a world where people get happy about their brother's failure. They get jealous about one's progress and ask themselves why he/she is successful.

We live in a world, where the former American president Barack Hussein Obama, who was described as "The Silent Killer" by many, won the Noble Peace Prize!

We live in a world, where the whole world watches Israel's genocide, brutality and forcible occupation in Palestine, especially Gaza, yet many criticize Palestinian fighters.

We live in a world, where rich people are exploiting poorer people instead of giving a hand.

We live in a world, where love needs money to save its life.

We live in a world, where animals have more rights and are better protected than many humans.

We live in a world, where children are misused and armed to fight for someone else's interests.

We live in a world, where some African countries' main incomes include a peace keeping mission in Somalia, so the income depends on the continuity of the war!

We live in a world, where the so-called aid is used as a tool to dictate Africans according to whatever Western countries need.

We live in a world, where democracy and freedom of speech have already led many people to act as animals!

We live in a world, where sports players are paid a hundred times more than doctors who save lives!

We live in a world, where youths spend most of their time using social media which negatively affects their performance.

We live in a world, where many parents stop their children from marrying their loved ones because of money, culture, discrimination and the likes.

We live in a world, where educational centers became a business and source of making money!

We live in a world, where Muslims are killing each other, thinking they may go to paradise for that.

We live in a world, where Muslim people are struggling everywhere around the world!

We live in a world, where many suffer from crimes they never committed!

How Can We Respond to Droughts?



As we all know, we Somalis, repeatedly face very unbearable risk of famine . 2 or 3-year droughts make half of many live with almost no water and food. Although this critical condition exists, we have to do everything that we can in order to save the lives of our brothers and sisters. There were two very bad famines from 1991 to 1992 and in 2011 which caused the death of 300,000 and 260,000 respectively.

Since the fall of the strong central Somali government in 1991, we fight, kill, steal, insult, and deceive ourselves. As a result of our bad actions, Allah punishes us. Our duty is to repent to Allah and forgive each other. If we always ask God for what we need, he gives it to us. But if we always wait for foreign aid, nobody can convince everyone. We are undoubtedly in a crisis, but the situation will get even worse, especially if the expected rains fall poorly. Our children need urgent treatment and nutrition support. Only Allah is able to revive his people, so we have to pray to him and do good deeds.

Millions of Somalis face crisis and emergency food insecurity. Drought has affected wherever Somalis inhabit. There are a lot of people who are coming to the towns to look for aid, mainly women and children. We need to help each other. There are volunteers in every town or city, so we must donate half of our ownership to save our beloved people from this disaster. We have to welcome the vulnerable people. Somali Diaspora must take part in the ongoing efforts to deal with this situation. We must lift one another up.

In our country, the farm animals are dying, the wells have already dried up in many areas, and crops failed. We are no longer able to lose lives anymore, so we should take immediate actions.

Our ancestors used to help each other, so we must do the same. Asking Allah for his pardon and helping one another are the best ways that we can be free from this tragedy.

Whenever we are in a need, we have to seek the help of Allah. Some of our relatives live in the rural or remote areas: they are waiting for us! What if your right arm gives your left arm something? Helping your poor people is just like that. Let us all donate money! Let us all volunteer! Let us all save our siblings!

10 Things about Buhodle that You Don't Know



Buhodle is a medium-sized city which is located in Togder region. The city has almost all amenities required for a city. It has many unique characteristics. Here are the ten things to know about this city.

1. **Strategic location:** It is a prominent border city for movements of goods from Somaliland, Puntland and the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia. It is almost the center of many regions, mainly Togder, Nugal and Mudug.
2. **Pro-unity people:** Almost all of the people in Buhodle support the unity of Somalia. The only flag which one can see in the houses, hotels, schools and business centers is the Somali blue flag with a white star. Though the city

has no assistance from the federal government of Somalia, the patriotism of Buhodle's inhabitants makes them defend Somali unity.

3. **Home of anti-colonization:** Buhodle was the first base of Dervish freedom fighters which was the toughest movement that European colonizers faced in Africa. A large number of the movement's troops were from that city. Their descendants are still considered as brave, British killers.
4. **Nobody rules:** Buhodle has nearly no rule of law. Both Somaliland and Puntland claim the city but neither side administers it. The residents are opposed to being under those administrations. It has had no mayor and no municipality for years. Clan elders and religious sheikhs solve local clashes and crimes which sometimes happen in the city.
5. **Disputed city:** The rivalry between Somaliland and Puntland makes both of them claim the city. Some ministers from Buhodle are in the cabinets of both states. The opposing ministers receive the same welcome when they come from Hargeisa and Garowe. Khatumo State also claims the ownership of the city. Even officials from the federal government are welcomed to Buhodle, when they visit the city.
6. **Full of religious schools:** religious schools are widely common in the city. It is normal to see very young people graduating from those schools. Even the mature people

mostly attend the faculty of Sharia at the universities in Buhodle.

7. **Lack of roads:** Because of the absence of local municipality or rule of law at all, the people build houses wherever they want. Thus, it is rare to see a very straight road in the city.
8. **The Hometown of Sado Ali Warsame:** Buhodle is where the late popular Somali musical figure, Sado Ali Warsame, was born. She is always remembered for her patriotism. Her assassination in Mogadishu on July the 23rd 2014, created wide rage and grief.
9. **Sayid Mohamed's place of birth:** The leader of the Dervish movement, Sayid Mohamed Abdille Hassan, was born in the rural area of this city. He was a warrior, religious figure, influential poet and a very great orator. British colonizers named him the "Mad Mullah" as they found it difficult to defeat his movement for decades.
10. **The Death penalty:** In order to decrease or eliminate murdering, the local clan elders exercise the "Death Penalty". This directly encourages peace in the city of Buhodle.

There are many more characteristics in this city and it remains one of the most controversial issues in Somalia.

How to Create Job Opportunities for Somali Youth!



Somalis are on a recovery path from a severe civil war. A large number of Somali youths do not have jobs; though the Somali government and some international organizations and NGOs try hard to decrease unemployment. The following ideas effectively

create lasting jobs and increase employment rate if they are concentrated on.

1. **Research:** Formation of a research center in Somalia or funding local researchers to discover effective programs for use in the markets of the country.
2. **Fishing:** Somalia has the longest coastline in Africa, but its resources are not utilized because of lack of necessary equipment. The most needed equipment is an ice box in order to keep the fishermen's freshly caught fish. An ice box increases the production of the fishermen and makes it easy to transport to the main cities.
3. **Vocational schools:** Some vocational schools in Somalia provide tailoring, electricity and plumbing. But there is a need to add cooking or catering schools and decorations. Youth with skills of preparing foods which aren't known in Somalia can increase employment, because many Somalis prefer eating at restaurants to eating at home.

4. **Small ports:** Somalis almost always import their supplies, so if small ports are built, a lot of young people will get more opportunities to get jobs. Activities will fill all coastal towns.

5. **Mining:** Different minerals, especially gold, are common in some areas of Somalia, but it is dangerous to extract. There is a need for providing youth with the equipment that protects them from radiation. This may raise the number of workers in the country.

6. **Business:** Thousands of students graduate from the universities each year. They are ready to create jobs, but they don't have enough money to start business with. Some local companies and banks lend youth money with difficult conditions. If the youth are offered small money on condition to pioneer business, it will make youth compete and create jobs.

7. **Sport:** A large number of youth are amateur footballers, though their techniques are similar to the professional footballers. I believe if the very best players are shown to African or European teams, they (the players) may be hired.

Therefore, local business people should create football teams and pay their footballers.

8. **Reuse:** Waste from plastics, iron, and animal bones are available everywhere in the country. It will be very essential for youths to be trained to reuse and recycle these items. This program will be very effective for employment.
9. **Literacy:** Literacy plays an active role in the development of youth and gives the ability to seek further knowledge. It is important to increase literate people in the country.
11. **Agriculture:** Cultivating crops and keeping livestock is the key to development of Somali people. Farmers are needed to give effective seeds and to have their products bought by aid organizations. Many people will turn to farming.

