

English Break



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Spring Song

An Interview With Mohammadi Ph.D

Recipe of Sour Chicken

An Analysis of Haft-sin and Its
Symbolism

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The Cultural and Social Department of
Alzahra University

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A Note From the Editor

The Earth is about to draw its blissful side back to the cold-stricken lands and once again a growing ecstasy is sweeping off the whole country. A cause to celebrate the glorious bounty of the nature; springtime.

Having every single patch of the land garmented with greenery and growth is just as propitious as regarding it as a token of the blessings that lie ahead in our favor; the fertile fields, for instance, could be redolent of abundant harvest or wealth, or the outgrowth of delicate saplings into robust trunks implies strengthening or sophistication.

However, it is not just glamour and the glitz of the New Year which makes it special. A subtle change in the position of the Earth is the reason behind all those spring fancies. And the good news is that we're all possessed of the same virtue to turn around and set off a change. All it takes is a little sprinkling of our rigidness.

This issue of "English Break", as you may have surmised, features spring. Some insightful descriptions and poems have been brought to you alongside the news and film reviews. We hope it is satisfactory anyways.

Najieh Abedinpour, Editor in Chief

محیط زیست به حمایت ما احتیاج دارد!

مصاحبه گر: آیدا احمدزاده

مصاحبه شونده: سرکار خانم دکتر ناهید محمدی

اما به دنبال اینکه حتما پستی برای من باشه و کد خاصی اطلاق بشه نیستیم. من اگر بتونم در حدی که میدونم و لازمه فعالیت داشته باشم و دیگران رو به این موضوع حساس کنم برای من کفایت میکنه. اما فکر میکنم که در کشور ما معضلات محیط زیست حل نشده و مدام داره بدتر میشه بخاطر این هستش که در مدیریت های کلان زیست-محیطی ما متاسفانه عرقی وجود نداره. عناوین زیادی هست اما علاقه ای وجود نداره و این باعث میشه که در این زمینه پست رفت داشته باشیم.

– در حاضر دغدغه اصلی فعالان محیط

زیست در ایران چیست؟

– دغدغه محیط زیست در کشور ما صرفا نوشتن الفبای محیط زیست است. به طور مثال تفکیک زباله که حدود 90 درصد مردم بهش آگاهی ندارند یا بی توجه هستند. زیرساختی در کشور ما برای تفکیک زباله وجود نداره. دوم اینکه نگاه متفاوتی به کمبود آب وجود نداره چون اقلیم کشور ما خشک است و توجهی بهش نمیشه. سوم آلودگی هواست و کار اصولی براش نمیشه. من احساس میکنم فعالان محیط زیست اگرهم فعال هستند صرفا در حد حرکت سمبلیک است مثل پاکسازی محل عبور کوهنوردان یا پاکسازی مسیل یکی از رودخانه ها و امثال اینهاست اما حرکت بنیادی وجود نداره.

– خیلی از فارغ التحصیلان رشته های زیست-محیطی، منابع طبیعی، به خصوص دانشگاه خودمان، بیگانه هستند. فکر میکنید این هم یکی از دلایل عدم گرایش به این زمینه است؟

– قطعاً همینطوره. برای این افراد میتونه جایگاه های مناسبی در ارگان های مرتبط مثل

– خانم محمدی شما در کنار تدریس ادبیات انگلیسی در زمینه ی محیط زیست هم فعالیت میکنید؛ چطور به این عرصه وارد شدید؟
– از اونجایی که رشته ی من ادبیات آمریکا هست و ارتباط چندانی با محیط زیست نداره با اطمینان به شما میگم که اهمیتی که دنیای پیرامونم برای من داره و دیدی که نسبت به محیط زیست دارم باعث شده که فعالیت های فرهنگی و بخصوص زیست-محیطی داشته باشم. از طرفی آشنایی من با فعالان محیط زیست که در دوره دکتری که در کشور آلمان سپری شد تاثیر زیادی در این موضوع داشته و تقریباً میتونم بگم که 60 درصد از ذهنیت من نسبت به اهمیت محیط زیست شکل گرفت. زمانی که به ایران برگشتم دیدن تفاوت های فاحش بین کشورمون و کشورهای اروپایی باعث شد که از خودم بپرسم چرا؟ و احساس کردم شاید بتونم دریک حیطه کوچک مثل خانواده ی خودم، همسایگی، دانشگاه و مدرسه ی پسرم بتونم ابتدا با فرهنگ سازی و راهنمایی و دادن دید زیست-محیطی و بعد در مرحله عمل و اجرا تغییر ایجاد بکنم.

