



YEMEN TIMES



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Winter Capital Status Gives Aden New Impetus

Shaher Musa'abain,
Aden Bureau Chief,
Yemen Times.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh is still on his three-month stay in Aden, in what has been dubbed as the city's Winter Capital status. He was joined last month by the government. The presence of the head of state in Aden for a sustained period of time has forced the rapid normalization of life in the city. Security efforts were on top of the list. For a city that had witnessed the easy availability of all kinds of weapons and arms, the relative peace and stability is the direct result of the presence of the president in the city.

At another level, the president has cut across through a lot of bureaucratic paperwork to rehabilitate the government offices and the services rendered to the public. The offices now have the furniture and equipment they need to function. The schools, the hospitals, and



the various other facilities are back to normal. The electric and water supply systems are also back to pre-war levels. The main change that resulted from the

presence of the head of state is, however, the dismantling of the old power structure and the installation of a new power structure. The Yemenis

Socialist Party bases have been the first to be dismantled. The brunt of the attack fell on the unions and labor syndicates. The president's presence also watered down the zeal of the fundamentalists in transforming Aden according to their vision.

Another dimension that has seen a major push is the cleanliness of the city and the repair of its basic infrastructure, especially the roads. It is estimated that several kilometers of new roads were built, and a lot more repaired.

The next focal point for the push effort is Aden as a free zone. The Minister of Municipalities, Housing and Construction has been entrusted with the job of taking the necessary measures to make Aden harbor conditions read to receive potential business and investors.

According to Aden Governor Taha Ahmed Ghanim, "There was a complete overhaul of the system and the presence of the final decision maker on hand helped by-pass bureaucratic hurdles and surmount financial constraints. We have started with almost a clean slate," the governor said.

A Yemeni Surgeon Successfully Carries out Sex Conversion Operations

Abdul-Rahman, 16 years, was discharged from Aden Clinic at Khormaksar on Friday, 2nd, December. Abdul-Rahman had undergone a sex conversion operation on November 25, prior to which he was a female with the name Afrah.

The operation was carried out by Professor Doctor Hussain Al-Kaff, Professor of Urology at the Aden Medical College. The team assisting Dr. Al-Kaff included Dr. Abdul-Gabbar Hizam, Head of Anaesthesia, Dr. Hind Al-Kaff, resident surgeon, and technician Mohammed Monassar Al-Jaberi - all of Al-Gumhurriya (Aden) Teaching Hospital.

Yemen Times spoke to the Abdul-Rahman and his family (from Ibb) and they are very happy with the conversion and with the success of the operation. "Abdul-Rahman had always shown male tendencies and has gone through a lot of problems as a result," they said.



Earlier, Dr. Al-Kaff and his team had converted Aisha from Hadhramaut into Aayesh. "Both cases were diagnosed as male pseudohermaphrodite," Dr. Al-Kaff explained.

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
Aden Office,
Yemen Times.

President Saleh on World Tour

Yemen Times learned that President Ali Abdullah Saleh is planning to visit several countries. His tentative itinerary so far includes France, the Sudan and Morocco, but other countries are expected to be added to the list.

The President returned to Sana'a on Saturday, 3/12/1994, thus ending his winter stay in Aden that has lasted for two months.

This trip will be the President's first foreign travel since the war. In the Sudan, the President will participate in the 39th anniversary of Independence Day (January 1st). In Morocco, he will participate in the Islamic Summit meeting to be held in Casablanca. In France he will undergo medical check-up. The president will, for the first time, invite key businessmen to accompany him on the trip. Vice President Abdo Rabbo Mansoor Hadi will act on behalf of the president during the trip.



"Thank you, Mr. President"

In issue number 44 dated 7th November, 1994, the Yemen Times appealed to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and asked him to help finance the medical treatment expenses of Omer Al-Jawi, the Secretary-General of the Tagammu' Al-Wahdawi Al-Yamani.

We are happy to report that the President has reacted positively to the Yemen Times appeal. He ordered to furnish Mr. Al-Jawi with an airline ticket as well as US\$ 7000 in cash. As a result, he is today in Amman, Jordan, where he is undergoing medical treatment. We hope Mr. Al-Jawi a quick and full recovery so he may resume his important role in Yemeni politics.

The Yemen Times takes this opportunity to thank President Ali Abdullah Saleh for his kind gesture and good response. We would also like to thank Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, who played an important go-between role in this matter. Mr. Al-Jawi has several medical problems.

but mainly he suffers from a disc dislocation in his spinal column which resulted from the attempt on his life in Aden when he courageously told the secessionist plotters that he and his party would stand up and fight against any efforts to re-partition the country. His son was also badly injured in that attempt.

Omer Al-Jawi, forever in the opposition, is seen by many Yemenis as the manifestation of liberalist politics in Yemen. His presence in the political scene gives political maneuvering a special touch.

It has been the policy of President Saleh to help out leading public figures when they are in need. Al-Jawi is just one of the many beneficiaries from the president largess, which is often abused. In this case, government money is put to good use.

Again, many thanks, Mr. President.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Why Doesn't He Do It?

President Ali Abdullah Saleh had promised reform and change. Five months have passed since the Yemeni Socialist Party was dislodged. Yet, change at the promised level has not taken place. That is why the question "Why doesn't he do it?" was central to discussions all over the country. The main conclusions people draw are like this:

1. The President Is Unaware of the Level of Change Needed:

The first group presents a view which states that the President's entourage shields him from realizing the extent of suffering of the people and the deterioration in the conditions. As a result, the President does not feel the urgency and depth of the change that is needed.

I personally do not agree with this conclusion. I believe the President has enough open channels with the public, including those in the opposition to realize the gravity of the situation.

2. The President Is Held Hostage by His Men:

A second group believes that the President is actually more or less a prisoner of his own and entourage. He knows that he is in power because of the support and loyalty of the men around him, who will be chopped off if real change is to come to Yemen. This group further states that the President has accepted as the price of such support and loyalty, the right of his men to enrich themselves legally and illegally, and that they are beyond reproach.

I agree partially with this conclusion. I also believe that the President's approach to reform is piece-meal and gradual, which means the country will be well into the 21st century before he can get the job done. Meanwhile, irreparable damage may take place.

3. The President Does Not Want Change:

A third group believes that in spite of the repeated promises of the President, the man has not done anything tangible. They point to the rotation of officials from one post to another. In other words, the President can bring change if he wanted. The fact is that he doesn't want change, and he lets people blame his entourage for not having implemented the required change.

I agree partially with this conclusion. I believe the President feels things are still okay and that change may unleash uncontrollable forces (from his view) and coping with them may be difficult or taxing. Thus, he pursues the famous advice of "If it ain't broken, don't fix it."

4. The President Is Making Change:

A final group holds that there is change and it is happening. This view is in contradiction with the reality, although evidence can be selectively used to support it. It represents a minority view.

The Republic of Yemen badly needs bold steps to correct the distortions that exist in the economy, social fabric, cultural attitudes, and political attitudes. Change is needed in almost all sectors and fields. Unless there is real change, Yemen will continue in its slow and gradual death process.

The Publisher


German Delegation Arrives Tomorrow

A German delegation headed by Herbert Sahlmann, Head of the Middle East Division at the Ministry of Economic Cooperation, arrives here tomorrow, December 6th. According to Dr. Helga Countess Strachwitz, German Ambassador in Sanaa, the delegation will hold talks regarding bilateral cooperation between the two countries. She disclosed that considerable German funds are available in the pipeline for Yemen to draw on.

Iran Provides Free Medical Treatment to Yemeni Officers

The Islamic Republic of Iran has increased its cooperation with the Republic of Yemen recently. One manifestation of this renewed vigor in the bilateral cooperation is the departure of 196 Yemeni officers injured during the war for medical treatment in Iran.

"Candid Camera" - Yemeni Style for Ramadhan

A television crew has just concluded an extended stay in Taiz where they shot 19 episodes of "Candid Camera". The brain and dynamo behind this effort is Mr. Adel Abdul-Bari. The episodes will be aired as part of the special programs prepared for Ramadhan.

Companies Upset with "22nd May" Newspaper

Last week, the 22nd May newspaper published what it thought to be a journalistic scoop. It announced the seizure or foreclosure of many companies including some of the prominent and most reputed enterprises in the country.

The Arab Bank Ltd, whose name was included in the list, has written a five-point letter to the editor of 22nd May refuting the basis on which the newspaper built its article. "What you have printed is totally wrong. The Financial Prosecution Office's decision number 904 of 13/11/1994 put on freeze the value of a bank guarantee issued by the Arab Bank, and it did not freeze the assets of the bank as reported by you," the bank complained. Even the decision to free the value of the guarantee has been contested, and the Head of the Financial Prosecution Office has reversed the freezing decision according to his decision number 914 of 17/11/1994, "a fact which the newspaper failed to mention." In any case, the newspaper had built its allegations on the basis on a preliminary step by the prosecutor's office. It would have been wiser to wait till a verdict is issued by the courts. The Arab Bank, and most of the other companies listed in the newspaper's article, are highly respectable and credible organizations.

An Anti-Normalization with Israel Campaign Starts in Sanaa

Yesterday, December 4th, a highly-attended gathering was held at the Yemeni Center for Studies and Research in Sanaa. The event was organized by the Preparatory Committee for the National Conference to Resist the Normalization Process with the Zionist Entity.

Many speakers in the gathering warned against falling into the American-Zionist trap. They repeatedly made their case on the basis that "the Arabs will gain very little, while Israel and its benefactors will gain a lot from the current peace process." A phrase repeatedly used was "Whatever was taken by force, can only be retrieved by force." The conference is made up of a variety of orientations, but dominated by traditionalists and conservatives.

Japan Provides Half a Million US Dollars to UN Emergency Fund on Yemen

The Japanese government has responded favorably to the UN International Appeal for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance following the war in Yemen. Mr. Nejjib Freiji, UN Spokesman in Yemen, told the Yemen Times that Japan has granted the UN half a million dollars to provide services to the war-affected persons and regions. Of this amount, \$340,000 will be channelled through the UNDP to meet water supply and hygienic needs; \$130,000 through the UNICEF for medical and related needs; and \$30,000 through the WHO to combat infectious diseases.