How to boost job opportunities for youths in Somalia is quite a difficult question, but it can be solved. The above mentioned ideas will increase employment and do not even need much

more funding. Somali youth are ready to make their country better.

The Roots of Migration



Somali youths are abandoning their country and immigrating to Europe by illegal journeys, but what are the roots of this crisis? According to our country, it is argued that youth unemployment is the root cause of emigration. “If I graduate from the university,

it is obvious that I will not get any job, because those who did it before are in the markets with nothing to do,” said Saddam, who is one of the migrants.

The emigrants from our country can be classified in two parts when they are planning this trip. Most of them (about 90%) have parents or caregivers who are unaware of their desires, and the parents only realize what has happened, when they miss their beloved children. The second part are those who have parents who are aware of what their children are planning to do. This doesn't mean that their parents allow them to do this, but pressure from their children leads them to allow it happen, anyway.

We all know that the illegal journey leads immigrants into unforeseen problems which are difficult to forget, even if they get through; and the parents of those who die live with unending anguish.

Some people, especially government staff such as ministers, claim that the migrants' fathers and mothers are ready to pay ransom when their children are captured and abducted. This reality cannot be denied. When a son or daughter is captured, he or she calls his or her parents to implement orders from the abductors and inform them about how much money is needed for

them to be released. Parents do whatever they can to preserve the lives of their children. Also, smugglers threaten to kill the immigrants if they fail to pay. Lots of people are killed by human traffickers.

Since the income of the local residents is low or small, parents are forced to beg from other people in order to obtain the money. We often see someone who talks loudly after prayers in the mosque asking people for help to pay the captors. However, even if you have enough money, who can promise you that the migrant (your son) will survive? The answer is nobody, because the desert is filled with dangerous bandits and because boats used to cross the Mediterranean that is not very seaworthy.

Anyone who wants to secretly emigrate from the country is a friend of another; parents do not know the relationship between the friends. I myself have witnessed migrants and their friends discussing about the mission. A friend's buddy planned to leave the country and he informed his friends. After a negotiation, they took pictures with him, said goodbye to him and he left. When his parents missed their son, they went to his friends for

information about him but everyone was very reluctant to tell what happened, because it was a secret just between them.

We often hear about European governments that are fed up with welcoming asylum seekers; and the migrant's countries also have a lot of hardships trying to discourage this tendency. When a problem needs a solution, the source of the problem must be confronted. The government must arrest smugglers and human traffickers, catch youth trying to cross borders; and Europeans must send their navies to keep their seas borders. Yet, all of these things are not working. Illegal migrants are still leaving and the refugee crises are getting worse and worse. Changing one's mind and heart to heart persuasion is better than trying to force them not to emigrate from homeland.

Somalis have good telecommunication systems like internet and telephones and people mostly use mobile phones for communication. These technologies also have bad effects. Those migrants who survive, when they arrive in Europe, post pictures of themselves posing near tall buildings on beautiful streets and other places which are pleasing to the eye. Then youth who are still in Somalia believe that the migrants in Europe are finding

jobs and earning money, so they think about how to go there to do the same. For instance, Najib was an eighteen-year-old student. He had never been to war; furthermore, he had been promised a job when he graduated by his great uncle who was the manager of a company in their town. He saw a picture of one of his former friends, playing in a stadium in Rome, Italy. He called me to see the picture and he said to me, “Look! Look at where he stays!” After that, he decided to go. I tried to persuade him many times; but he refused to listen to me. Finally, he emigrated from Somalia and immigrated to Europe. This means the young people mostly do not desert their country because of only unemployment and instability.

Is English a Measurement of Intelligence?



English is the second most spoken language in the world. It is the official language of more than 50 countries. It is not strange to see people speaking English

in almost every country. But its importance is exaggerated and many people use it as a measurement of intelligence.

It is clear that English language is the language of international communication. It makes it easy to communicate with your global friends, colleagues, employers and many more. English is also the language of science, technology, aviation and diplomacy.

It is a great thing that people of the world understand each other. This language spread to the world through colonization, since the British saw it long ago as a tool for imperial expansion. It later removed many languages from being number one and established itself as the official language of many countries. As a result of that, numerous education curriculums are based in English. The availability of mainly required text books in English and being the language of the internet, double its importance. It is clear that English is good, not as many see it.

Because of English language's popularity and importance, many people blow it out of proportion. They see it as better than any other language. They also think that anyone who speaks it well is a highly educated person. Even if one good English speaker has a diploma or certificate, he is regarded as a professor in many places. It is common to see some people saying, "Have you seen that person? You cannot imagine how well he speaks English!" It is good for us to believe that it is just a useful and global language but not something that can measure intelligence, brightness or greatness. We also need to tell people that ignorant English speakers are the same as other ignorant people who speak their mother language.

Imagine if there was no English language in this world; we would surely find it difficult to communicate with other races or countries. But, that should not mislead us. We must avoid seeing this language as the measurement of intelligence.

An Open Letter to My Old Friend



Dear Zakaria,

First of all, I miss you since the day you abandoned me. We have known each other well for a number of years. We did everything together like playing football, watching TV shows, reading, going to school and many more. That created the bond we shared with each other. No matter how far apart we are; I wish one day we will meet as if we were never far from each other. After that, let me tell you how things have changed since your departure.

The first day that you emigrated from our country and immigrated to where you are, everyone became upset as you were very dear to us, family and friends. You made your single mother feel that the whole world was on her shoulders because of the heartbreaking decision you made. Many people came to your mom to wish you good luck, but nothing settled her.

You claimed to have been kidnapped and urged your mom to pay \$3600\$ or else you would get killed; yet you knew the poor financial condition of your family. She wept for lack of much needed money, and you let a terrible shriek because of the torture that you were undergoing at the hands of the smugglers. She went to some of her relatives for help, but mostly in vain. Your younger siblings were fired from the school for lack of tuition

fee. The life of your mother and the children turned into darkness. Finally, she barely managed to send you the money and you were released.

You asked her for thousands of dollars blindly again. Extreme thinking, depression and the pressure you created were enough for her to get hypertension and some others medical issues. She even asked herself why she had delivered you. She sold the family's house in order to save you. You hurt her a lot more than death can hurt.

I know that you experienced incredible and painful stories during your one-year long illegal trip. I know you are sad and you feel alone in Austria's metropolis - Vienna. I know that you feel the whole world is against you as things didn't become how you wanted them to be. But I would like to remind you that our prayers are with you.

You are now a past tense to most of our friends, but you are still in my heart. Though you spoiled everything, I want to tell you that you need to make the life of your family great again.

Best wishes,

Your friend Hamza Yassin

How to Make Your Country Better



Education is the key of life. Correcting the educational system of our country, especially children's education, is the most important issue that I and many others would like to give first priority to.

Our children don't have enough education. Many Somalis live in remote areas, where there are no schools. Others are pastoralists who move to wherever they find grass and water. Estimates reveal that Somalia has a literacy rate of 40%. Everything begins with a foundation. If we educate our children well, we will get a new generation with innovation and skills that will make the country better. Creating an effective curriculum, spending a big budget on protecting children's rights and strengthening education, and building schools in villages with food centers are tips that I would like to put a lot of effort into. The most important asset available at this period is the people.

Curriculum serves as a body of knowledge to be transmitted and it is the backbone of the national education. To improve the quality of children's education of the country, it is necessary to reform the national curriculum. In order to reform our education, it should be appointed a committee of curriculum experts who would work hand in hand with the parliament, the ministry of education and others such as the business communities,

industries and stakeholders to set implementing rules and policies for children's educational reforms. The following items will be included in order to enrich the national curriculum for basic education: the objectives and core contents of different subjects, the principles of pupil assessment, special-needs education, pupil welfare and educational guidance. The higher education curriculum should be developed to preserve the country's national identity and to ensure its economic growth and stability. Skills-based education should be emphasized as well as general knowledge. Finally, it is important to unite the curricula of the different universities in the country. The curriculum guides the development of our country.