– آیا بیشتر مایلید که در زمینه ارشاد فعالیت کنید یا با عنوان خاص به صورت عملی به ارتقا و بهبود وضعیت محیط زیست بپردازید؟
– فکر میکنم که اگر کشورهای پیشرفته در زمینه ی محیط زیست به این جایگاه رسیدند بخاطراهمیت و عرقی است که به محیط زیست دارند. من نسبت به این موضوع علاقه و عرق دارم

پیشنهاد من اینکه افراد در کمیته محیط زیست جمع بشند. ما به یکسری افراد ثابت و چیزی حدود ۲۵۰ نفر عضو داوطلب نیاز داریم. ... نظر من اینکه این افراد یک NGO تشکیل بدن و به صورت گروهی فعالیت کنن. این باعث میشه به تفکر جمعی شکل بگیره و از دانشگاه به خانواده ها منتقل بشه. مسئله محیط زیست باید از مهدکودک ها و مدارس و دانشگاه ها همه گیر بشه.



شهرداری ها و سازمان حفاظت از محیط زیست باشه و اگر این عزیزان بیکار هستند قطعا جای این افراد کسان دیگری دارن که مدارکشون مرتبط با این جایگاه ها نیست دارند فعالیت میکنند و ما نظیر این مسایل رو در جاهای دیگه هم مشاهده میکنیم و شاید بشه گفت که دلیل اینکه کار علمی در رابطه با محیط زیست انجام نمیشه دلیلش نبود افراد متخصص هستش. - دانشجویان علاقمند به حفظ و حمایت از محیط زیست که در رشته های غیر مرتبط تحصیل میکنند چطور میتوانند به صورت هدفمند به این عرصه وارد شوند؟

- من در دانشگاه دیدم که افرادی از رشته های مختلف خواستند که در این حوزه حداقل در محیط دانشگاه الزمرا فعالیت کنند. از نظر من در خیلی موارد تک روی یا موازی- کاری دیده میشه. پیشنهاد من اینکه افراد در کميته محیط زیست جمع بشند. ما به یکسری افراد ثابت و چیزی حدود 250 نفر عضو داوطلب نیاز داریم. اما من متاسفانه ندیدم که به صورت خودجوش این گروهها شکل بگیره یا تعداد کم هستش و یا افراد خسته میشوند. نظر من اینکه این افراد یک NGO تشکیل بدن و به صورت گروهی فعالیت کنن این باعث میشه یه تفکر جمعی شکل بگیره و از دانشگاه به خانواده ها منتقل بشه. مسئله محیط زیست باید از مهدکودک ها و مدارس و دانشگاه ها همه گیر بشه.

- آیا فعالیت های شما در این زمینه بازتابی در زندگی فردی و اجتماعی شما داشته است؟ - من اسم این رو میذارم "نجات" درخت های کهن سال و قطور دانشگته الزمرا که تنه شون در جدول سیمانی محصور بودند حدود دو یا سه ماه پیش با کمک شهرداری منطقه ی 3 ما تونستیم که این درختان رو نجات بدیم. من همینکه هرروز از کنار این درختان میگذرم و احساس میکنم که جدول سیمانی که توی تنه ی درختان فرو رفته بود مثل اینکه توی قفسه ی سینه ی خود من فرو رفته باشه و راه تنفس رو به من بسته باشه برداشته شده و الان اون درخت آزاده این برای من دل انگیزترین منظره هستش. من در همین حد اگه بتونم و بهم اجازه داده بشه که حتی بیشتر فعالیت کنم برام کافیه. اینکه دانشجویان من بفهمند چرا مسئله محیط زیست انقدر برای استادشون اهمیت داره و پسر من تفکیک زباله رو یاد بگیره و در زندگی خودش براش دغدغه باشه درعین زمان بر بودن مفید و همیشگی خواهد شد. حتی اقوام از