On the other hand, Mr. Mitsuru Murase, First Secretary at the Japanese Embassy in Sanaa, disclosed to Yemen Times that a delegation from Tokyo is expected to arrive in Yemen in the second half of current December.

"The purpose of the visit is to assess the situation in Yemen with the aim of deciding whether or not to resume Japanese aid to Yemen," he said. According to sources, the decision will be yes, especially in light with the positive feedback that the Japanese Embassy in Sanaa has been sending to Tokyo.

Traffic Week in Yemen Starts This Week

The Traffic Department is embarking on yet another effort to tame in the unruly drivers of our cities. "The purpose is to enhance enforcement of the law, and to help drivers in better understanding the rules," said Colonel Hussain Al-Saqqaf, Vice General Manager of the Sanaa Traffic Bureau. According to traffic statistics, accidents lead to a high death and injury in Yemen, and they claim more than double the world average.

NOTICE

The Embassy of the United States of America will place vacancy announcements periodically in this newspaper. American citizens residing in Yemen who are eligible for employment under local laws and regulations will be eligible for employment by the Embassy under the Rockefeller Amendment. This legislation is designed to provide United States diplomatic missions the ability to employ American citizens in local positions.

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Mahfooz Shammakh:

"We are a party based on values and ethics."

The business class is gradually increasing its level of interaction with politics. Most of the political parties do not have a visible merchant representation. The first in-roads were made with the People's General Congress which made great efforts to recruit them. But the real bang was made by the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) which boasts the highest percentage of businessmen in its membership. Some people say a third of the Islah are business people.

One such leading businessman who has attained a high position within Islah is Mr. Mahfooz Salim Shammakh. Mr. Shammakh, 53, comes from a well-known business family from Hadhramaut. The family owns several enterprises headquartered in Hodeidah. Finally Mr. Shammakh is the Chairman of the Hadhramaut Welfare Association.

Yemen Times Economic Editor Ameen Nouisser interviewed Mr. Shammakh and filed the following report:

Q: Let us start with business. You are the Chairman of the Currency Supervision Committee. What exactly is the Committee's task?

A: When the by-laws of money-changing activities was issued, several committees were formed including this one. Our job is to follow market trends in exchange rates and write proposals for action based on clear indicators.

Q: I get the feeling the government through such committees

wants to fix prices. Isn't this anathema to a free market system?

A: We are not interested in fixing prices, we are interested in reducing the dramatic surges and falls in the exchange rate. I think the intention is to smoothen the ups and downs in the cycle.

In any case, there is no such thing as a completely free market. There is what is essentially a free market, but which is subject to state intervention due to various considerations.



In terms of the exchange rate, the government has to study the things on which we spend hard currency and try to see if they can be produced locally. That will help the balance of payments and eventually stabilize the Riyal exchange rate.

floated, many measures needs to be taken, including reduction of the bureaucratic hurdles, encouraging the inflow of hard currency (investors, remittances, etc.). At this moment, there is a high-level of lawlessness and irresponsible attitudes.

In any case, we as businessmen suffer enormously at the hands of bureaucrats. It is possible for any bureaucrat to impose new fees at whim. We want the state to behave in a unified way.

Q: Recently, the Central Bank of Yemen has issued an indicator price of YR 84 per US dollar. How do you evaluate such a decision?

A: The indicator price was not issued by the CBY or government, but by the exchange rate committee. But there is a real problem in the dramatic change in the price of the Riyal.

Say, tomorrow we say that one US dollar will fetch 100 or even 150 Riyals, does that mean that anybody who wants dollars and is willing to pay those prices will get them. The answer is "No". There is a lot of manipulation, speculation, hoarding, and various other aggravations.

Q: Some people are saying we should let the Riyal float. What do you say?

A: I think ultimately that may be the right way to go, but not at this stage. Before the currency is

Q: You spoke of encouraging investors. Do you think the investment law provides the appropriate forum to entice investors to come to Yemen?

A: All over the world, there are laws to encourage investors. The law is only one part of the story. Let me tell you irrespective of the incentives, many Yemenis would rather invest in Yemen. The problem is, however, the bureaucratic hurdles and complications. Another problem is the safety and security situation. A third consideration is the sanctity of private capital. We should think properly before we plunge ourselves into such dreams.

Let me give you an example. We have announced Aden as a free zone. What do we offer investors? A chunk of land. Now where is the infrastructure? Where are the utilities? Where are the support services?

Q: How do you see the overall economic situation?

A: I think there are many problems that need to be sorted out. We have presented specific ideas to the leadership. Some of these have been incorporated in the government's plan of action.

Q: You are the Chairman of the Hadhramaut Welfare Association. Can you see a role for yourself in encouraging Hadhrami capital to invest in Yemen?

A: Throughout history, the people of Hadhramaut have proven themselves to be first class entrepreneurs and business people. They do not need me or any other person to encourage them. When and if conditions are right, they will come by themselves.

You know that the Hadhrami people have more or less boycotted the PDRY for a quarter of a century because of its system. As soon as the country was re-

unified, they came to invest, partly out of love for the country. Now they are waiting to see what will evolve after the war. They want assurances of no more turmoil. I think this applies to all investors.

Q: You are a leading member of the Islah party. Your party is an active partner in the coalition government. What have you contributed towards reform?

A: Yes, the Islah is an active partner in the coalition government. We are trying very hard to introduce change, but there are people with built-in interests in the current circumstances. In any case, we do not think that change and reform should come in one blow.

Q: Could you tell us a little bit about Islah's views and orientation for the future?

A: Our party pays more attention than other parties to the social aspects of life. We think values, beliefs, and other norms play a central role in the formation of society. That is ethics, social relations, the family, personal integrity and other such values occupy a central place in our vision of life.

I cannot tell you specifics about the future, but I can tell you that we in Islah are pushing all the measures that will strengthen the bonds between family members, teachers and students, among neighbors, and ultimately between the rulers and the people.

We are pushing for tolerance and acceptance of the other side's right to have a different point of view and express it. We are stressing the internal issues. I am personally - along with many of my colleagues - pushing against any form of extremism, fanaticism or fatalism.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I hope our officials realize that the bread and butter of the public is the most important factor in their lives. That is why they should concentrate on economic growth.

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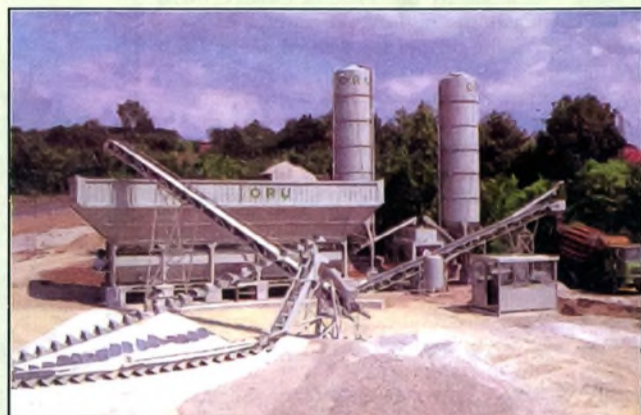


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More Questions on How the Universe was Formed!

For thousands of years, the mysteries of the universe have enthralled generations of scientists, each with its own theories and observations, each with its acrimonious disputes about the nature of the celestial kingdom.

In the 17th century Galileo incurred the wrath of the Catholic church with his insistence that the earth revolved around the sun. The church supported the idea of an earth-centered system proposed by the 2nd century astronomer Ptolemy.

In the 20th century, Sir Fred Hoyle, the British astronomer, rejected the notion that the universe had erupted out of nothing with a scornful reference in a radio broadcast to the supposed "big bang". Forty-four years after he coined the phrase, most astronomers believe this is now the universe began, and the big theory is widely accepted as fact.

For scientists and non scientists alike, the accelerated journey of discovery made possible in recent years by satellites and space travel has provided insights into the origins of the universe and the forces governing its development that were unimaginable before.

The general assumption was that this journey assumption was that his journey should, by now, have culminated in the confirmation of some fundamental latter-day assumptions about the universe that would finally resolve centuries of debate. Instead, physicists have been startled by findings that challenge their beliefs about the age of the universe, the rate at which it is expanding and even how much matter it contains. The cause of their trepidation is the \$2.5 billion Hubble Space Tele-

scope, launched in 1990 into an orbit 360 miles above the earth's surface and repaired last year at an additional cost in the region of \$1 billion. Hubble has repaid the investment by a delivering a "triple whammy" to the scientists who inspired its creation. Hubble measured the brightness of 20 stars in a galaxy known as M100 in the Virgo cluster. It showed that they were 51m light years away, much nearer than previously estimated. Scientists at NASA, the American Space Agency, incorporated this figure into a calculation that suggested the universe was only 8 billion years old instead of 15 billion years old instead of 15 billion as assumed.

The oldest stars, however, are thought to be 14 billion years old, give or take a billion. The logical impossibility of seeing stars older than the universe that contains them constitutes the first dilemma.

The second is that the distance measured by Hubble to Virgo suggests the universe is expanding much faster than allowed by the big bang theory, which says that energy, matter, space and time came into being at a precise instant when a titanic fireball exploded, and that the structure of galaxies, stars and planets "froze out" during the billions of years of cooling, and dispersion that followed.

NASA's Space Telescope Science Institute says the measurement is crucial to determining the rate of expansion, known as the Hubble constant after Edwin Hubble, the American astronomer whose discovery it was, in the 1920s, that the universe was growing.

"Although this is only the first step in a systematic program to measure the scale, size and age of the universe, a firm distance

to the Virgo cluster is a critical milestone," said Wendy Freedman, of the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution in Washington. If Freedman is right, something appears to be wrong with the big bang theory. The third "whammy" came last week when Hubble demolished one of the oldest and most cherished theories of cosmologists about "dark matter" in the universe.