Our policy is to place one of the largest expenditures from the government finances onto education. Public expenditures on education in our country should focus on both public and private schools. As soon as we invest this money in our education, effective teachers will be found, and the number of students will rapidly increase. This budget will help the citizens to get enough educational resources like libraries and laboratories. Students will not need to pay school fees because the government will take that responsibility. Some of the budget will be used to protect children's rights in order to avoid anything that might prevent

them from going to learning centers or that might cause them to drop out. Spending money is nothing if we can produce generations who are needed to fight for their country.

Schools are rare in the countryside, and the number of students who attend are less because of their living conditions. It should be built fully-equipped schools everywhere. We want to make sure that every child who is of school age has an access to education. Also, we need to make food centers and good restaurants for the children, where they can get local foods like corn, fish, milk, and meat. We have to aim to be the definitive destination for children who are looking for somewhere fresh, exciting and enjoyable for their meal. We should strengthen anything that keeps children going to school. Students with disabilities should get special care. The establishment of enough schools for all of our children will meet their needs and make the country developed.

We want our Somali children to be educated, to be free from ignorance and to get the knowledge they deserve at the right time with the highest quality. Good curriculum plays an important role in forging life-long learning. Government spending on education is a huge investment in human potential that enhances the future of the country. Why should our kids have to go so far away from

where they live? They deserve a quality school in their neighborhood. All these tips will make all the difference.

Be Away from Tribalism!



One of the worst problems among Somalis is tribalism (*qabyaalad* in Somali language). It is a silly thing which has existed from our ancestors to the current generation. Most of us misuse this concept. Tribalism has made Somalis one of the poorest people in all over the world. It has lots of bad effects like conflict, discrimination, lack of development and many more. It is not good for either here or in the hereafter.

The Somali community divides itself into many different clans. Each clan has sub-clans, and they have different names. Most of the clans have their own territory while some places are inhabited by different clans. There are many conflicts that begin with simple things and get worse. Every clan hates, criticizes and wants to destroy the other tribes. Tribe-based wars happen in most regions of Somalia. Many people are displaced by these wars. Chiefs of the tribes arm their young members to fight. In some areas, people cannot travel because of terrible conditions. The wars mostly take place in rural areas, where very rich ground sometimes becomes a battlefield. These battles cause the loss of countless lives.

Tribalism causes political tensions, makes people disappointed and destroys the country. Whenever a president appoints ministers, some tribes oppose the appointment. They say they will fight if another tribe gets more than theirs. Students deserve to get jobs when they graduate, but tribalism makes them despair. Every officer hires his relatives. This way of hiring increases corruption. When someone who has been learning for at least 14 to 16 years doesn't get work, he or she becomes disappointed; thus, young people don't study well; therefore, Somalis often waste their time staying at tea shops and talking about tribalism.

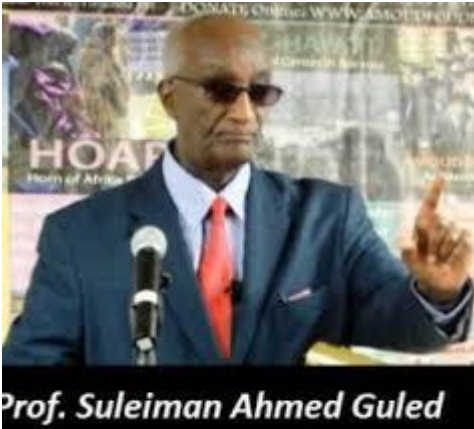
When the educated are small in number in comparison to illiterate people, there is no progress at all. The destruction of Somalia's central government was caused by clan-based rebels. All these things are the negative effects of this problem.

Tribalism causes discrimination. Although Somalis share the same religion, culture, language and ethnicity, they discriminate against other Somali tribes. Discriminated clans are called bad names, and are not allowed to marry someone from the dominant clans. If you ask someone why he or she hates those tribes, he or she will say, "I don't know." It is an internal disease which separates people. These tribes are not given what they have right to; they are not allowed to be MPs, police officers, military commanders, ministers and others. Their members are insulted by discriminators. Discriminators believe they are more dignified than the members of the discriminated clans. Tribalism is the root cause of silly things.

It is obvious that tribalism is a big problem. Somali youth play a role in this issue, because those who fight or campaign for it are almost always young people: still, it is a simple thing that every Somali youth can afford to stop. It costs you nothing, and only

needs a courageous decision. If we stop it, there will be no clashes, land disputes, discrimination and destruction. All these evil things will vanish, and the country will get better; people will be busy with how to improve the country. They will invest in businesses, utilize sea resources, create jobs for young people and help one another. We can do all these good things. Our development depends on abolishing tribalism.

People I Admire Most



Professor Suleiman Ahmed Guled

Professor Suleiman Ahmed Guled, one of the most high-profile Somali educators, was born in 1942 in Jare, a Somali region in Ethiopia. He took his primary and secondary education in the country. In 1964 he went to America for studies and received his bachelor degree from Emporia State University. He also took his postgraduate studies at London University.

Later, Professor Suleiman Ahmed Guled became the Dean of Lafole School of Education which was one of the leading higher institutions in Africa at that time. He worked as a director of high schools in Somalia's Ministry of Education.

Following the collapse of the nation, he went to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where he was involved in community development programs in Somali regions.

In 1996 he came back to Borama and started to establish Amoud University alongside other educators, mainly from Somaliland. Though there were many strong challenges, Prof. Suleiman and his colleagues succeeded in their work with the help of the Somali locals and diaspora. The university became the first of its kind after the civil war. Thousands of students graduated from it while Prof. Suleiman is still in charge as its current president. I wish him the best of luck.

Hodan Naleyey



Many believe that Hodan Naleyey was one of the humblest people among Somali society. She was born in Lasanod,

Somalia in 1976. She and the rest of her family moved to Canada. She pursued her studies as she received her bachelor degree from the University of Windsor. She was also a qualified journalist who used to tell Somalia's untold and positive stories through Integration TV and social media platforms. "I want the Somali people to be one family. When you google (*Somalia or Somali people*), if you find some positive stories about them, that is my legacy," Hodan said, while answering about her legacy to her society during an interview. Hodan was tragically killed in bombing attack which was carried out by Al-Shabab in Kismayo, Somalia in 2019. Everyone was deeply grieved by her death. She

died but left a great legacy behind which will remain in our hearts forever.

Asli Hassan Abade

When you hear the name “Asli,” you are likely to remember the great Somali female pilot. Asli Hassan Abade was born in Bulaburde, Hiran around 1960. She took her primary education in her home town and Baidoa. Later, her family moved to the capital city Mogadishu. They lived near Afisyone Air Force base where she used to watch national fighter jets coming and leaving.



As a young talented girl, she dreamed about flying those fighter jets one day. Her older sister Aisha stopped her from enrolling in army, but the then president Siad Barre told Asli to do what she

wanted. Since she was good at sports, she became an active member of the air force. She was not only the first female Somali pilot but also the first in Africa and the Arab world. She is so lucky to be in the history books and brings pride to the Somali people.

She took part in the activities of the Somali Air Force as she started flying small planes called Cessna-150 and beyond. She proved doubters of females wrong and achieved her dream. Asli currently lives in the United States with her four children.

Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal

H.E Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal was born in Odweine, Togder in 1929. He took his basic education in Sheikh district and later went to the UK for higher studies. He returned from the UK in 1950s. He played a big role in seeking liberty for the British colony.



Following the unity of North and South regions, he became a political party leader, minister of defense, minister of education, and prime minister of Somalia.

Following the bloodless coup in 1969, Egal was imprisoned by Mohamed Siad Bare and remained there more than a decade. His long term of jailing was extremely unjust, yet he admired the development which occurred in the country while he was in prison.

In 1993, he became the president of the breakaway Republic of Somaliland, where he was re-elected in 1997. He died in Pretoria,

South Africa, in 2002, where he was taken for treatment. He was a popular veteran politician who spent most of his lifetime serving his people. May his soul rest in peace.

Omar Dhule

Omar Dule was one of the most popular musical figures in the history of Somali music. He was born in the vicinity of Burao, Togder in 1941.