از قانون تفکیک زباله که توی خونه ما وجود داره الگو برداری کردند و این خوشایند هست. - آیا حفاظت از محیط زیست حد و مرزی دارد؟ - خیر اصلا. ما درسی تحت عنوان "اساطیر یونان و رم" باهم داشتیم و دیدیم که در یونان باستان برای زمین الهه ای قائل بودند به اسم گایا (GAEA) و تصویری رو مشاهده کردیم که پیکره ی زنی بود که زمین رو آبتن بود. من معتقدم که بیرون انداختن زباله مفهومی نداره برای اینکه ما در پیکره این مادر زمین وقتی سمی رو واردش میکنیم این در طی جریان خون میچرخه. این پیکره پویا و زنده هستش و آلودگی زمین از یک نقطه به نقطه ی دیگه کشیده میشه و ما داریم مادر طبیعت رو بیمار میکنیم. از بین بردن زمین اولین ماحصلش بیماری های مختلفی هست که بخاطر رها شدن مواد شیمیایی در زمین انسان و حیوانات دچارش میشوند. من چند سال پیش در یکی از بیلپورد های شهرداری دیدم که نوشته بود: "خاک تهران از آلوده ترین خاک های کشور است." ما داریم این مادر رو بیمار میکنیم و نسبت بهش بی تفاوتیم. بی خبر از اینکه هوای کره ی زمین در حال گردش و گریبان گیر همه خواهد شد. انفجار اتمی ای که در ژاپن رخ داد و در سواحل غربی اقیانوس آرام رها شد و چند ماه بعد این مواد رادیواکتیویته به سواحل شرقی اقیانوس که آمریکا در اونجا قرار داره رسید. مهم ترین چیز داشتن تفکر زیست-محیطی برای هر فرد است. مردم باید از مسئولین بخوان که زیرساخت های مناسب ایجاد بشه. اگر همه زباله هارو تفکیک کنند مسئولین هم به دغدغه مردم توجه نشون میدند. - وضعیت ایران نسبت به کشورهای دیگر چطور است؟

– بگذارید در این باره یک خاطره ای رو براتون تعریف کنیم. ما یک روز همراه با کارمندان و اساتید دانشکده ی تربیت بدنی اکسفورد روی یکی از سرشاخه های رود دانوب قایق رانی میکردیم. در طول 80 کیلومتری که ما طی کردیم من یک زباله ندیدم چیزی که ما به صورت خیلی راحت و وحشتناک در ایران میبینیم در اواسط مسیر من دیدم که قایق هایی که جلوی ما بودند به یک سمت خاص مسیرشونو تغییر دادند. ما که جلوتر رفتیم دیدیم که 6 قایق به صورت گرد ایستادند و یکی از خانم ها سعی کرد با پاروش یک چیزی رو بگیره و من دیدم که اون یک لیوان یکبار مصرف کاغذی بود. اما میبینیم که مسئله زباله که از ابتدایی ترین مسائل هست هنوز تو کشور ما حل نشده است. من چند روز پیش یه صحنه ی متناقضی رو دیدم که یک ماشین انضباط شهری توی بزرگراه نیایش جلوی من در حرکت بود و دیدم که یک آقای داشت با دستمال کاغذی داشبورده رو تمیز میکرد و بعد اون رو از پنجره به بیرون پرت کرد. چطوره که اون آقا که کارمند شهرداریه و با اینکه اون ماشین متعلق به شهرداریه براش مهم بود که تمیزباشه اما نظافت بزرگراه براش مهم نیست؟ و از اون عجیب تر من چند هفته پیش داشتم با یکی از مسئولین شهرداری صحبت میکردم ایشان میگفتند: "زباله اگه تفکیک هم نشد اشکال نداره ما همرو میسوزونیم." بعد من گفتم: "آیا این گرما و آلودگی تولید نمیکنه؟" گفتند: "نه. ما کربن دی اکسید رو با فیلترهامون میگیریم." در حالی که کربن دی اکسید فقط یکی از گازهای سمی ای است که تولید میشه. من از کسانی که این مصاحبه رو میخوانند میخوام که بگن اگر مسئله تفکیک زباله انقدر کار پیش پا افتاده و بی ارزشیه چرا کشورهای پیشرفته هزینه های هنگفت برای این موضوع میکنند؟! من احساس میکنم زنگ خطر خیلی وقت پیش در کشور ما به صدا دراومده و پیکرصامت این مادر به شدت بیماره و کی قراره بهش توجهی بشه من نمیدونم...