By adding up the number of galaxies visible and multiplying the figure by their average mass, scientists can account for only 1% of all the matter that should exist according to the big bang theory. The rest is assumed to be hidden away in dark planets and dying stars, or squashed into black holes whose powerful gravitational field sucks up everything in their vicinity, including light.

The favored candidate for this concealment were red dwarfs, starts much smaller and dimmer than our sun, and astronomers had hoped to find that the universe was littered with them. Now NASA has announced that Hubble has found so few red dwarfs that they cannot constitute the missing building blocks of the universe after all. "Our results increase the mystery of the missing mass," said John Bachall, who analyzed the findings. "They rule out a popular interpretation of dark matter."

All these doubts raised by Hubble emphasizes the extent to which astronomy, more than most sciences, depends on theory rather than observation. Astronomers cannot collect samples and experiment with them. "We've only got light or radio signals coming from objects in space which we puzzle over with laws of physics to

understand what message they have," said Jacqueline Mitton, of the Royal Astronomical Society. However, Mitton says it is the nature of science that new information raises questions, and knowledge is advanced by the search for answers. She is optimistic that big bang theory will survive enhanced by the addition of some new aspect.

Some astronomers believe mistakes have been made in the interpretation of Hubble data and that the wave of uncertainty will evaporate when further measurements are published; others that the standard model of the big bang may be wrong and that only a new, unifying theory mooted by Stephen Hawking, author of *Brief History of Time* and extending and beyond gravity and reactivity will one day explain the nature of the universe in some way not yet envisaged.

A leading British authority, Michael Rowan-Robinson of Imperial College, London, said last weekend that while the Hubble results were not definitive, they were worrying. "I take it very seriously and I'm spending a lot of time thinking about it," he said.

Rowan-Robinson has revisited the work of Einstein and found a possible explanation of why the universe should be expanding more rapidly than seemed possible before. "If we have this problem of the universe expanding too fast, then the natural inference is that something is pushing it," he said. "It would be a general force like a second kind of gravity expect that it would be pushing instead of pulling.

Einstein proposed just such a force. He called it "cosmological repulsion" and believed that it countered gravity to keep the

universe static when his theory of relativity indicated that it should be expanding. HE was wrong about a static universe but may yet prove right, after all, about the existence of a mysterious unknown force at work in shaping the heavens.

Churchmen dismiss the notion that this force may be the hand of God. "The element of mystery simply means the model is complicated," said John Kerr, warden of the Society of Ordained Scientists. "I think most ordained scientists would be very reluctant to invoke some kind of supernatural explanation."

Among astronomers, theories abound. In this month's edition of Scientific American, Andrei Linde, professor of physics at Stanford University, suggests that the universe consist of numerous inflating balls of fire which reproduce ad infinitum. "If my colleague and I are right, we may soon be saying good-bye to the idea that our universe was a single fireball created in the big bang."

Most scientists are more cautious, however, keeping faith in the logic that to reverse the expansion of the universe would be inevitably to return to a moment when it must have been so compact that its volume was

almost incomprehensibly tiny. They believe that cosmic background radiation, discovered in the 1960s, is the remnant of an explosion of this material so powerful that the pieces of material are still hurtling away from it. Their conviction remains that "ripples" in this radiation, detected in 1992, point to hot spots necessary for the formation of galaxies.

New Hubble observations will be published shortly, testing the big bang theory further as well as the modifications proposed. Early indications are that the next set of data, prepared by British scientists, will contradict those of NASA, generating further confusion. Leading figures in the scientific community speak with awe of the possibility that the telescope and the arguments surrounding it will guide them swiftly to nothing less than a revelation. In the scientific journal Nature last month, George Jacoby, of the national Optical Astronomy Laboratories in Arizona, wrote: "We live in a special time: after millennia of not knowing the size and age of our universe, we soon will. We also live in a time of crisis, for we may be forced to accept something new about the ages of the starts of the nature of the universe."

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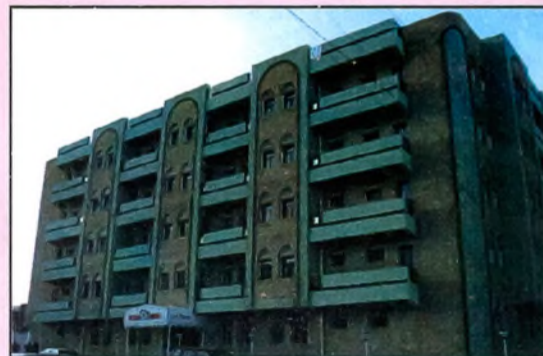
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Starting with last week's issue, the Yemen Times introduced two columnists, who are among the leading opinion-makers of Yemen

Common Sense

Cats, Rats and Helpless Widows

By: Hassan Al-Haifi



While on a stroll in the diplomatic quarter and the other nearby plush residential areas of the city, Mahmoud was struck with awe and bewilderment as excessive extravagance met his eyes while looking at the highly adorned residences that lined the streets. "How the hell did all these dream houses come up during what maybe regarded as difficult times for the overwhelming majority of the general population", wondered Mahmoud in disbelief.

Mahmoud gathered up enough courage to ask a grocery store owner nearby, while digging into his nearly empty pockets for the price of a packet of cigarettes: "Who are the owners of all these fabulous dwellings? Are these the houses of wealthy Yemenis who have amassed fortunes, being the fruit of their migrations to other lands?" The store owner hesitated at first, then lifted his hand pointing randomly at the houses in front of him, at the same time saying with some contempt:

"That house belongs to the Governor of X province."

"That villa is owned by the Minister of Z affairs."

"The twin villas there belong to the commander of the Nth Brigade."

"As for that fancy shaped dwelling, it belongs to a middle management level officer in the XYZ Public Corporation for Trade and Investment."

"Don't be surprised if I tell you that the fantasy palace over there did not come out of a Tolkien fantasy or a Grimm's fairy tale or the Arabian Nights. It was built by a former high ranking Customs officer in Sana'a last year."

Mahmoud's amazement turned into heartburn, as he quickly interrupted the store owner and said "I know most of the cats you mentioned, and not less than ten years ago, they were living in Endowment (Waqf), trying to make ends meet with their salaries, even before the inflationary spiral went hay-wire".

The store-owner, after overcoming his fears of opening up to a stranger remarked:

"These guys are not cats, my friend. They are rats! There are hundreds of them, all over the government."

Mahmoud then recalled, how he and one of the staff members in the government organization, he was working in went to visit the house that the latter was building, which far exceeded the description of being modest. Mahmoud asked his friend: "Did you come across some buried treasure? this is, in no ways, a house you can build from the savings on your salary, even if you don't chew qat!"

His friend was not about to be put in a corner: "No, no, you see, my dad just gave me YR 2 million (worth now YR 10 million) and told me to set up a nest for the kids and myself. Mahmoud gullibly bought the alibi, until he recently heard that this "colleague" had just been appointed to a very senior position, as head of an important sector of a large government authority. This was a big jump from an assistant section head to a Deputy Minister level, or Undersecretary level, for one whose credentials and qualifications were doubtful even for his earlier position.

The shop-keeper went to elaborate on his previous statement: "Your friend just happens to be one of those rats who have found that the government is the place where one can hit upon a treasure chest, or come across a lot of fathers that casually throw money to their kids. The government treasury is what these rats keep nibbling at without any shame or conscience to hold back the leaking public funds from flowing to their pockets.

"Your friend quickly learned the ropes, while you and your honest colleagues were killing yourselves doing things straightforward and going by the book, hoping to get a YR 200 incre-

ment in your salary at the end of the year."

Mahmoud said: "I must be naive! do you know that many of these rats forget to collect their salaries! It occurs to me now that the salary to them is just a drop in the bucket, or barrel, if you want to be relatively more precise."

The store keeper added "as spectacular as those buildings you are seeing may be, they are only a symbolic minuscule fraction of the wealth your friend and the other rats have amassed. You can be sure that they also have millions, in all the hard currencies, safely stashed and earning interest in the banks of Lugano, London, Leichenstein and other financial centers, where the crooks of the world deposit their loots. Moreover these guys and their folks live a whole different kind of life than you and I are familiar with: 2 cars for each member of the family and a driver, for each member of the family, including the children who are still in the mother's womb! For those who carry more political weight or tribally-oriented, half a dozen guards, with the latest portable killing tools scout the yards of those villas you see. Another half a dozen accompany the official wherever he goes, including even the not to be mentioned (of course, they look the other way). They never have to buy any thing. All their needs and means of comfort are delivered to their houses, wherever they may be located, from all the corners of the world; gratis and exempt from all customs!

"Each scribble of their signature, where they work rolls in millions of Dollars, or Riyals for those who are just beginning. Have you never been to any wedding feasts with any of these people? Haroun Al-Rashid would turn in his grave if he could get a glimpse of the waste and excesses that go on in these feasts. These people represent the new class of criminals who exploit government assets, not to mention the embezzlers who have turned public service into a hall of crime".

Mahmoud felt that the grocer was getting too far in ridiculing so many government and military officials: "Look friend you make our government appear to be like a helpless wealthy widow surrounded by a gang of smart thieves, who find pleasure in slowly emptying her house of all of its contents, while at the same time having her sign affidavits that she has willingly given up title to these articles to the 'bearer' of the affidavit, whoever be may be."

The shopkeeper was quick to follow through on the simulation by adding: "... and the affidavit was written by her lawyer, appropriately signed by her bodyguards and house sentries, as well as her business manager as witnesses, while the family of the widow watched in total apathy!

The Hotline

Dividing the Bounty

By: Hassan Al-Sagheer



Apparently, the war was waged to give this country a unified leadership and orientation. The division of power between the People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) was responsible for the corruption and inability of any body to check the wrong doers as these are protected by either of the two rival power blocs.

The war was won, the YSP was annihilated, the constitution was amended, the government was formed and approved by parliament... All that the president demanded so that he may check the corruption and lead the country towards prosperity and stability was done. Are we on the road to prosperity and stability? It doesn't look like it.