His musical career was marked by his distinctive vocal, melody and guitar playing style. He was an active member of Waberi band during the Somali music's golden age. He took part in all the activities of the ensemble including singing, acting, story-telling comedy writing and the likes. Songs are written about

every topic imaginable, but usually love songs are the best. Thus, if love songs were an art, Omar Dule would be the Picasso of it.

. Omar fled his homeland due to civil war that broke out in 1991. Then he lived in Syria and Switzerland before he came to Djibouti. He died in Djibouti in the year 2005 aged 64. His songs are still popular among the Somali people, despite the fact that he passed away many years ago. God bless him.

Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf



Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf was born in Somalia's coastal town of Eil in 1948. He graduated from the Somali National University especially the School of Law in 1973. He completed his master's degree in International Law and Relations from the University of Florence in 1977. Then he received his PhD in International Law from University of Geneva.

He has been a prominent lawyer for decades and has been a member of the International Court of Justice since 2009. He served as vice-president of the court before he was promoted to the court's top judge.

He fluently speaks five languages, namely Somali, English, French, Italian and Arabic. He was a professor of law for the Somali National University and University of Geneva. He served as an adviser of many international organizations. Mr. Abdulqawi wrote 5 books with more than 50 articles. He serves the people around the world by his credibility. Somalis are very proud of him.

Sheikh Mustafa Haji Ismail

Sheikh Mustafa Haji Ismail Harun is one of the extremely popular Islamic scholars especially among the Somali people in the Horn of Africa.



He was born in the rural areas of Burao, Togder in 1950s. He is from a

religious family. He took his primary education in Burao, where he also graduated from a technical institute in the town at that time.

. Mustafa received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Somali National University in 1980. He learned Islamic studies from the sheikhs in the country.

The Somali military regime imprisoned him many times; but he never complains about anybody. Sheikh Mustafa visits a lot of countries just to offer Islamic lectures. Every place he goes to; the crowd size becomes more than the place can handle. Though

he travels a lot, he is based in Hargeisa. He is an educator, humble, quiet, friendly and orator. May Allah keeps him safe.

Chapter Two: Short Stories

The Day a Deaf Talked

People with disabilities face numerous barriers every day. Those obstacles always come from other people who do not protect disabled people. It is very essential for us to thank Allah who offered us full creation, both physically and mentally. Some victims are blind and deaf; while others are affected by explosive things like bombs which make them miss some of their body parts. The victims usually receive contempt from society. This

short story is real, and it displays one of the smallest discriminatory acts people with a disability experience normally.

Amoud University is five kilometers away from Borama city. Although it has some different campuses, its main base is that. Staff and students use buses to reach there. If the students miss the bus, they board private mini-buses which take them to the main campus.

Najib who was a junior art student, joined the school of sign language. He learned lots of lessons and was eager to practice them. He also helped his deaf classmates with the explanation of the lessons. One day, he was late and got on a public bus for the late comers. He sat beside three deaf girls. The girls were talking about an overweight man who was coming to the bus. Mr. Najib greeted and jokingly told them that the man is just like him. Then they introduced one another and had a conversation on their way to the university.

There were two girls who sat behind them. They looked at the guys having conversation through sign language. They commenced to make fun of them and gossip. They aimed their words at the other deaf ones including Najib. One of them asked the other, “Do you know what he is saying to the girls?” The other

one replied that he wanted to ask them out tonight. They kept on gossiping more about the three guys. Mr. Najib was still listening to what the ones behind him were saying, but he did not respond. When the girls behind him paused their talk, he continued the conversation with his friends.

Finally, the bus approached near the campus and stopped. All of the students got off the bus except the two girls whose way out was blocked deliberately by Najib. They approached him, and one of them said, “Someone tell this bad deaf to stand up and get out of our way.” But at the moment, he was getting impatient as he got sick and tired of their behavior, yet the girls still believed that he was deaf!

Suddenly he turned to them and asked in a loud voice, “Why are you insulting me, sisters? I didn’t talk to or answer you since we started this journey, so what is the point of keeping yourselves to insult me?” What a shame! What a shock! The girls were about to lose their balance because someone, who was deaf according to them, talked before their very eyes. None of them managed to say a word. “If you think anyone who uses this language is deaf, you are wrong. Why do you even badmouth the deaf? Aren’t they the same like you? Never do that again and look before you leap,” he added. The poor girls hit their road with surprise.

Love Doesn't Hurt but People Do!

It was a rainy day, and there were showers every hour. The weather was not cold. It was also a Monday morning in which everybody was going where planned. Suddenly a rain shower started, while all the people in the market were circulating. Everyone went somewhere to avoid getting wet. A well-dressed man took shelter in a nearby fuel station. Two girls also came to the fuel station because of the rain. They were returning home from a university they attended. Apart from the threesome and workers, no other person stood there.

The man greeted the girls. One of the girls replied to the man as the other was a very shy person. The outgoing one said, "My name is Saredo and this is my friend Aisha". The man said to the girls, "Good introduction; my name is Hussein." They talked about the weather, the city and the likes.

When the rain stopped, the girls immediately left, but Hussein remained there as he was thinking how beautiful and cute Aisha

was. Then, he went back home. That may be what we call “love at first sight,” but we will see how things turn out in the end.

Hussein had already fallen in love with Aisha but did not know where she lived. He didn't ask them for any address. A week later, he went to the university. He asked some students in the cafeteria of the campus if they knew Aisha or Saredo; but he did not find them. He came back to the campus another day. Fortunately, he saw Mrs. Saredo holding her backpack and asked about Aisha. She told him that Aisha was sick recently. “Oh sorry! Is she in a hospital?” he asked. “Yes, she is,” Saredo replied. She told him the location of the hospital which was not far from there.

Mr. Hussein visited her in the hospital with drinks and desserts. He greeted and wished her a quick recovery. Aisha's family asked who the stranger was. She simply said, “I don't know; maybe one of our students.” Actually, she knew him but disliked to see him.

Aisha recovered from the illness. Hussein saw her in the vicinity of the university. He dared to tell her that he loved her so much. She left without a word. He found her in Facebook. He messaged

her many times; but she did not reply to him. He felt upset, as he never got any encouraging sign from her. He asked Saredo for her help. Saredo didn't like how her friend treated him. She begged Aisha to change her view towards Hussein. Aisha said, "This man is not the kind of men I like to date. If you want him, just follow." The girls also broke up over Hussein's matter as Aisha was angered by Saredo's comments. Hussein became abnormally quiet and stayed in his bed for weeks. He did everything to approach her, but all in vain.

One day Hussein went to Aisha's father. The two met in a hotel. After introduction and discussion, Hussein said to the father, "I want to marry your daughter, dad [or "Sir"]." The father said, "If she allows you, it is Ok. But if she does not want you, I cannot force her." Hussein already knew Aisha's view, and this condition was like a NO!

Though he kept messaging her, they didn't see each other for months. One day, Aisha saw Hussein sitting next to her in a public bus. She immediately got off to avoid him. His friends and colleagues were unaware of his condition, but felt that something was wrong with him. He sent gifts to Aisha through

Saredo. Aisha refused to receive them, but Saredo didn't tell him that his gifts had been wasted. She did that not to increase his anxiety.

Since he got rejected a million times, he started to gradually forget her as he was always comforted by Saredo. He stopped communicating with Aisha.

The girls graduated from the university two years later. At that time Hussein was appointed as the head of a local company. He hired Saredo as his secretary. He went to coastal areas for tourism. During his spell in the beaches, he met many people and learned that love does not hurt the people, but people hurt each other.

When he was turned down by Aisha, somebody else told him not to worry. When Aisha left and wanted him to run after her forever, somebody else stopped him. While tears were falling from his eyes because of Aisha, somebody else was omitting. While he was heartbroken, somebody else felt sorry for him. When he was stranded, somebody else came to accompany him. That somebody was Saredo. She treated him amazingly, and he

proposed to her a marriage. Unforeseen marriage happened. They enjoyed a life of pride and love.