– فکر میکنید با این روند تا چند سال آینده بتوانیم از وضعیت موجود راه برون رفت مناسبی پیدا کنیم؟
– با توجه به اینکه در گذشته کاری انجام نشده و در حال حاضر هم توجهی به این موضوع نمیشه چطور میشه انتظار داشت که در آینده اتفاق خوشایندی صورت بگیره. ما بسیاری از منابعمون مثل دریاچه ارومیه و بختگان رو از دست دادیم. ما الان با پدیده وحشتناک بیابان زایی روبرو هستیم و حفره های آب های زیرزمینی که میلیون ها سال طول کشیده ساخته بشند تخلیه شدند. آقای مهندس درویش که از افراد سازمان محیط زیست هستند گفتند که این اتفاق تحت هیچ عنوان قابل جبران نیست.
– از آنجایی که الان از پلاستیک در دنیای مدرن استفاده میشه برای اینکه از پلاستیک کمتری استفاده بشه چه توصیه ای دارید؟
– سعی کنیم که وقتی وسیله ای میخوایم جابجا کنیم از کیسه های پارچه ای که هم مقاوم ترند و هم آسیبی به محیط زیست نمیزنند استفاده کنیم. حتی وقتی به مراکز خرید میریم میتونیم کیسه های پارچه ای با خودمون ببریم. برای روز زمین پاک2 اردیبهشت با همراهی کمیته ی اصلاح الگوی مصرف که از زیرمجموعه های شورای راهبری مدیریت سبز دانشگاه الزهرا است. من یک هماهنگی با مدیریت پسماند منطقه ی 3 شهرداری انجام دادم و تونستیم که 400 تا کیسه پارچه ای به عنوان هدیه دریافت کنیم و بین مدعوین پخش کنیم و این ایده به اون افراد داد و زمینه رو برای پذیرش آگاهانه هموار میکنه من معتقدم که اجبار آخرین مرحله است و هرکس خودش باید داوطلبانه به این دید برسه. باید از یک جایی شروع کرد مطمئنا در کشورهای پیشرفته از ابتدا اینطور نبوده و بعد از جنگ جهانی دوم شروع کردند که این زیرساخت ها رو ایجاد کنند.

– آیا نکته ی دیگری هست که لازم میدونید ذکر کنید؟
– اگر همین الان شروع کنیم 50 سال دیگه طول میکشه تا آلودگی آب ها و خاک و هوا در کشور ما حل بشه. فقط میخوام بگم که اگر دیر به داد زمینمون برسیم خیلی زود دیر میشه.

ما بسیاری از منابعمون مثل دریاچه ارومیه و بختگان رو از دست داریم. ما الان با پدیده وحشتناک بیابان زایی روبرو هستیم و حفره های آب های زیرزمینی که میلیون ها سال طول کشیده ساخته بشند تخلیه شدند.

A Piece of Literature

Even in Decay Beauty Exists

By: Negin Hassani

What comes to your mind when you hear the word "sea"? Sounds of sea birds flying near the surface of the sea and focusing on their bait, or the sweet, salty breeze of the sea, which tickles your nose as it moves the sea in a gentle dance toward the shore. Meanwhile, the water collides with the soft sands, which you have dug your feet into, and caresses your feet with the hands of mother nature and you can see those tiny sea shells that ran away from the bottom of the sea , swirling and dancing around your feet as they try to cling to the outside world.

But my sea is nothing like what you think! The rocky cliff under my feet is hard and slippery while the green reefs savagely find their way all over it. Furious sea clashes with the rocks that surround the water in between them and rains down the unwanted pieces of him on me. Why such vast sea abandons her tiny children, I wonder.

Far away in the right, a glorious sun fading into night and pour its last fiery rays into the almost darkening sky. While on the other side, a coal black, burned shipwreck trying to catch its last breathes while hardly struggling to cling to something which may save her. But instead, the cruel sea did a great job of suffocating the dead. Yet the ship struggles with all the strength left to her as the sea flounces and does its routine job and ignores the wretched remains of what once was definitely called a ship.

Now to sum up this scene in a frame _falling ship, alongside the falling sun and falling rocks and even falling salty water drops_ unimaginably everything seems to fall apart at the same time yet all these particles of destruction made such majestic scene which hides all its ugliness from the eyes of its unaware audience. In fact, which pairs of the eye could believe that beauty may even exist in the decay?

Photo adopted from: foodandwine.com

The Utopia of Lovers

By: Kimia Entezami

The human nature has an endless thirst in seeking love and passion. It actually desires to be both a lover and beloved of somebody. Thus, to the human beings whose lives are eternized with love and passion, the utopia is where their beloveds are. In fact, to the lovers, the hell or the heaven will seem nondescript, if they have their beloveds by their side. Inhabiting the hell will be a pleasant matter with the beloved presence, and the heaven will be as worse as a hell far from the beloved.