Today, we have two power blocs that continue to compete to secure their respective shares in government posts. We still have the partitioning of the bounty, only one of the actors has changed. Of course, the partners in power do not call it partitioning or dividing power, they now call it co-habitation. But this is the same old game with a new name.

To add insult to injury, many of the posts and positions in government are distributed as remuneration for their roles in the crisis and war. Most of these individuals and groups will simply abuse and misuse the power associated with their new posts.

I hope that the leaderships of the PGC and Islah will re-consider their decisions to allocate the government positions and posts only to their men. They should enlist the services of able and clean Yemenis, even if they do not belong to their parties. Actually, the achievements and accomplishments of able and clean Yemenis would reflect positively on the ruling parties, and they take credit for it. On the other hand, if their own (party) people are inefficient and corrupt, their actions are reflected on the ruling parties.

The people of Yemen deserve a better deal than that which they get from the politicians. They have suffered and waited patiently as they are showered by promises after promises. The poorer segments of society, and the impoverished middle class are getting restless. The demonstration effect (poor people witnessing lavish living) is taxing their patience.

The caliber of the recently appointed ministers, governors, vice ministers, ambassadors, and other senior officials is not comforting. It is as if the rulers have not found any new faces, thus are rotating positions among the same old faces. Former governors are made ambassadors, ministers are shifted from one ministry to another, and former ambassadors are made governors.

For their own good, I hope the rulers see light and bring an end to this game of dividing the bounty.

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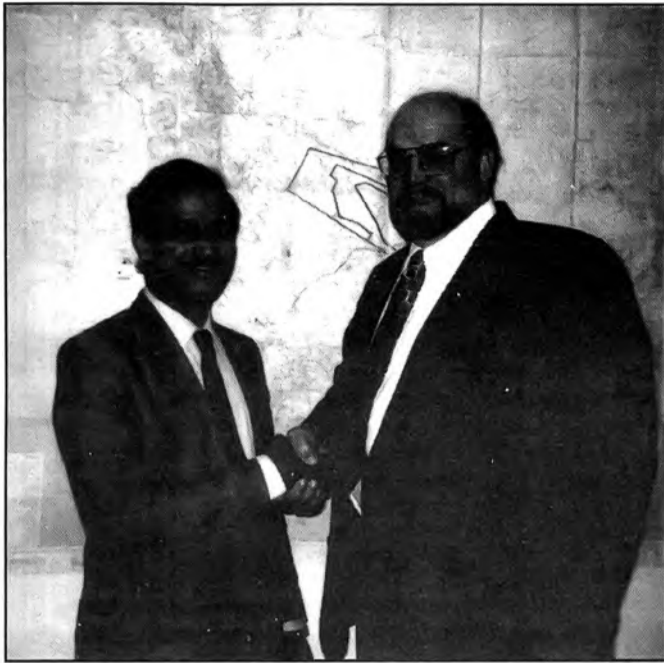
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Yemen Hunt Oil Company Names a Yemeni Drilling Manager



Effective December 1st, 1994, Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) named Manna' Abdullah Nasser to be its Drilling Manager for its Yemen operations. In his new position, Manna' will be responsible for scheduling and planning all drilling rig activity, scheduling and ordering all supplies and materials, etc. Manna' graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1985 from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA. After graduation, Manna' worked briefly with CCC/Mannesman as a trainee engineer before he joined YHOC in December 1987. After spending one year as an Engineer Trainee working in

various YHOC technical departments, Manna' was assigned to the Drilling Department. As part of his training, Manna' began working on workovers and well completions. He then progressed to YHOC's Rig #1 where he furthered his knowledge in cementing, drilling fluids, bottom hole assemblies, casing design and actual supervision of drilling operations. In addition to his job training, Manna' also attended the Maurer Well Technology School in Cairo, IHRDC classes in Sanaa, as well as numerous other courses related to drilling operations. In 1992, Manna' was assigned as an Engineer I to the YHOC's Sanaa Drilling Office where he

concentrated on developing well programs and provided technical assistance to field operations.

In addition to the formal training Manna' received, he credits much of his success to help received from other

employees like Dixon Trich and Phil Powell. When asked about becoming YHOC's first Yemeni operating and technical

department manager, Manna' replied he was very proud to be part of the YHOC management team and that he looked

forward to the challenges that lay ahead.

YHOC is the pioneer company in Yemen's oil industry and it continues to be a front-runner in total production.

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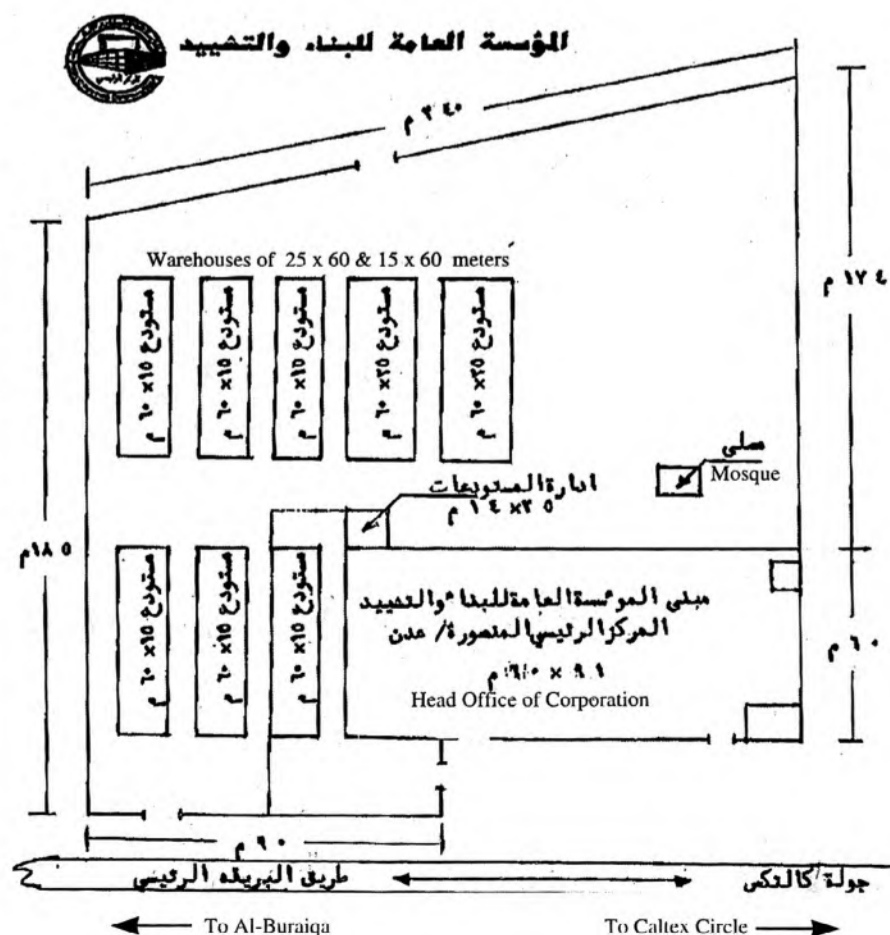
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The Medicine of Muslim Scholars

When Prophet Muhammad founded Islam in the seventh century, he spoke of the same God known to Jews and Christians for centuries. The message received by Muhammad and revered today by over one billion Muslims is contained in the Koran (in Arabic, Quran). Although this scripture focuses on the spiritual health of mankind, it also contains statements regarding physical health and emotional well-being. Muhammad often spoke regarding medicine and diet, and his words are accepted as authoritative and second only to God's revelation in the Koran.

As Muslim scholars in later centuries encountered the medicine of classical Greece, Syriac tradition, and India, they compared this knowledge with the Koranic view of man and the prophet's statements about health. Eventually, a literary genre called the "Prophet's medicine," or *al-tibb al nabawi* in Arabic, came into existence. In the text of this genre, Muslim scholars tried to merge the most accepted and current scientific knowledge about medicine with the folklore of Muhammad's Arabia.

Medieval Islamic scholars preserved much of the medical knowledge of classical civilization at a time when Western scholarship stagnated during the Dark Ages. In the early ninth century, the Caliph al-Ma'mun sponsored the translation of numerous Greek and Syriac medical texts, including over one hundred written by the famous Greek authority Galen.

It is easy, as some scholars have done, to focus on the role that Muslim scholars played in transmitting earlier medical knowledge without paying due attention to original contributions from medieval Arab physicians, scholars, and herbalists. However, by 1350 some found thousands of medical books that had been written in Arabic. Indeed, Arabic was so much the lingua franca of medical school that, in the seventeenth century, William Harvey, the Englishman who discovered the principle of circulation of blood learned Arabic in order to read important Arabic medical texts. (He would have been interested to note that, some four centuries earlier, a certain Ibn al-Nafis had accurately defined pulmonary circulation).

Arabic texts were the first to describe smallpox, peptic ulcers, hay fever, hemophilia, and tuberculosis, among other disease. Arab surgeons invented catgut and popularized the use of cotton bandages and alcohol as an antiseptic. A history of medicine over the past fifteen hundred years would show many primary contributions from Muslim physicians.

But what of medical knowledge at the time of Muhammad? The text containing the Prophet's medicine give us a mixed view, in that they were written several centuries after the beginning of Islam and their writers had been influenced by other medical traditions. Yet the statements attributed to Muhammad point to a rich folklore and an herbal tradition well documented in later texts. There may not have been any hospitals or medical schools in seventh-century Mecca, but there were certainly many people with ideas about how to stay healthy and cure certain diseases. Although it is necessary to sort through the customs to separate the practical from the fanciful, parts of this "folklore" genre have scientific value, and it is worth working through the mixed information to see what might be of value today.

The collection of traditions

It is not surprising that Muslims looked to the wisdom of the Prophet Muhammad for practical ideas about maintaining body and soul. The words of the Koran, which were regarded as God's truth, were supplemented by statements made by Muhammad and his early followers. These statements were codified in the collections of traditions, which attempted to establish which statements had been reliably reported and which had not.



These large collections sometimes contained a specific chapter on medicine. In many cases, however, traditions relevant to health and medical treatment were scattered in various chapters. So it was inevitable that scholars with a medical focus would eventually collect appropriate traditions into a single text.