One day Aisha came to Hussein's company. She didn't know that the manager was the man she turned down when he needed her help most. She was allowed to enter the manager's office. When her eyes glimpsed him, she was about to fall. She handed him a CV and an application letter to get employed. He said, "Be ready for an interview next week." She came back the following week but couldn't talk as she remembered how things changed. Anyway, he hired her because she was in a financial crisis. She became one of the low ranking workers.

Saredo was promoted and became a senior adviser. Aisha regrets repeatedly as she is now reluctant to see the couple. But she is treated and cared for well in the work place. The couples now have four children.

WE KILLED HER

“Could anybody help me?” “Could anyone save me from these masked murderers?” shouts Hamda. Hamda was a young mother of three children. She was beautiful and kind. Her husband was not with her for some months. Her home was not far from ours (the writer’s family). Hamda used to take her oldest son to the school at noon. She started to feel lonely because of the absence of her beloved husband.

There was a maid who worked for Hamda. The maid was an intelligent and hardworking girl. Her name was Muna. She took care of the children and did everything well. Hamda helped Muna with finances and her other needs. The house wife never blamed her servant for doing something wrong, and they enjoyed each other’s company. Even Hamda’s second child never ate without Muna.

One day, someone knocked at the door. “Who is it?” says Hamda. She opened the door. There was a man from the hinterland. He

said, “Unfortunately Muna is needed badly by her mother who lives in the hinterland.” Muna had to leave but; Hamda was very sorry for the departure of her best friend from her.

Hamda did not sleep well the first night without Muna; while her husband was yet to come. She was afraid of thieves and robbers. The sun rose now and she prepared breakfast for the family. She entertained her children by singing Somali traditional songs like

*Ma aabahaa baa socdaalay?
Socdaaloo socod ku raagay?
Wardoon baa innoo maqane
Aamina hooyo aamus.*

English translation

*Has your father traveled?
And has failed to come back?
We are waiting for his information
Stop crying my daughter*

Seven nights of fear passed as she worried what would happen next. She went to some of her neighbors. She wanted them to stay

with her at nights but she never got their support. Everyone made excuses. I am not sure if the excuses were reasonable because I (the writer) was so young.

There was a very dark night and the weather was so dismal. Hamda, along with her three children, slept. A rain was showering slowly. She heard something. Wwoy! She ignored the sound and told herself that nothing was going on. She realized that the situation was not OK! Two to three robbers entered her house. Now, a real peril was ahead of her. She was somewhat numb with fear. They entered the room. Because of their sinister faces, she let out a terrible shriek. The men drew their daggers at her. She struggled but was very weak to resist three armed man. Then they killed the poor woman. They took everything valuable. The worst was when they cut the edge of the body's ears to remove gold earrings. The children screamed.

Many people gathered in her home; but the murderers had already left. Some of the people took an oath of revenge but at what time? They never helped while she was in need of the help and protection. We all killed her.

Learn from Liban

Liban is a young boy. He was born in the rural area, where his family inhabits. He was a very active guy, and always helped his parents with their garden and some domestic animals that they owned. Their life relied on those things. He used to have a resistance against the difficult life created by droughts which they faced continuously. One day, he asked his father to allow him to go to the town in order to get knowledge or seek a job to give them care, but his father refused. He did not give up on his dream because of his father's challenge. Then, he asked his mum to convince his father what he wanted. Fortunately, Leila, who was Liban's mum, won what her son wanted, and that time he had an opportunity to go to the town. Now Liban is in a last activity that he would go to the town. He took some of his clothes and greeted his parents and his younger brothers and sisters. He reached the town where his uncle was waiting.

After he arrived in the town, stayed a few days and had a rest, he asked his uncle to take him to a work place. It did not take much time when his uncle replied that it does not exist in this place or it is hard to get, so he must learn Quran first. After he was taught Somali handwriting and basic mathematics he was taken to the

intermediate school, because he was older than elementary school students. He failed to adapt to the new situation. However, after time, when he was helped with his academic duties, and more effort that he made led him to become one of the brightest students in his school, especially in his class. As usual, when he finished primary school, he went to the high school.

It is said that time has wings or time flies, as he graduated from his high school, so it was time to go to the university. His uncle, who handled the responsibility of his nephew, could not afford to pay the required university fee. Liban and his uncle had discussed wherever they thought to get money, but unfortunately they did not get any answer for their needs. His uncle suggested to him to break off his desire about continuing the education for lack of money, but Liban who was good at dealing with difficult situations, was very sad about how things were going. Then, he went to vocational schools like tailors and electricity schools. He learned tailoring for some reasons, including the fact that Somali youth do not wear clothes until it has been decked out or a part of it has been cut. "It is a source from which I can make money," Liban said.

As I mentioned above, Liban was an active guy and captured the senses of the people around his village and in the town for an

exceptional career in beautifying clothes. He got lots of customers; moreover, now he is a commercialist. He gets anything that relates to his personal needs and university fee. Also, he helps his family.

He graduated from the university, especially the faculty of agriculture in his bachelor certificate. After his graduation and having collected some money, he went back to his rural village, where his family inhabits. He explored their garden and the time that rain comes. He thought about how he could get a pond for irrigation when it reached winter and the rain stops according to the climate of his country. He wanted to produce more crops which he had knowledge about its know-how.

When he started to invest in his garden, he hired some workers. At this moment his family's *garden produces more crops including fruit and vegetables. He sells to the towns near his village*, and he gets lots of money from his trade.

By the time we met, he told me about his life and the hardships that he faced during his early age. He told me that he got married and has a house in the town. Also, some of his younger brothers and sisters live with him. He also goes to the rural village and

farm regularly. Even his tailor still works in the town. He helps his neighboring farmers with getting effective seeds.

The Incredible Friendship

Unemployment is a universal problem and many jobseekers come across painful events on their way to a better life. Here is one of the most fascinating stories made that enemies close friends.

Jama grew up in the historic coastal town of Zeila, where he never got a job with enough salary. He told himself that it was time to work and earn more money in order to get married and help his family. He decided to immigrate to Saudi Arabia through Yemen. He discussed about this matter with three of his friends from Yemen, and they offered him help. They went to Yemen via a small boat. Mr. Jama stayed with them for some days and later they took him to smugglers. Though the journey was very dangerous, he reached Saudi Arabia safely.

He was very welcomed in the rural areas of Saudi Arabia. First, he worked on an animal farm for \$100 per month. He left the job after three months and tried to look for a higher paying job. He was offered other jobs with \$150 salary but he rejected them. Finally, he moved to a small town, where he worked making building material for 50 dollars per day. The job was so burdensome for underweight Jama, yet it had lots of money.

Unfortunately, he and some Yemeni workers were captured by the police who hunted illegal immigrants. He was asked whether he wanted to follow the Yemenis to their country or to be taken to the capital city Riyadh to unite with some Somalis who were going to be deported. He opted for Yemen and returned to Saudi Arabia a few days later.

On his way to the town on foot, three Saudi men offered him a free ride but he refused as he was afraid of the police. Any way, he was captured again while he was trying to enter the town. He was taken to Riyadh and imprisoned for three months. Then all Somalis in the prison, including him were deported. There were severe wars in Mogadishu at that time.

He took a lorry with many people from Mogadishu to the central region of Mudug to reach his hometown Zeila. The journey was very dangerous because killing and robbery were common in south and central Somalia. Only 20 kilometers from Mogadishu, gunmen who were all masked opened fire at the lorry and killed one of the passengers.

The gunman ordered all of them to touch the ground and asked everyone to hand in whatever he/she had. A 15-year-old boy was threatening passengers as his job was collecting money from

them. The gunmen released the passengers and went back to a bush near the street.

Another gunman stopped the lorry and asked the same as the former ones. The travelers told them what happened earlier. The gunman didn't listen and threatened to kill anyone who failed to pay. The gunmen fled themselves when they saw Alshabab militias approaching fast. The lorry arrived in a nearby town safely and the passengers buried the corpse. Lastly, they arrived in Galkayo, Mudug. Then, he travelled to Hargeisa and finally arrived home.

One day, Jama joined his friends for chewing khat at noon. Normally men chew Khat for many hours and they discuss about different topics and this time it was about Jama's deportation. He narrated his story from the day he left Zeila to the day he came back. One of the khat-chewers and Jama's close friend listened to the story as his face changed with shock!