However, for the lovers' bad fortune, the beloved presence is not invariably guaranteed due to the mortality of her. Although, to the lovers' happiness, there's an immortal beloved whose presence is not all too often conspicuous to the human beings. Such an immortal love is the fountain of all beauties (as harmony and nature), truths, virtues and goodness. He is both our lover and beloved ; he even loves us more than we do him. In addition, he never leaves his favorite ones unprotected in the life hardships and obstacles. He also inhabits the lovers' hearts as long as they wish. He stays long within those breasts which have tenaciously grasped his love and have comprehended its preciousness. On the contrary, he remains short within the hearts of others.

Unfortunately, however for two main reasons, there are a few

lovers who have gotten the capability of comprehending and appreciating such a precious love. For the first, such a beloved is not beheld with the eye of the head but the heart.

Therefore, those who trust their only five senses and not their hearts will ever believe his love to be real, as such people simply tend to believe in physical objects and matters.

However, the beloved's followers feel his spiritual existence with their hearts not their minds and senses.

Second, the lover must afford a lot to take the attention of the beloved. For instance, he must surrender whole his possessions and belongings, as the family, wealth and even his own self to the beloved, if needed.

Besides, he must even readily endure the hardships delivered from the beloved to him, as these will purify his spirit from the gloomy spots of immorality and evil, so that he can approach the beloved in whom there's no darkness. Getting close to it, he will eventually comprehend what a perfect paradise sets within the love embrace of the God.

Within such a paradise, a true lover of Allah will never feel dissatisfied and depressed, as he actually has embraced the eternal happiness and pleasure. Just try joining the circle of his lovers, and there you will undoubtedly find the eternal peace and the real Utopia.



Spring Song Zahra Janmohammedlo

Once I touched the spring song in my
dream
The tears of joy were planted by clouds
on my cheek
Silently slipped down and jogged
through the stream
That made my sight a little weak

But I could still hear the sweet spring
song
I smelled the scent of the sunflower
By the rays of hope, the sun smiled
warmly for too long
And sank the flower in the light shower

Then I saw the rainbow bridge over the
mirror lake
It seemed like the raindrops were
caressing the meadow
I remember all and I felt like I was awake
So vividly as it was not a long time ago

I saw the petals were dancing with the
bees
And all those singing jasmines and lilies
The wind hugged the trunk of the trees
Then kissed the roses and daisies

I started singing and running with the
beat
As I was under the spring song's spell

Suddenly the plain vanished under my
feet
It felt like I was flying, but I fell

A freezing wind rushed and woke me up
The end of my dream, I could not
remember

I opened my eyes and it made everything
stop
It was still winter, it was still December

Scouring the Market for National-made Raiments

News on the downward spirals of the clothes manufacturing

By: Najie Abedinpour

The textile industry has always held a special place throughout the history for Iranian consumers; however, it hasn't stayed quite that steady for clothes manufacturers. A vast variety of raw textile materials are being exported abroad. Ironically, those raw materials are changed into wearing apparels and sent back to our own markets costing multiple times as much as they would in case they were domestically made. It's intrinsically harmful to our economy. Not adding to the equation the \$80,000 worth of smuggled wearing goods from Turkey and China. Over years, the Chinese products have notoriously overrun the whole country, constantly squeezing the retail businesses. Alongside that, the growing craze for purchasing "brand merchandise" among Iranian consumers has coerced some domestic manufacturers to put fake tags on their merchandise to represent foreign brands. Some clothes vendors argue that national-made vestures are too pricey in relative to those of China and Turkey, careening the customers away from them even though they're of high quality.

But aside from the baroque logics and florid expectations purchasers might have while approaching clothes shops, it's really a matter of the public policy. While the smugglers are the only winners under this scenario, our creative designers and veterans are scrambling to keep the lights on. Maybe it is time to call for concrete legislating to restore order into this chaos.



A Review of Socrates's Life

By: Rana Rahimi

Born in 470 or 469 B.C in Athens, Socrates is one of the most highly appreciated philosophers in the world whose theories played an important role in the development of philosophy. He had numerous adherents among whom Plato is a distinguished figure who entitled Socrates "the philosopher", for the first time, which means "someone who seeks wisdom".

Ultimately, Socrates died in 399 B.C, being condemned to death by some Athenian authorities in a court of law. He was condemned to drink a cup of hemlock.