Some of these books were probably learning tools for advanced students, such as the collection of forty traditions extracted from the Sunan of Ibn Majah by the thirteenth-century scholar 'Abd al-Latif al-Baghdadi. Such a text was meant to be memorized. Memorizing forty traditions would have an intercessor on the day of judgement. This collection begins with the most fundamental of all traditions for the Muslim: Muhammad's assertion that God never sends a disease without sending a cure. Besides being a comfort to those afflicted by disease, it was also an impetus for doctors and scientists to seek cures.

The forty traditions arranged by al-Baghdadi provide a summary of subjects covered in the Prophet's medicine. There are prescriptions against drinking wine, dietary advice for the sick, descriptions of fevers and the medicinal value of certain herbs and foods, discussions of problems of aging and specific disease, recommendations for body lotions and skin treatments, and directions for cupping. If a student already knows his medicine, this would be a useful summary. For the novice, al-Baghdadi's text would no doubt stimulate an appetite for further study. All in all, it was clear that religious knowledge and medicine went hand in hand.

It is not clear when the idea of writing books on the Prophet's medicine took hold. Though scattered, the information was available in tradition collections and encyclopedic works on the sciences. There were, of course, technical medical treatises and translations of interest primarily to physicians and scholars. But *al-tibb al-nabawi* had a more popular appeal, combining religious and scientific prescriptions with practical advice on everyday health problems. There was certainly no mass-market orientation in the age before printing, but the subject would have been relevant and of interest to a wide section of the population. There was a strong religious argument for knowing the information by heart, in that doing so promoted high regard for Muhammad. Many of the practical prescriptions were based on existing folklore and were closely related to traditional practices throughout the Middle East.

One of the earliest recorded texts on the Prophet's medicine was compiled for the Caliph al-Ma'mun (r. 833 to 842) by 'ali al-Riza, but this text has not survived. 'Abd al-Latif al-Baghdadi, who died in 1231, wrote a major text titled *Medicine from the book and the Life of the Prophet (Al-tibb min al-kitab wa-al-Sunna)*. Al-Baghdadi was a widely travelled man

and an inquisitive scholar. After examining the skulls of more than two thousand victims of a Cairo famine, he corrected a mistake made by Greek anatomists by describing the unity of the lower maxilla. He was also the author of a major text on diabetes.

In the thirteenth century, two more famous texts were composed. One was by Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Dhahabi, a prolific scholar who also compiled an Islamic history in thirty-six volumes. This widely travelled authority, of Turkoman origin, eventually became a respected professor in Damascus. A contemporary was Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziya, whose rendition is better known because it was published in Cairo in the nineteenth century; it has been reprinted numerous times since then. The most popular text, at least according to the number of copies found in manuscript libraries, appears to be that of Jalal al-Din Al-Suyuti, who lived in Egypt in the later half of the fifteenth century. Al-Suyuti was a child prodigy in religious terms, having memorized the Koran by age eight. All the surviving texts and virtually the same, having been copied by each succeeding scholar. This was the standard academic practice in the medieval academy and should not be looked at as plagiarism. The idea was to provide accurate transcription of past information rather than to be creative.

Man is natural being

These books generally begin with an overview of the human constitutions. Seven parts of man's "natural" being were distinguished, and these included more than just physical characteristics. At the most fundamental level, the human body was seen as a mixture of the four basic elements of classical science. These were fire (hot and dry), air (hot and wet), water (cold and wet), and earth (cold and dry). In this respect, the human body was no different from those of other animals. Indeed, these elements were thought to make up every-thing in the material universe.

The second relevant part of man was his temperament, a broad-ranging category including emotions, feelings, and character. Nine categories of temperament were identified; first and foremost was one that was evenly balanced. Of all animals, man was considered to be the most evenly balanced. For the Muslim, the most balanced man who ever lived was Muhammad, God's messenger, whose character was said to be in total harmony with his physical nature.

Muhammad's companions noted that he was the most handsome of men and had the best character. One of his followers, Anas, reported that in ten years of serving Muhammad, he was never once upbraided or criticized. Another claimed that Muhammad never used indecent language or behaved improperly.

Continues Next Page

عيد ميلاد سعيد يا «ريما»

في حفل بهيج حضرته الزميلات والصدقات أطفأت الأتسة

ريم عبد الله جعشان

شمعتها السادسة عشرة

وبهذه المناسبة نقول لها عيد ميلاد سعيد وعقبال ما تطفأ الشمعة التاسعة

والتسعين

المهنزون:

ماما، بابا، والجد

الإستاذة / فوزية يوسف الشريف

الطفل آصر يحيى يوسف الحديدي

وانيا، هاله، إيميس، عملاء، إيمان عبد الله جعشان

سهى، سيناء، سناء، سميرة، سحر محمد يوسف الشريف

نادر، زينب، ندى، إبتهاج علي يوسف الشريف

في رحاب الله

بخالص الأسى والحزن الذي تفيض به قلوبنا نتقدم إلى الأخ

قاسم محمد الكبسي

بأحر التعازي والمواساة في المغفور لها والدته

تغمدها الله بواسع رحمته وألهم أهلها وذويها الصبر

والسلوان وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون:

الصقيد / عبد الله الكبسي

الصقيد / محمد عبد الله إسماعيل الكبسي

النقيب / عبد الولي عبد الله الكبسي

ومن كافة آل الكبسي

تعزية

أحر التعازي للأخ / حسين محمد الله النيب في وفاة المغفور له والد

تغمده الله المرجوم برحمته وألهم أهله الصبر والسلوان

الأسيفون: يحيى يوسف الحديدي، نجيب سلام

يوسف محمد يوسف الشريف، أمير العلمي

Continued from Page 10

The Medicine of Muslim Scholars

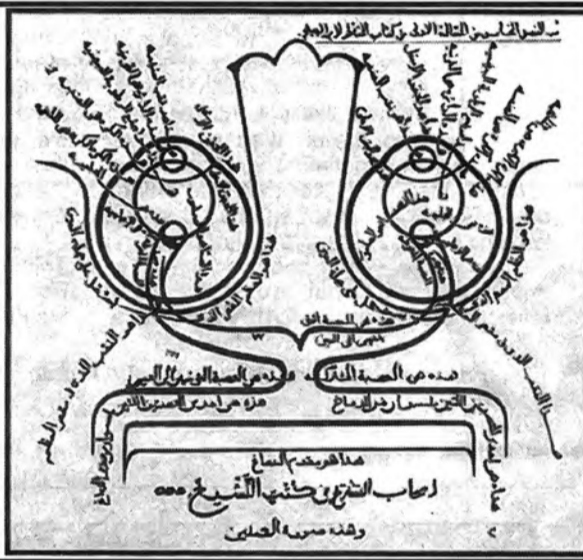
Even when a Bedouin once roughly pulled a cloak off the prophet's shoulder, he laughed rather than getting angry. It is reported in one of the traditions that a man asked Muhammad for some advice and the advice given was never to get angry. Anger, Muhammad said, was from the devil and therefore should be avoided. For pious Muslims of later centuries, the qualities attributed to Muhammad were seen as defining the perfect man. Related to the basic elements were the four humors. The humoral system, widely established in the classical tradition, went largely unchallenged in both the Muslim East and Christian West until the Renaissance. Readers of Shakespeare are familiar with the idea of the bodily humors, part of the popular conception of health in Elizabethan England.

chological faculties included reason and thought, as well as perception and movement. The seventh and final part of man was the function, referring to both attraction and repulsion of fluids and material in the body.

On reproduction

It was taken for granted that the reader knows the first man, Adam, had been created from dust and given a soul by God. The Koran refers to the creation of Adam in several places, and tradition related to Muhammad says that Adam was created during last hour of the sixth day of creation. The issue of how children came to be formed was another matter altogether and was not properly understood anywhere until the nineteenth century. The ideas from the classical tradition, which unfortunately were not very accurate, greatly influenced

For several major Muslim jurists, abortion was thus allowed until the end of the fourth month, although the majority of schools of religious law viewed the fetus as a destined child and thus frowned upon, even if they did not prohibit, abortion at any time. Contraception, however, was generally agreed upon as legitimate. Indeed; historical evidence suggests that medieval Muslims quite consciously practiced birth control in times of famine and political chaos. The herbals are quite explicit regarding plants though to have contraceptive capabilities. The famous medical text Hawi by Rhazes, a ninth-century Persian scholar, lists over fifty contraceptive methods, including varieties of suppositories and tampons. Most of the methods called for the woman to use