The man was born and grew up in Lower Shabelle region. He fled Mogadishu because of the wars. While all people were silenced by the painful story, the man asked Jama the questions below:

The man: The time was about 7 o'clock, isn't it?

Jama: Yes!

The man: Didn't all of the robbers have mask?

Jama: Yes, of course they did.

The man: One of the passengers was shot dead after the driver failed to stop the lorry, isn't it?

Jama: (surprised) Absolutely, yes.

The man: Have you seen a young boy called "Elmi" who took passengers away from their belongings?

Jama: Yes!!!!!!!!!!!!

The man: Elmi was me!!!! Please forgive me!

Jama: Impossible! I cannot believe!

All of the men who were chewing khat were extremely surprised by the two men's conversation. But don't forget the two men were friends before the conversation. Then everything became clear as Elmi was not his real name. His real name was Farhan and Jama forgave him because Farhan was a little boy during the incident. The two are now close friends.

LOVE BELOW THE BED

It was Thursday afternoon. The sun was shining, and the weather was very nice. Mr. Hanad was riding a bicycle in the street. A very beautiful girl was also walking on the road. He suddenly glimpsed the girl and gave all his attention to her while riding; he hit a tree near the street, and the bike broke, but luckily he only fell down. She disappeared.

Hanad tried to look for the address of the girl. He called around, and finally got her phone number. He thought about the best time to talk to the girl. A week later, he called her, but she was unwilling to talk to an unknown person. He tried hard to make her talk to him. She fell in love with him. Her name was Muna, and she inhabited Halane village which was far from Hanad's house in Borama.

The two shared a romantic relationship. They talked to each other for a long time each day via their cell phones, while they sometimes met in the market. Nobody knew about their affairs since they kept it secret.

One day, Hanad's phone rang, but he did not answer because he did not hear the ringtone. He saw an unknown number missed called him. He called back, and someone instantly answered. It was a girl's voice. "Who are you?" he asked. She told him that a girl called Muna wanted him and left now. He called his girlfriend's number, but it was unavailable. He tried again and again, but he got the same answer.

Muna called him after ten days. He was worried about her at that time. After greeting, he asked her where she was. She told him that her mobile had been broken. Hanad criticized her for not thinking of him. "Darling, can you please come to my home tonight at 8 p.m.?" she asked him. "Sure," he replied. He asked her the reason because she had never invited him home. She said to him that her parents had gone to another town, and her older brothers would arrive late at night. "What an amazing appointment!" he thought.

He prepared for the event and dressed up. When he approached her home, he called her and asked her to open the door. They both sat in the living room. They drank tea and discussed about their relationship a lot for an hour. There was a sound from outside. She asked him to be quiet because someone was knocking at the door! It was Jama, her elder brother. Both were shocked. “What should I do?” she thought. She asked him (Hanad) to hide under a bed there! Jama entered the room and sat on the bed itself.

Hanad was still there like a mouse. His heart was palpitating with fear. Jama threw big shoes under the bed and hit the poor man lying there. After one and a half hour, Jama went to the restroom. Hanad left immediately with anger. He never returned. The two split up because of the incident.

Chapter Three: Literature

Try Not to Weep

Somalis deliberately downplayed what they call “[minority groups](#)” and these segregated groups go on to live in conditions of great poverty and several forms of discrimination. They are not minority in number, but baseless claims make them sufferers in almost every aspect of life. These people are seen as inferior without full status or no rights in some areas. Every single time, they experience to learn things with discrimination, respond with discrimination, work with discrimination, and do everything with such discriminations. So-called noble clans even offend each other with the names of those minority groups. No inter-marriage between the two; numerous [painful events](#) happen that relate to inter-marriage.

Many Somali popular poets, religious leaders, politicians and ordinary people warn us about discrimination among us. Lots of books were written about this issue and its negative effects. Here is a heart-breaking poem written by Bashiir Goth:

The Artisan Grace

Take a look, brother, a full look at me
 An eyeful of the whole of me
 Poke my skin hard, and pinch it if you will
 Cut my flesh, deep into the blood and bone
 Until I cry for I am not made of stone.

Can you see now?
 That I shudder in pain?
 Can you see my blood,
 As red, as fresh as yours?
 Can you see my bones,
 And the marrow in plain?

Take a look, brother, a full look at me
 An eyeful of the whole of me
 Don't you see me as handsome

As you expect me to be?
 Don't I speak as I should?
 With every syllable in place
 As loud as I can shout my plea!

Aren't we together born in the soil?
 And bred on the same sorghum and milk;
 Didn't your siblings die,
 just like my siblings died?
 Of measles and malaria;
 of malnutrition and diarrhea
 Why then, O brother,
 you see me not your brother
 Why on hearing my name, Gabooye
 You need to curse my mother?

Why do you turn your face to the South,
 When to you I come from the North?
 And when to you I come from the East
 Why for sunrise you wish in the West?

Does being a nomad, a marauding herder

Make you of a higher order?
And being a maker of things, a gifted master
Condemn me to a divine disorder!

But despite your might as herder
Without my marvels and merit
With all your arrogance and ardor
Would you even an ax have or a weeder?
O brother, how many geniuses
How many builders you buried
In me, how much talent you wasted
In keeping me as a degraded barber?

After this long and a lonely journey
I found how I should redraw the race
It is surely in the secret of learning
To revive my artisan grace
In science and the art of schooling
To teach the camel herder's race

It is only ignorance, damn it;
That keeps our roads apart

That holds your blinds in place
And through learning, just maybe
You would finally look up at my face
And my humanness, may finally embrace.

Bashir Goth, 13th Nov. 2013.

Farewell

The following short poem was written by Hamza Yassin (author of this book). The poem describes a love life that did not go as planned. It is his first poem in English language.

I Can't forget the day we met
As I wrote on a blank sheet

It changed my view
And how I see people like you

I thought things would be better
And we enjoy much time together

But things finally fell
I wish you forever well.

Drama

The Bitter Truth

Narrator: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the first drama in this year 2020. It is incredibly fabulous! Do you know the reason? “Pause” The characters are from different continents. “Applause” Let us all enjoy.

Narrator 2: Let me introduce you to the three characters: Susan is from Asia, Zayn is from Africa, and this man (pointing to his head) is Tommy who is from Europe.

Susan: In my home continent we have developed a lot of sectors including industries, economy, defense, technology, education and many more.

Tommy: At what time did you do such so-called development?

Susan: Why are you ignoring the reality that you see every day? (looking up at him as he is a little taller) Good example, we have China, Japan, Pakistan, South Korea, and Singapore and so on.

Zayn: What you are saying is nothing if I tell you one thing.

Susan: Tommy? What is this guy saying?

Tommy: Let him say it before we comment.

Narrator: Susan and Tommy are interested in hearing Zayn's argument, as they stare at him.

Zayn: First Susan, don't you know that Africans were begging the UN General Assembly to accept for the membership of your current most powerful nation? Former Somali PM, the late Mohamed H. Ibrahim Egal did that in 1965. What kind of development are you boasting as you were nothing a few decades ago?

Susan: (silent a moment) Thanks for that. You were better than us, but why are you still in the 1960s?

Narrator 2: "Applause "The three characters are trying to say something, but Zayn must answer that tough question for which people applaud.

Zayn: We are not how we were at that time. We changed a lot despite numerous challenges in our continent.

Tommy: It is true that there are lots of obstacles in every place; but people react differently. That is why Europe is the leading continent in the world.

Susan: Isn't Europe the old continent that has no natural resource?

Tommy: It is true, but do you know what made us old? We enjoyed a long civilization, and we came to colonize your two continents and other places on earth.

Zayn: What a shame! You should not have said that, as you are responsible for our lack of enough development compared to you.

Susan: Europe was the top continent, but that is no longer the case. Slavery, colonization and every cruel crime that you committed is now over. You must be ready for revenge!

Tommy: Apart from that, Africa and Asia were probably similar decades ago, what made you so different now Zayn and Susan?