At the time of Socrates, there were a group of people who named themselves "Sophists" which means "scholars". These people believed that human was the measure of everything. They believed human understanding was the measure of truth and they did not consider any value for truth and reality besides human understanding. In other words, there was no unique truth or reality in the world other than what humans decided to be true.

These people used Sophistry in their reasoning which means that they stated things which seemed to be true at the first sight but in fact they were not. People usually believed the Sophists because they were great lecturers and skillful in rhetorics, so they were popular in the society. Socrates had always threatened such ambitious people and had been their nightmare, since he was becoming popular among the youth and was better than the Sophists in philosophy and could prove their statements to be incorrect. Sophists who claimed to be great teachers and scholars were by then jealous of him, so they planned a trial in which they condemned Socrates to death.

Socrates said that he had spent his whole life in an effort to understand what real wisdom is or who is wiser than the others. He came to the conclusion that "the more knowledgeable someone is, the less he believes he knows". So Socrates believed that those who are famous for their wisdom are more humble than those who do not have that fame. He always stated that the most learned or wise person is the one who knows that he is not knowledgeable and believes that there is still a lot more to learn in this world. This belief was in opposition to what Sophists said. They claimed that everything they said was true and they were the measure of everything. Socrates said that he had always been testing people to see whether they are really wise or not. He kept

arguing with people and challenged them and when they found out that they were in a strait, they got mad with Socrates and did not confess their ignorance. That is why Socrates always tried to reject the theories and statements of Sophists and proved them to be wrong. This way they found out they were actually ignorant and got mad with him and finally condemned him to death.



Although Socrates' friends and adherents tried to persuade him to flee from the prison, he resisted their persuasion and stated that a philosopher does not have any attachment in this materialistic world and he does not need to flee.

The cup of hemlock was finally brought to him on due date and he, patiently bore the burden of the last few moments of his life and drank the cup. This way the life of one of the most important and effective figures of the world's philosophy and metaphysics came to a tragic end.

His most important message to human beings was to make us aware of our ignorance and believed that every concept has a definite and fixed definition, therefore if humans try to find out those precise definitions, they have gained a certain, applicable and correct knowledge about the world which leads them to a better and more proper life.

Sources:

- 1. High school book of philosophy, humanities, grade 3, pages 28 to 43*
- 2. www.Nasour.net*

A Review on
The Gift of the Magi
By: Marjan Alavi

The year is 1905. We are on the streets of New York, with its tall buildings, expensive stores, and important people. But what do we know about the little people? Who live behind that door? Who work in that small, dark office? Let's open a door and watch two young people on a cold day in December. The apartment is small. It has only two rooms. There are no pictures or photos. We can't see any special things on the table. But it is a happy home. Mr. and Mrs. James (Jim) young live here. It is their first home—at \$8 a week. Jim works six days a week for \$20. Every evening he walks slowly home. His days are long and his feet are heavy. But then he opens the door of the apartment. There is Mrs. Young—his Della! Della is the light in his dark days. She has food on the table for him, and she looks at him with her beautiful brown eyes. Jim always smiles. He is a happy man in his apartment with Della, and she is happy, too. This afternoon we can see Della in the apartment. Jim is at work. Della puts her money on the table. She has \$1.87, and tomorrow is Christmas. "How can I buy a special Christmas gift for Jim with \$1.87? What am I going to do?" she thinks. Della walks across her kitchen. "What can I buy for Jim?" Della looks at her long, beautiful hair. Jim always says, I think about your hair."

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Young have two

special things: Della's hair and Jim's gold watch.

Sometimes Della says, "Excuse me, Mr. Young. What time is it?" Then Jim smiles and he takes the gold watch from his coat. He opens the watch and looks at it with love. Then he tells Della the time.

But now Della is thinking about her beautiful hair. Quickly she puts on her thin, black coat and old hat. She goes out. She runs to Mrs. Sofronie's store on "First Street". The old woman buys hair.

"Can you buy my hair?" Della asked.

Mrs. Sofronie smiles. "I can give you \$ 20 for it."

"Ok, but, please, take it quickly," Della says. Della sits down and Mrs. Sofronie starts to work. Della doesn't look at her hair on the floor.