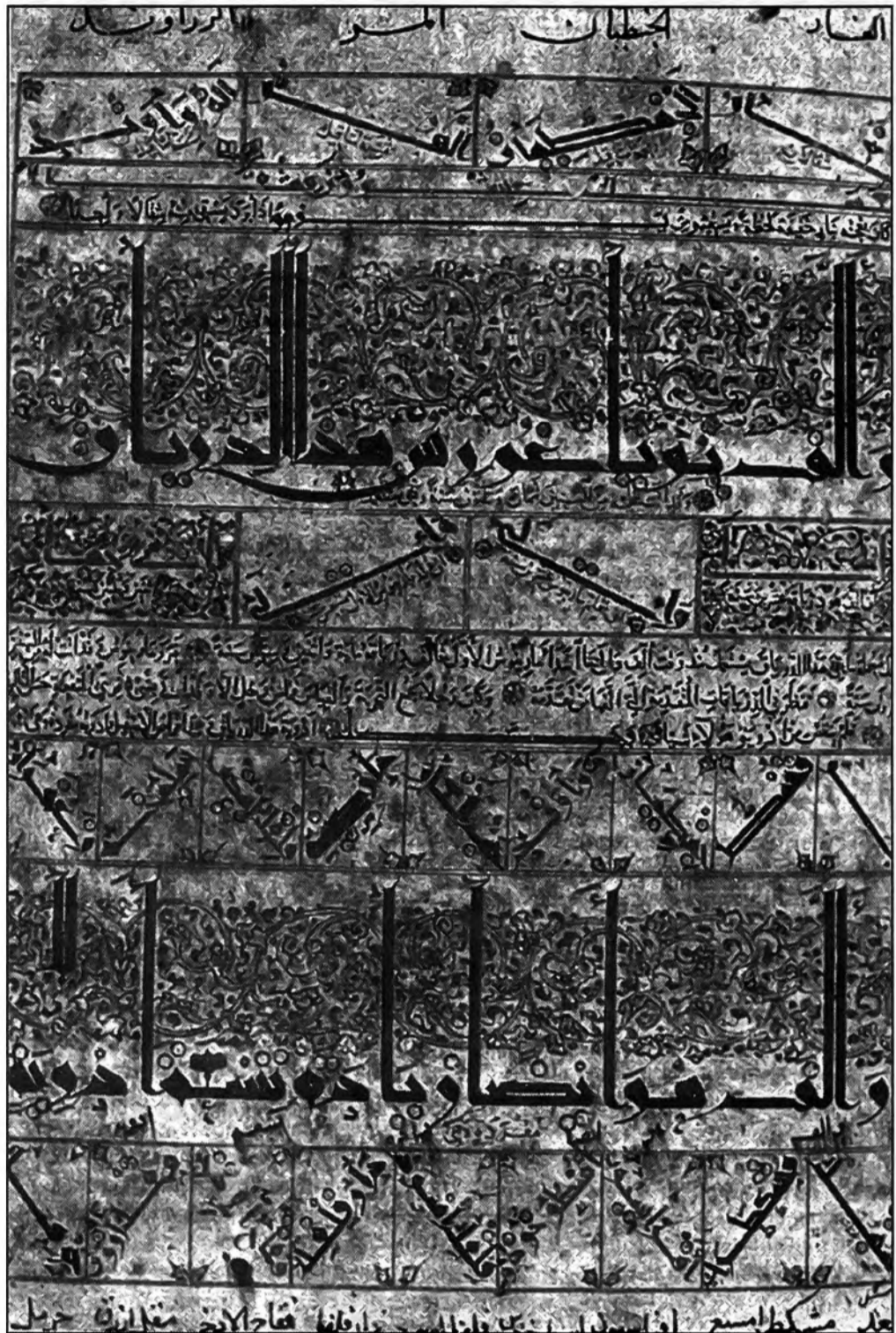
Muslim Scholars Depicting Blood Circulation in Humans

Blood, considered to be hot and wet, was said to feed the body. The medieval scholar believed blood was produced in the liver from the remains of digested food. Phlegm, cold and wet, helped convert blood into bodily sustenance and kept the organs moist. The gall bladder stored the body's supply of yellow bile, viewed as hot and dry. This bile was thought to help the blood through narrow vessels and was responsible for the color of faces. Black bile, produced in the spleen and considered cold and dry, thickened the blood and assisted in bone growth. By coming into the stomach, it also helped create an appetite for food. Despite its obvious inaccuracy in light of modern scientific knowledge, the humoral system provided a neat, closed explanation of the complicated nature of the human body for many generations of scholars and physicians. The rest of the seven elements included human organs, which were thought to be formed from seminal fluids. Not surprisingly, Muslim scholars also acknowledged existence of the human soul and spirit. Additionally, humoral faculties, following Aristotle, were said to be natural, vital, and psychological; they included procreation, growth, nourishment, and excretion, among others. The psy-

Islamic science. Aristotle had argued that semen was the sole fashioned of the human fetus, with the mother's role relegated to that of a mere vessel. Hypocrites, on the other hand claimed that both male and female contributed to the developing embryo. Muslim scholars sided with Hypocrites, which had important consequences for laws regarding the practice of contraception. In analyzing fetal growth, Muslim scholars built on a Koranic base. In chapter 22, God says: "O people, if you are in doubt concerning being raised up again, then consider that We created you from the dust, then from sperm drop, then from clotted blood, then from a lump of flesh, formed and unformed. We cause that which We will to stay in the wombs for an appointed term, then We bring you forth as babes; then We cause you to grow that you may attain to your full strength." Scholars interpreted this verse, following a tradition related to Muhammad, to mean that the fetus developed in three forty-day periods. In the first, which started with conception, the fetus was called a drop of semen. In the second it was a blood-like clot and in the third a lump with shape. At the end of these 120 days, it was believed that the body became ensouled; it was fully human.

some oil, which would likely reduce sperm mobility. In Muhammad's day, coitus interruptus was widely practiced, especially with slave girls. Although the prophet did not forbid this method of contraception, he said it could only be done with the woman's permission. Because Islam recognized the role of the female as well as the male in producing life, the woman was given the right to decide whether sex would lead to a child.

By: Daniel Martin Varisco, in The World and I, December 1994.



Through Islamic texts, like the one above, Muslim scholars both discovered and passed along important medical knowledge

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Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor

THE OTHER VIEW OF REFUGEES

I would like to present my view on the subject of refugees here in Yemen. In absolute certainty of your evenhanded approach to issues, I have sent the following critique in the belief of entertaining readers with divergent opinions.

As a concerned member of the refugee class, I would like to challenge Mr. Hussein Ali Al Zubeiry, the writer of "Be a law unto oneself" (Yemen Times, issue no. 46, 21st November 1994) on his incisiveness to reason, fairness of judgment and firmness of purpose. Let me in turn enlighten the esteemed readers on the real aspects that he had willfully ignored to mention.

Ethiopian and Somali refugees have been accepted most hospitably by Yemen not as a consequence to internationally agreed law, but as a necessity dictated by the unique and historic ties existing between the nations of the countries involved. My proof lies in the fact that thousands of uniformed Ethiopians who fled to Sudan, Djibouti and Saudi Arabia in May of 1991 found themselves coerced - through the punishment of hunger and thirst into accepting repatriation "voluntarily" thus consigning their fate to ignominy and obscurity. By contrast, members of my own uniformed lot in Yemen, were received with open arms, sheltered fed and clothed, even paid stipend to ride out the shock of instant destitution with little pain or abuse to our dignity.

UNHCR's offer still remains repatriation. I'll further add that refugees of Ethiopian and Somali origins have basked in, and enjoyed tolerance and greater latitude of actions under the watchful eyes of the host country. We have found employment without the benefits of work permit. We are enjoying residence outside camps without the legality of residential permit. We are enjoying residential permit. Thousands of Ethiopian refugees - elsewhere languish in camps, unemployed and "Citizen" Hussein Ali might also be aware of the fact that more than two million Yemeni nationals, who returned dispossessed in the aftermath of the Gulf War are still a major burden to the Yemeni nation without the inclusion of foreign refugees.

Speaking about "rights" without considering "obligations" and statements like "people will take law into their own hands" smacks of thought preaching in the realms of "ideal socialism". Mudslinging is an acceptable occupation of cadres but it does entail legal proceedings against consent of my lot before one takes law onto oneself and

misrepresent facts to the detriment of our interest. The "strange" lady had personally and singly presided over the release from prison of a large number of refugees over a period of two years. This speaks volubly to her credit.

The denial of Civil Rights and Liberties are the reasons for finding ourselves displaced. "Citizen" Hussien Ali Al Zubeiry should advise callers that decent guests owe every bit of appreciation to their host's hospitality. Callers should likewise exercise their rights to repatriate or accept refugees in dignity, if callers or "citizen" Comrade Hussien should ever exist they must be the very enemies that orchestrated our exodus in the first place.

Refugee M. Mekonnen.

COLONIALISM REVISED

In the Yemen Times of October 17th (issue 41), Samira Bin Da'ir Essay "IS BENIGN COLONIALISM THE ANSWER?" Provided some food for thought. While it is true that most Third World leaders have become a source of worry for their people, it is ill logic to suggest that past colonial masters can alter the situation once they are invited back. Equally disturbing was the comparison made between ruthless local rulers and colonial masters: to prolong their grip over power, local despots repress people, and embezzle public funds. Colonial masters, in contrast, sow seeds of discord among communities that coexisted before, exploit the subject people and make unjust demarcation of borders, to mention some of their evil deeds.

Re-colonization is not the proper remedy for countries like Somalia or Rwanda where a primary breakdown of state apparatus has taken place, let alone for a dictator ruled country. Many African countries have laid territorial claims to rise so why are the Western think tours toying with the idea of redoing of colonial borders? Are they disinterring old bones? The argument that foreign peace keeper whatever garb or label they wear do prepare a troubled country for self-government is no longer valid. Ali A. Mazrui, a topflight African thinker / writer whose writings are recommended university reading throughout the West, hardly posed the perennial question "Have Third World people given up the hope of seeing wise leaders?"

Liban Abdikarim, Somali Refugees Primary School.

Jordanian Social Club Hosts Art Exhibition

Jordanian Ambassador in Yemen, Dr. Fayeze Rabea, did the honors by cutting the ribbon. The three-day (1-3/12/1994) exhibition of Yemeni and Arab artists was entitled "Modern Yemeni Art and Painting Exhibition". The following artists exhibited their works:

- 1- Mazhaar Nezar
- 2- Abdul-Rahman Al Saqqaf
- 3- Ruaa Al Bazrkan
- 4- Bushra Al Mutwakkel
- 5- Adnan Guma'an
- 6- Fuad Al Futaih
- 7- Amin Nasher
- 8- Yasin Ghaleb
- 9- Talal Al Najjar

Many ambassadors including those representing the USA, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Indonesia and the Deputy Chief of Mission of Egypt attended the inauguration session. The Yemeni government was represented by Mutahhar Taqi, Deputy Minister of Information.

Dr. Fayeze Rabea had a lot of kind words to say about Consolidated Contractors (International) Company (CCC) which helped make the exhibition possible. CCC was represented by Eng. Hani Shehadeh, Manager of Projects in Yemen.

Many other local and international companies were represented.

The exhibition is the fruit of collaboration between the Jordanian Social Club and Association of Yemeni Artists. Some thirty five pieces of artwork such as color paintings, shade paintings, drawings, engravings and other pieces were exhibited.

By: Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi,
Yemen Times.