Susan: That is true. For instance, Ghana and South Korea got their freedom from their colonizers long time ago (1948 and 1957). South Korea is now the 4th wealthiest country; while Ghana remains third world alongside other African nations.

Zayn: That is false!

Tommy: Can you prove that?

Zayn: Foreigners, especially Europeans and Americans, are exploiting Africans indirectly, as they create disturbances. That is why Asia is now ahead of us.

Susan: Zayn, though there are challenges from outside or inside Africa, that cannot stop you from developing your own land.

Tommy: All continents got colonized, but some worked hard to turn things better; while others remain undeveloped forever.

Zayn: Didn't I tell you the reason behind such a problem?

Narrator: Zayn got angry and stood a little bit away from them.

Susan: Zayn is right. We (Asia) build roads and invest in Africa, but Europe and America still have mental colonization on Africans.

Tommy: If I tell you the truth, nobody is willing to help unless you do it for your own. Asia is out-developing Europe soon. If Africa, with the highest raw material, does the same how will things be?

Narrator: Zayn heard that and rushed to the stage.

Zayn: Haven't I told you that Tommy's people do everything to make us poor forever?

Susan: Wait, wait, wait! Dear Zayn, they may have done that to us but we avoided them. You just need to think again and solve your problems.

Tommy: You never avoided us, but we prefer civilization and prosperity to be shared.

Zayn: Your words and actions are very different. Europeans say beautiful words while they destroy and steal African's belongings silently.

Susan: You also have another big problem.

Zayn: What is that problem, sister?

Susan: People fight corruption as long as they can, but it is widely common in Africa. That is the mother of poverty.

Narrator: Tommy (from Europe) took advantage of that point and started to criticize Zayn.

Tommy: You should have proper administration in your continent rather than corrupt officials who loot the properties of their peoples.

Zayn: Oh!

Tommy: So don't spend much time complaining about outsiders as you need to solve your internal problems.

Susan: Corruption is not only in Africa, but we react differently.

Tommy: Indeed, it is, but we are free from it.

Zayn: What a joke! Is the chaos you created in Africa a good thing, Tommy?

Susan: You see destroying lives and properties of other nations as a good thing, Mr. Tommy?

Tommy: It is our responsibility to protect democracy of throughout the world.

Narrator: The characters are now coming to the conclusion and trying to settle the matter.

Susan: I want to say one thing to each of you.

Zayn and Tommy: OK.

Susan: Africa is undeveloped because they don't struggle to develop their own countries. There is also foreign intervention that we all need to stop.

Zayn: Susan is right. The problems we create are nothing compared to what foreigners do to us.

Susan: Zayn, Asia is strong enough to stop foreign interventions and we also fight corruption strongly, so you should do that.

Zayn: Mmmm. Listen Africa, all other continents are ahead of us in almost every aspect of life. Let us work hard and create a better and brighter future for our children.

Why Piracy Is Far from Over?

By Hamza Yassin

It was around four o'clock in the morning, and suddenly a group of women started talking excitedly saying, "He is a boy! He is a boy!" It was a newly born baby boy in Hobyso, Somalia. "I am going to name him after his late grandfather, Ahmed," his father said. "No, no, let us give him a modern name," replied by one of the women. Finally, the name *Ahmed* was agreed upon, and most of the people who stayed awake all the night fell asleep except a little girl who was helping her mother.

Ahmed, the first of nine children, was taken to Islamic school at the age of four and started learning the holy Quran. Three years later, the skinny boy who was seven years old attended primary school. Though he was good at learning, he used to play many hours and could not sometimes come home for lunch. His father said, "Listen, my beloved son, you should be a good example and role model for your younger siblings. But now you just play, and I want you to stop that." Mr. Ahmed nodded his head in sign of agreement, but continued playing.

Abdiweli (the father of Ahmed) usually beat the boy. One day the father's close friend, Mahad, saw the boy crying outside their home and asked him why he was crying? The boy told him that his father had just beaten him. Mr. Mahad entered the house, holding the right arm of the boy. He said, "Don't you know that beating children is not good, Abdiweli?" "He spends all his time playing," Abdiweli replied. Mr. Mahad swept tears from the eyes of the boy and told him to clean his legs. "We don't need to force our children to stay at home every time because they have a right to play and have fun with their friends," Mahad said. "I just want him to grow up into a man," Abdiweli replied.

Ahmed finished his primary school at 15 and joined high school. His father married another woman. The new wife had a small

shop, and she helped her husband with finances. She did not like the elder wife and her children except Ahmed as he sometimes visited her on his way to school. Ahmed was good at swimming, thus he followed fishermen many times. The fishers loved Ahmed as he used to help them with the work. They gave him a small amount of money, but it was enough for the school boy.

Ahmed became form three and was gradually turning his attention from school to fishing. He thought, “I am now a high school junior, and there is no university in this town. When I finish secondary school, I cannot go to other cities for studies. Even former graduates are still unemployed.”

He started missing some classes and making false excuses. All of his teachers were surprised by Ahmed’s sudden change. “I still don’t understand why Ahmed is no longer interested in learning,” teacher Mohamud said. “Since he started following the fishermen and earning some money, he is very close to dropping out,” teacher Warsame replied. The principal of the school who heard the conversation between the teachers put his cup of tea down on the floor and said, “You are right teachers. I will try to deal with his problem seriously.”

Though guns, pistols and knives are freely used in many parts of Somalia, Ahmed was not allowed to touch his father's gun. Ahmed usually saw his fellow fishermen carrying guns in their boats while fishing. "Lift this gun and put it down there, Ahmed," a fisherman asked. Trying to lift it, Ahmed replied, "Ouch! It is so heavy. How do you carry and shoot?" Nobody answered as fishers were busy with chewing khat and smoking. They reached their target and spread their nets in the water. One of the fishermen remembered Ahmed's earlier question and said to him, "You should eat enough to become a strongman. If you can't shoot, you need to be protected like women and children."

They came back to the coast after hours as they trapped almost 30 kilograms of fish. The fishers face problems, mainly a lack of market for their products and no assistance from the government. Since Somali people mostly prefer red meat over white meat, the fishers always complain that fish's worthless but was enough for their daily lives.

As many expected, Ahmed dropped out and became a fisherman. His father was not happy with that decision. Ahmed said, "Education is not the only source of income, daddy. Since you have two families, I want to support you financially and I must earn money." "I am worried about you, for fishermen spend all

their money on chewing and smoking.” Abdiweli replied. “Don’t worry about that. I am matured enough to do what is good. I will help you retire and give you anything you need.” Patting his son’s head, he said, “My prayers are with you, son!”

Ahmed officially joined a group of fishermen. They worked mostly during the day, but there were night shifts as well. When the torrents of the sea were strong, fishing almost stopped as the boat’s quality was low. Ahmed earned enough money for his needs and supported his family for the first year. He found it difficult to work during night shifts since he could not stay awake late. His colleagues repeatedly told him to chew khat, yet he refused. “You seem like you will not be able to work with us if you can’t work the night. Take this small (khat) leaf and be like a man.” Ahmed chewed the leaf despite its bitterness. The fishermen told him that khat will make him active.

He later became addicted to khat and spent most of his wages on chewing. His physical appearance changed due to the drug and going to bed very late. His parents were not happy with their son’s change as he failed to keep supporting them financially.

Abdiweli called his son Ahmed and said to him, “Dear son, you know I have two families to feed while I am aging. You were

very promising before, but now you can't replace me. You should stop chewing khat and be ready to get married. If you continue behaving like this, you will never succeed." Ahmed tried to settle the matter. He replied to his dad, "You are right, dad. I can't promise to stop khat, but I will decrease more and work hard to earn more income to help you."

Three months later, Abdiweli fell ill and was taken to Galkayo for treatment. Ahmed with his younger brother and his mother took care of him, but Ahmed returned soon for the work. Abdiweli became an outpatient since then.

Ahmed who was now 22 years old, married a 17-year-old beautiful girl. Their wedding ceremony was arranged very well. After a few weeks, Rahma (Ahmed's wife) developed malaise and nausea. Ahmed's siblings were delighted to hear that his wife was pregnant. Rahma gave birth to a baby boy. Ahmed felt extra responsibility and told himself to seek a better job.