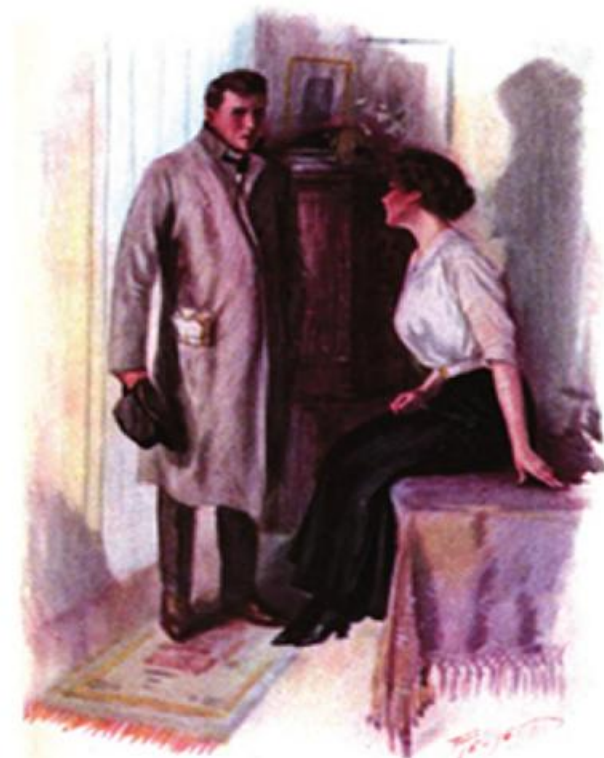
At three o' clock she takes the \$20 from Mrs. Sofronie and puts on her hat. She runs quickly to Fourth Street and looks in every store. She finds her gift for Jim: a beautiful gold chain for his watch, for \$21.

Della runs home and finishes the Christmas food. She is happy because she has the chain for Jim's watch. Then she sees her hair in the window.

"Is Jim going to love me with short hair?" Della thinks. "But I did it for him. I wanted a gift for him."

At seven o' clock Della hears Jim at the door. He is never late. Della has her gift for him in her hand. The door opens and Jim walks into the kitchen. He looks thin, and he is cold in his old coat and shoes. Then he sees Della's hair. He isn't angry, but he is quiet.

"Jim, talk to me. I'm going to have long hair again one day. But this evening I have a special gift for you. Let's be happy. It's Christmas tomorrow," Della says.



"But" Jim says, "Where is your beautiful hair?"

"At Mrs. Sofronie's store. She has my hair now, and I have a gift for you. And, I love you," Della says.

Jim doesn't answer. He looks at Della.

Then he says "Della, I loved you with long hair and I love you with short hair. And, I have a special gift for you, too."

Della opens the gift quickly, and she finds two expensive combs for her long, brown hair. Della knows these combs because she sees them every day in a store window on Fifth Street. She loves them, but now she has no hair for them!

"Jim, they're beautiful, and in six months I can put them in my hair," says Della. "But, wait! I have a gift for you."

Jim opens his gift slowly, and he looks at it.

"Jim, do you like it? I looked in every store. Give me your watch. Let's put it on your watch. He sits down and smiles.

"Della, let's put our gifts away for a year," he says, "I don't have my watch. I went to that store near to my office. They buy watches there. You can see my watch in their window now, and you have the combs."

What do we have here? The story of two people. They don't have a lot of money, but they have a lot of love. And now they are going to have a happy Christmas because they understand about special gifts.

Magi: in the Christmas story, the three Magi (three kings) come to Bethlehem with special gifts for the new child, Jesus.

Resource: The Gift of the Magi by O>Henry

An Analysis of Haft-sin and its Symbolism

By: Mahya Pakize Kar

The first day of the spring season marks the Persian New Year, also known as Nowruz — that is a combination of two Persian words: now, which means “new,” and ruz, which means “day.” Together they mean “New Day.”

Nowruz is considered one of the greatest celebrations of the year with Iranians of all religions and from all over the world taking part in the festivities. Nowruz is so popular that it is celebrated also in other countries, such as Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

For Nowruz we make haft-sin, it's in our tradition and we believe that it brings us luck, actually each of the item that makes up haft-sin are symbols for things of great importance.

Haft-sin, is an arrangement of seven (haft) items whose names start with the letter sin in the Persian alphabet.



1. Sabze (سبزه) – wheat, barley, mung bean, or lentil grains grown in a dish. (representing rebirth)
2. Samanu (سمنو) – sweet pudding made from wheat sprouts. (representing affluence)
3. Senjed (سنجد) – dried Persian olive. (representing love)
4. Serke (سرکه) – vinegar. (representing age and patience)
5. Sib (سیب) – apple. (representing health and beauty)
6. Sir (سیر) – garlic. (representing medicine)
7. Somāq (سماق) – sumac. (representing the color of sunrise)

Other than the things that start with 'sin' in Persian alphabet, we put other items in haft-sin as well. Some of them are painted eggs (as a symbol of fertility), coins (as a symbol of wealth), a little tiny Goldfish swimming in a jug of water (as a symbol of life), mirror (as a symbol of light), candles (again as a symbol of light).