INTERNATIONAL PEN FRIENDS



Pen Friends Corner

By: Rahila Ba-Aflawy

HUMANITY

Two thirds of the world's population are said to suffer from hunger and face the specter of starvation.

Malnutrition and starvation are probably the cruelest problems humanity has ever faced. It is everybody's duty to fight them.

It is unfortunate to see, in the age of the atom and the computer, that, while some people live in rather insulting opulence, other human beings starve.

What use is great scientific progress to an inhumane world. Imagine what may be achieved if the money spent on nuclear weapons were spent on increasing the world's food supply on reducing the pressure of over population.

Imagine too how noble it would be if the Governments of the great states to favor disarmament negotiation and no more consider that it is better to spend money on destroying your enemy that on keeping your own people alive.

Imagine finally what extremely good relief to the whole world it would be to

reach an agreement banning all sorts of nuclear weapons altogether!

The future of the whole world rests on man's shoulders. Only very wise heads on very brave shoulders could turn the ghastly threat into a future of hope.

This world is our home, the general good of human kind and the good of all. Really, I love this world. I figure with my pen, with my art and with my heart to establish social, economic, political, justice in the world.

I am peaceful and a peace making individual both in daily life and contacts with others. I am sure that all people in the world don't want brutality and crime and don't need machine guns. In this world we need bread, peace and love. I wish that we live harmony by studying and respecting the view point of others from anywhere in the world.

This is dedicated to the "International Pen Friends" and all the people in the world.

For more information write to: Ms. Rahila, P. O. Box 481, Sanaa, Yemen.



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الإقلاع من عدن الساعة (٩:٤٥) مساءً، الوصول إلى نيروبي الساعة (١٢:٤٥) بعد نصف الليل
الإقلاع من نيروبي الساعة (١:٤٥) بعد نصف الليل، الوصول إلى صنعاء الساعة (٤:٣٠) فجراً (الأحد)

الإقلاع من صنعاء الساعة (٥:٠٠) فجراً، الوصول إلى عدن الساعة (٦:٠٠) صباح يوم الأحد

كل يوم إثنين:

الخط: عدن - صنعاء - نيروبي - عدن

الإقلاع من عدن الساعة (٦:٠٠) صباحاً، الوصول إلى صنعاء الساعة (٦:٤٥) صباحاً

الإقلاع من صنعاء الساعة (٧:٣٠)، الوصول إلى نيروبي الساعة (١٠:١٥) صباحاً

الإقلاع من نيروبي الساعة (١١:١٥) قبل الظهر، الوصول إلى عدن الساعة (٢:١٥) بعد الظهر

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BORN TO THE TUNE: Music and Us

Adopted and abridged from *The World and I*, by: Fatmah Rawah, Social Editor, Yemen Times.

We are musical creatures from the tips of our toes to the tops of our heads. Our genes emanate lively rhythms, our muscles constantly produce inaudible sounds, and our brains operate to musical beats. Sounds, seemingly unheard vibrations, and music bombard the fetus in the womb, just as they do us throughout our lives until we die. Certain sounds are capable of adding richness or dullness to our spirits and, perhaps, years to our lives. Professional musicians are believed to be among the longest living individuals. The pianist Mieczyslaw Horszowski, though in his nineties, still tours the world. Opera singers, too, join, ranks with the hearty, possibly because of well-developed heart and lung muscles.

Playing a musical instrument, not just listening to music, enhances a person's skill to deal with mental abstract pattern relationships, germane to mathematical and scientific ability. The ancient Greeks were among the first to recognize the intellectual influence of music and included it in education. They also noted that all motion produces sound. The use of music, melodies, and rhythms in their healing practices was common. The Greeks so esteemed music that the invention of instruments such as the lyre, qithara, and the pipes are attributed to their gods Hermes, Appolo, and Pan.

Given music's long history, plus recent findings on how music affects us intellectually, physically, and aesthetically, scientists are rediscovering the melody of life.

How music affects the brain

When you hear certain music and like it, it is because music excites certain existing structures in the

brain," says physics professor Gordon Shaw at the University of California, Irvine's Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory. We are born with inherent natural patterns of excitation of the brain's neurons, like an internal language of the brain neurons, like an internal language of the brain. These patterns can be translated electronically to music and to certain instruments and pitches.

"Even before we learn how to speak, we can learn some kinds of music. For example, infants enjoy hearing music. Kids appreciate music, because it excites these inherent brain patterns. Early music education may help kids develop higher cognitive processes, especially if they perform," says Shaw.

"Music at any age may be education for the brain. We think music can help in math and science studies. For example, we recognize a face in a fraction of a second. It is very skillful and complicated. Yet, when doing a math problem or deep thought, it is resolved without any sensory input like the face," says Shaw. "It involves abstract patterns in the brain. In music education, you are taking little kids and if they are playing music, you are involving the whole brain with these complex patterns. Since music might link these patterns, it is possible that the brain is enhanced by the music's 'talk'."

To study a model of the human cortex (the part of the brain associated with thinking, creativity, and memory), Shaw studied groups of neurons rather than single neurons. Called a "trion model," it involves a section of neurons each carrying three levels of firing activity -small, medium, and large. Shaw produced melodies of brain activity by giving musical pitches to the trions, specific notes to the three levels of firing activity, and interfacing it with a computer model



The Greek God "Pan".

of human memory and an electronic synthesizer. The resulting compositions were similar to various types of music created by humans. They showed a consistency with the idea that certain universal patterns of brain activity account for the ability to appreciate music. It also shows that music can be used as a "window into understanding higher brain function," according to Shaw.

Frank Wilson, M.D., associate clinical professor of neurology at the University of California, San Francisco, says that humans are biologically endowed with the ability to create and respond to music. "Music arises spontaneously from a brain whose operations are inherently rhythmic, harmonic, patterned, and sequential. Perhaps this is why it is both a stimulus and a powerful organizer of movement, thought, language, emotion, personal action, and social interaction, and why it retains this power throughout life."

Patients with Parkinson's disease, which affects the basal ganglia of the brain, can be made to function with the help of music, according to Oliver Sacks, M.D., a New York neurologist portrayed by Robin Williams in the movie

Awakenings. He says, "music can substitute for the basal ganglionic function in parkinsonism under certain conditions; it must move the patient emotionally, and this requires the type of music that appeals to each individual."

Yet there is a case for certain classical music having universal appeal. Arthur Schawlow, Stanford University physics professor and Nobel Prize winner for his work with lasers, believes that certain classical compositions that have remained popular through the ages touch with the workings of the brain's natural musical rhythm. "We are comfortable with this music because it is in sync with the brain," he says.

How rhythm affects us

Rhythmic patterns affect not only our brains, but our entire bodies, and the universe in which we live. The poet Wallace Stevens wrote, "Oh, blessed rage for order." Humans, like their universe, constantly call out for this order to their lives in the form of rhythms. Our bodies, from the heartbeat to the blink of an eye, beat rhythmically, so we draw pleasure from a physical world that also has rhythm. Humans respond and reflect to the rhythm of rain, the slap of waves on a seashore, the bounce of a ball.

"Everything that exists in time has a rhythm and a pattern. Our bodies are multi dimensional rhythm machines with everything pulsing in synchrony, from the digesting activity of our intestines to the firing of neurons in the brain. Within the body the main beat is laid down by the cardiovascular system, the heart and the lungs," says the Grateful Dead's drummer Mickey Hart. "The heart beats between sixty and eighty times per minute and the lungs fill and empty at about a quarter of that speed, all of which occurs at an unconscious level."

Hart, author of *Drumming at the Edge of Magic*, also says, "What is true for our own bodies is true almost everywhere we look. We are embedded within a rhythmical universe. Everywhere we see rhythm, patterns moving through time. It is there in the cycles of the seasons, in the migration of the birds and animals, in the fruiting and withering of plants, and in the birth, maturation, and death of ourselves. Rhythm is at the very center of our lives."

Hart traces the importance of music to the very development of the human species beginning with tool making. Making the tools that advanced our species involved scraping, striking, rubbing, and shaking in rhythm. This led to pre-historical groups gathering to sing songs, tell stories, and to dance all in rhythm. This, in turn, produced the communal sharing that created the first communities.

The emotions of music

Since music seems to affect our very existence, it must then also tap our emotions. "Music has an effect upon all of our emotions," says Chase, M.D., of San Clemente, California. "Music is a universal force; there is no place on this earth, no matter how prim-

itive, where some sort of musical expression is not used. Chase, who shares his violin talents at senior centers, says, "I am sometimes moved to tears, and sometimes my soul just soars way out into space there with the beauty and movement and thrill of music."

Theodore Bikel, musician, actor, and president of the Associated Actors and Artists of America, added to Chase's comments by saying, "I cannot attest to the healing power of music the way doctors, scientists, or therapists can. I can only claim what years of experience have demonstrated to me many times over; that music not only lifts the spirit but heals the soul. I have even seen it give a physical lift to persons whose ability to move was close to zero, leading to surprisingly successful attempts at foot-taping and even dancing."

Further, Alicia Ann Claire, a music therapist and research associate at Colmery O'Neil Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Topeka, Kansas and a University of Kansas professor, says that the physiological responses to music may also be integral to emotional responses to music. "But, whatever the reason, music influences moods and emotions, and there is a large body of literature which supports this fact. A particular emotion can be triggered by certain music for a certain individual and these emotional reactions to specific music seems relative consistent for the individual."

How the body tunes in to music

Although our bodies respond to the sounds of music even if we don't "hear" it, several measurable episodes take place when sounds become audible. The sound of music affect our senses through a "sonic range" of hearing that comprises waves (or frequencies) from about sixteen thousand to twenty thousand cycles per second. Women are better at hearing in the higher cycles than men, and as we age, the higher cycles become less audible. We also feel, but don't hear, sounds of subsonic frequencies, such as the sound from dog whistles that are inaudible to humans. Though we don't hear sounds of subsonic frequencies, our bodies vibrate to their rhythms, sometimes to our detriment. Air flights might be tiring because of unheard, but felt, vibrations.