Ahmed's phone rang, rang, and rang! When he answered the call, he heard his sister screaming and crying! He was very shocked before she said a single word. "Come as quickly as possible! Our father is in critical condition. I don't think you will see him alive," Suhur replied. Ahmed arrived home quickly and entered

the living room, where his father was lying. He wept and witnessed the death of his great father 48 hours later. The whole family went into a gloomy condition.

Ahmed should fill the gap left by his father. He lowered the amount of money he spent on khat, but struggled to feed all the families.

After some time, local people in Hobyo saw an unforeseen light in the sea. They were all surprised and asked one another about it. More lights appeared the following weeks, and it was found that they were foreign ships. The fishermen used to see such things in the middle of the sea during nights. The ships circulated freely in Somali waters as there was no government to defend its territory. “We don’t have a strong government, and everything is coming to our sea, fishing and terrorizing us,” Ahmed said. “We will see how things end up, son,” Mahad replied.

The inhabitants of Hobyo became financially vulnerable as fishing declined due to the arrival of the foreign ships. Locals told their concern about the matter through international news companies, but they didn’t receive any response. Then, the fishermen decided to fight the ships as long as they could.

Ahmed, who was in a financial crisis, became the first person who opened fire at a ship with an Iranian flag. The crew members responded with heavy shooting as Ahmed and his friends fled. They later came up with the idea of stopping fishing altogether and turned their attention to hijacking. Fourteen men, including Ahmed armed themselves and went to the sea with three separate boats. They immediately captured a commercial ship with 18 crew men. That strange news spread to the town, regions and the whole world at large. The kidnappers asked for \$100,000 of ransom. They released the crew after they received the money.

Ahmed's share was \$9000 which he never dreamed of earning it in a single day. He gave some money to his mother, stepmother, brothers, sisters and wife.

"It is must to defend our sea from the enemy," Ahmed said. "Indeed it is. We were cowards when we were watching the disaster happening in our sea till they fished a few meters away from the coast," fisherman Kamal replied.

International community and media reported what they called "Piracy in Somalia," but the reality was that local people were ruined by the decline of fishing as well dangerous trashes the foreign vessels buried in the Somali sea.

Though the locals condemned the above mentioned problems, they never received any help. Then, they doubled their kidnapping and hijacking missions. Ahmed and his friends forgot fishing and kept on kidnapping to gain money and protect their sea resources.

Ahmed and his men attacked and hijacked another ship as they asked half a million dollars to free it. Because of their former experience, they were seen as a growing danger. They received the money, but Mr. Ahmed and his friends did not utilize it. They spent it on meaningless things like khat, smoking, drugs and so on.

The world warned about the unforeseen danger as it emerged in Somalia. They told ships to be very cautious or to not go near the Somali sea. But Somali hijackers (pirates) extended their mission and had an access to threaten ships as far as between the Sultanate of Oman and Seychelles.

War on piracy was launched under the UN and scores of Somali pirates were caught. Many others believed kidnapping was haram (prohibited) in Islam. Even many countries that were conducting illegal fishing in Somalia offered vessels and navy to fight the so-called Somali pirates.

A majority of Somali people endorsed piracy compared to what was being done to their sea.

Ahmed's third attempt failed as he and seven others were captured while looking for a ship. They were taken to France, where they underwent cross questioning and was later on taken to a court. They were sentenced to 22 years and sent to prison. Two appeals didn't change anything.

He left to feed his family while he was also upset with foreign ships, but got imprisoned. His family was very worried about his condition and they wished one day he will come back safely.

The world defeated Somali pirates but they will never be abolished. Do you know why? The world ignores illegal fishing and burying wastes in the Somali sea which is the root of the problem. Unless Somalia gets a strong navy to defend its territory, the pirates will always threaten even if countries withdraw their navies from Somalia.

Biography of Poet Dahir Mohamud Hadi

By Hamza Yassin

Dahir Mohamud Hadi (Dahir Active) was born in 1956 in the village of Aro-Garanug, a few miles west of Borama city. As a very young boy, he attended Quranic school in which he became one of the best students there. He joined a primary school in his village and then moved to Borama. He attended Amoud Intermediate and Secondary School and graduated from there. During his high school days, he took part in “The Literacy Campaign” which incredibly raised the literacy of millions of the nomadic Somali society. Since there was a military government in the country, he was assigned what was called “National Service Program” in Adadlei. In 1977, he underwent comprehensive military training in Halane base in Somalia’s metropolis Mogadishu.

The sensational poet immediately joined Somali National University. He majored in English language and minored in Somali language at Lafole College. He received his BA and started teaching in Huddur, Bakol, Somalia. He left there for Mogadishu after one year. Then he became a teacher at Lafole Secondary School. In 1982, he began a part-time job at Lafole college of Education where he was assigned to until 1987. During those years, he started writing poems and songs and later joined Deelley lyrical series. He appeared to be one of the most loved teachers in the school for his teaching skills, oration, storytelling and entertainment.

In 1982, Mr. Dahir had an opportunity that he was dreaming of for many years. He was hired by the state media to work as a broadcaster, editor and translator. He underwent enormous trainings on TV news production, filming, radio drama, and many more in Sudan, Syria, UAE and Lebanon. Since he was a sensational man, most of the audiences of Radio Mogadishu were very interested in his radio programs as well as telling the real stories of the country. Because of his talent, hard work and strong vision, he was named the head of news in Radio Mogadishu. “The government collapsed while I was still the head of news of Radio Mogadishu. At that time, we reported that the president

Mohamed Siad Bare fled the capital city as he was overthrown by rebels. It was the day Somalia's dignity unfortunately declined," said Dahir. Following the collapse of the military regime, he became the special journalist of Siad Barre's successor Ali Mahdi Mohamed. It was also a very difficult time as civil war almost reached its climax inside the capital.

Mr. Dahir left Mogadishu, went to Bossaso and then fled to Yemen via the sea by boat. He was granted a scholarship by UNHCR and received his master's degree in "Applied Linguistics" from Aden University. Then, he started teaching at Aden University as he was a skilled and experienced man. In 1997, he started a new job at Taiz National University as a Dean of the School of Linguistics. Two years later, he came back to his country, especially his hometown Borama. Amoud University, the first higher education institution in the country in the post-civil war era, hired him to participate in the re-building of the country's education.

Prof. Dahir served as a regional coordinator of education under Somalia's breakaway Republic of Somaliland from 2005 to 2011. He is widely recognized for his efforts to build new schools in Audal Region, including 50 feeding center schools. He also developed education system in the rural and remote areas.

At the moment, he is a professor of English and Somali at Amoud University. He is also deputy head of The Horn Tribune newspaper in Somaliland. In a view of his genius, accomplishments and deserved fame, he may seem a bit new to some people but anyway he has a fantastic personality.

Prof. Dahir wrote numerous poems, literary compositions and essays. Here are some stanzas from a sad poem which he wrote during the dark days in 1992. He was begging Allah to save him from the ongoing killings at that time and grant him heaven in the hereafter.

Magaca Eebaan cuskaday

Maxamed (scw) kiisaan irkaday

Murtida bisinkaan guntaday

Micnaha soddonkaan huwaday

Millada la hubaan qabsaday

Waxan magan galay Furqaan

Mawloow Eebow allow

Ma naxaankaan baqayn

Munaafaq ha nagu salidin

Mawloow Ebbow Allow

Na mooti masiibadiyo

Miciyaha makastee wax muda

Mawloow Ebbow Allow

Maalinta qiyaamahana

Adaan magan kuu nehee

Jannadaada macaan nagu macsuum

Enjoyment of literature plays a direct part in the life of Prof. Dahir M. Hadi. He always talks about Somali late poets including his great friend Mohamed Hashi Dama “Gaarriye”. He sometimes sings acapella songs in English, Arabic and Somali. He believes that Art connects us to our souls and expresses the feelings inside our hearts. I wish him success in both worlds.