Movie Review

Mother! (2017)

By: Golrokh Hashemi

Directed by: Darren Aronofsky

Produced by: Scott Franklin

Written by: Darren Aronofsky

Starring: Jennifer Lawrence

Javier Bardem

Ed Harris

Michelle Pfeiffer

Release date: September 5, 2017

(Venice)

September 5, 2017

(United States)

Running time: 121 minutes

Country: United States



A couple's relationship is tested when uninvited guests arrived at their home, disrupting their tranquil existence.

As the film begins early in the morning, we see the wife, Jennifer Lawrence, waking up and getting out of the bed, looking for her husband, Javier Bardem, who sets out to surprise her by showing up from the behind, all in a sudden. He gets into a conversation with his wife as how hard it has become for a deft writer as him to write.

As the story goes on, an unknown man turns up in the very room of their house. The husband readily greets him and the wife reluctantly follows on. The arrival of this man was the beginning of all the pursuing events which are neither pleasant for the couple, particularly the wife, nor for you as a prospect observer of this film.

Throughout the movie you have no choice but to tolerate a great deal of stress.

If you have not watched the movie yet, talking over it would be, honestly, in vain.

The movie is a collection of several symbols and as Lawrence herself has stated, "it's an allegory-based movie, first you have to travel through it so that you would become eager to fix your confusions."

Movie Review

A Quick Review on the Movie Paddington 2

By: Mohaddese Taheri

The second film is about a mischievous, marmalade-loving bear who managed to charm viewers of all ages in its most creative and warm-hearted manner. If you have not watched the first part yet, here is a brief background to the story. It is about a bear cub who had to move to London in order to find someone to take care of him. He has lost his family in an accident and the only remaining member of his family is his aunt who is too old to take care of him. He moves to London and meets the Browns' family at the Paddington train station. The Browns' take him into their family. This could allude to the fact that during the World War II children had to leave cities for the countryside for the protection and safety considerations.

If you are watching the film for the first time, you may get confused in determining the timeframe within which the story was unfolding. However, this is an ingenious way of provoking viewer's interest by juxtaposing the modern world elements with the pleasant and fantasy nostalgic elements.

For example, there is a scene of steam train and old printing press along with modern skyscrapers. In my opinion the most fascinating part was an accurate characterization of Paddington. Paddington is a symbol of friendship and politeness that has been ceased to exist for a long time. Without Paddington everything seems to be gloomy and uptight. Another features of his characterizations is his most sincere and pure approach of communication with others without being overly sophisticated or diplomatic. This approach enables him to win the hearts of whomever he speaks with. Henry, the father of the family, says: "He always looks for the good in people and he finds it." This movie is an attempt to revive that forgotten and diminished value of the society.

The father of the family is the rational man who wants to protect his family from any possible harm. However in this process he makes some obvious careless mistakes which creates humorous scenes in the film. On the other hand the mother of the family is a courageous and curious woman with a bit of mischievous behavior in her girlish natures. Her character counterbalances the father's in order to prevent everything to become tedious and boring.

The movie tries to underline the message and teach the youth that they should not always follow the established societal paths and accepted paradigms, rather they should find their own way and follow their own dreams.



By: Mahya Pakize Kar

Recipe of Sour Chicken

This food is local to Mazandaran.

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons oil
- 2 boneless chicken breasts, sliced into strips
- Salt and pepper
- Small onion
- Special local vegetables such as Parsley , Coriander , Leek , Garlic , Shamboyla , Peppermint , Shewid , Zaban Gonjeshk , Uji, Rije Pomegranate
- Rice
- Garlic
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

First, pour 2 tablespoons of oil into the pan and chop the small onions and fry them, then add chickens and fry them together and add spices such as salt and pepper,

Secondly, grate the two cabbages of garlic and add them to the chicken.

Then we chop all vegetables together and fry them separately,

At the end, we put fried vegetables and chicken into the pan and add two glasses of water, then add lemon juice and let it boil for an hour.

Sour chicken is ready after an hour , you can serve it over rice or with bread .