While listening to music, the body not only deals with existing vibrational sounds, but with intensity (loud or soft music); intervals between notes resulting in harmony; and tone color (timbre), which is the quality given to a sound by its overtones. It is tone color that helps us distinguish one voice or musical instrument from another. These sound vibrations, whether heard, sensed, or felt, appear to affect an individual's health.

A person's pain threshold may be raised when they listen to music, according to Mathew Lee, M.D., adjunct professor, Department of Music and Music Professions, New York University. It distracts people's attention from the pain

that attends repetitive therapeutic movements. Some medical professionals believe that people afflicted with certain types of pain, such as migraine headaches, obtain relief by listening to pleasurable music because music releases endorphins - those feel-good chemicals secreted in the brain that have a pain-relieving effect like morphine. Clinical studies have yet to show this connection, according to Seymour Diamond, director of the National Headache Foundation in Chicago. "Presumptively it might have two effects. It has a relaxation effect, and that might help with tension-type headaches, and provocative music might send up the endorphins. There are some studies, but they haven't yet been confirmed," says Diamond. Norman Shealy, M.D., of the Shealy Institute for Comprehensive Health Care in Springfield, Missouri points out that dentists have used music for years to relax their patients, that some farmers provide music to cows to get more milk, and that "unequivocally, 80 to 90% of people are assisted to deep relaxation by music when applied physically as well as audibly."

Music therapy got its first shot in the arm in Veterans Administration hospitals during World War II when it was used in rehabilitation programs for returning vets. One need not be in a hospital setting to enjoy the benefits of music. Ida Goldean, ninety, says, "Music is better than medicines. I know that for a fact. Before I had surgery, they told me I would never walk again. I had terrible pain in my leg and back. I couldn't even close my hand. But when I sat and listened to music, I forgot all about the pain. When I listen to music - any kind of music - and I don't even think of anything else. My whole mind is only on the music. My toes just start tapping every time I hear music even in restaurant."

Why we like certain music

Humans establish music preferences during various meaningful or transitional phases of their lives. These preferences often last a lifetime. "Our brains may have certain commonalities with certain music, although our taste in music is often what we have learned to like," says Shaw. "Our linking for certain types of music is often imprinted on the mind in the early teens, and that becomes the music we are comfortable with the rest of our lives. Of course, we can train ourselves to appreciate other music," says Schawlow who claims jazz as his favorite. He developed his love of jazz in the 1930s when he built a radio and started listening to swing music. He then went to the library and tried to read more about it, but could find nothing. Finally, however, he found some books on jazz and bought some records to learn more about it, and the interest stayed with him a lifetime.

Clearly, music, whether song, instrumental, the sounds of a bustling city, the clap of thunder, the cant of a mantra, or the rhythm of a drum, presents a drama that is far more than simple entertainment to our ears. Noted violinist and virtuoso Pinchas Zukerman, in testimony to the Senate hearings on music, summed up this drama by saying, "In my experience, most music becomes a bonding force to unite emotional healing. It helps provide a way to celebrate, to grieve, to participate in the fundamental thoughts and feelings that make us human. It provides a connection throughout history."

Humans, thus, are ubiquitously musical. Yet they can mark to the beat of their own drums, bearing in mind that a basic synchronism exists that connects us to the underlying rhythm of the universe, and, hence, to all life.

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Urban Development as Focal Point of Yemeni-German Cooperation

On Saturday, December 3rd, a meeting was held between German Ambassador Dr. Helga von Strachwitz and Minister of Construction, Housing, and Urban Planning, Mr. Ali Hameed Sharaf. The occasion was the handing over of digitized orthophotomaps of Sanaa City. These maps, taken by aerial photoshoots, can be used on computers for various planning applications.

The meeting was attended by Vice Minister Mohammed Al-Tayib, Acting Deputy Minister of Urban Planning Ahmed Al-Abidi, General Manager of Physical Planning Mohammed Abdo Homadi, and General Manager for Environment Abdul-Rahman Al-Moassib, on the Yemeni government side. On the side of the Yemeni German Technical Cooperation/Planning Assistance for Urban Development Project Co-Director Ahmed Ghaleb Al-Harazi, and Teamleader Guido Ast.

The project had started early in the eighties when cooperation was handled through the German Development Service (DED). The project's main purpose is to train Yemeni staff in various skills such as drawing techniques, surveying, social and economic studies, and planning methodology for the preparation of land-use and street plans for small and medium size towns - the so-called secondary cities.

Most German experts and volunteers worked in the Ministry's headquarters in Sanaa, while others worked in the provincial capitals such as Sa'adah, Hajjah, Al-Mahweet, and recently, Aden.

In 1985, the DED cooperation was reinforced by long and



short-term experts of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The project's objectives were enlarged to include assistance for the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework of urban development. They also include urban development policy, urban development planning, the implementation of pilot urban improvement measures and training of local staff.

Master plans for the major cities were drawn up, and the secondary cities were given the necessary emphasis.

Training included several study tours abroad, including to Germany, England, the Netherlands, Egypt, Jordan, the UAE and Nepal. Several local courses were also given - in collaboration with the College of Engi-

neering at Sanaa University. Finally, there has been extensive and continuous on the job training.

Assistance to the Ministry's branch offices was extended in the form of advisory services at the planning and implementation levels. Office equipment and survey instruments were provided to the Hodeidah, Bajil, Zabid, Bait al-Faqeeh, Hajjah, Marib, Lahej, Al-Mahweet, Aden, and Zinjibar.

The maps handed over last Saturday also included a Sanaa Urban Ecology study, which focussed on environmental problems of the capital city. Additional studies and maps on Al-Mahweet, Amran, and Thula were also handed over to the minister.

All these maps and studies serve as the necessary foundation for a

proper policy and implementation of urban development. Previous efforts of the urban development assistance program also covered the area of solid waste management. Two pilot schemes for Abs and Harceb were developed.

German assistance to Yemen in this field will witness a major shift in emphasis in the future. In 1995, for example, will focus on improvements in solid waste management through the country. The project will complement other on-going projects - whether through national, bilateral and/or multilateral efforts.

The german-speaking minister used the occasion to thank the German people and government for their cooperation.

Ismail Al-Ghabry,
Yemen Times.

Some Advice to Improve Your Life

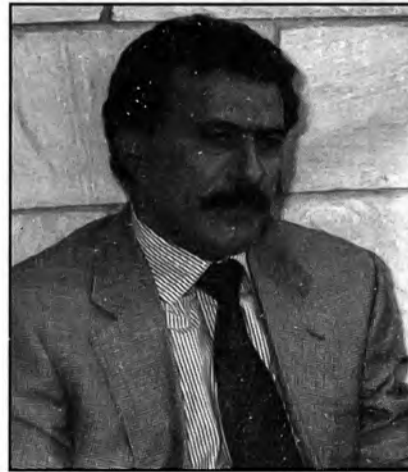
Here are some pieces of advice, which I found very useful. I thought I would like to share with the Yemen Times readers, just in case...

1. Trust in God, but lock up your car.
2. Never laugh at anyone's dreams.
3. Believe in love at first sight.
4. Remember that no time spent with your children is ever wasted.
5. Accept a breath mint if someone offers you one.
6. Rehearse a joke before telling it.
7. Don't let a little dispute affect a great friendship.
8. Send your mother-in-law flowers on your spouse's birthday.
9. Never be the first to break a family tradition.
10. Ask anyone giving directions to repeat them at least twice.
11. Hold your child's hand on every chance you get. The time will come when he/she won't let you.
12. Never be photographed chewing qat, smoking or holding a cocktail glass.
13. Some will always be looking at you as an example of how to behave. Don't let him/her down.
14. Do your homework and know your facts, but remember it is passion that persuades.
15. Don't be so concerned with your rights that you forget your manners.
16. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and say, "Why do you want to know?"
17. Don't dismiss a good idea simply because you don't like the source.
18. When you say, "I am sorry," look the person in the eye.
19. Never say something noncomplimentary about your wife or children in front of others.
20. No matter how old you are, hug and kiss your mother whenever you greet her.
21. Pray. There is immeasurable power in it.
22. Brush your teeth before washing your face, drinking coffee, or putting on your tie.
23. Never ask a barber if you need a haircut.
24. Remember that everyone is influenced by kindness.

Selected and adopted by:
Abdulkadir M. Saleh,
from: "Life's Little Instruction Book", Vol. II
by H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

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Channelling Foreign Aid through Local NGOs

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Professor of Economics, Sanaa University.

The most pressing problem in interacting with the Yemeni government today is the visible vacuum in decision-making. Most of the bureaucrats are uninterested in interacting with anything unless they have a personal stake in it. That is why, donor agencies are even unable to dispose of their assistance. There are many examples that indicate that nobody can or will take decisions.

This problem is one of the key issues which the new government needs to address. Unless something is done to streamline the bureaucracy, very little can be done irrespective of the resources available to the state. Basically, there is a high level of carelessness among government bureaucrats. Thus, it becomes necessary to provide "incentives" to make the government officials interested in this or that paperwork. It has become so common practice to pay bribes that even foreigners are now doing it. As a result, many donor countries and organizations are increasingly more inclined to deal with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). There is far less bureaucracy, and very little money goes a long way in providing effective help. Yemeni NGOs have grown in number and their number is estimated at 900. They fall into several categories. According to

the documents of the Ministry of Pensions and Social Affairs, where NGOs are registered, most can be lumped into one of the following three groups:

A: Charity NGOs:
There are some three hundred Charity Organizations registered with the ministry. These NGOs are active in various fields related to helping the less lucky members of society. Thus the main purposes of the Charity NGOs is to reduce the economic and social gap among members of society and to reduce the class stratification. Membership in these NGOs is open to everybody, but especially to those who can make contributions.

B: Welfare Associations:
Welfare associations are probably the least bureaucratized organizations in Yemen. They are involved in societal development efforts. In many ways, the welfare associations are the direct heirs of the cooperative organizations that had achieved so much in Yemen's countryside. The main purpose of these associations is to speed up the development of the rural areas. Membership in these NGOs is limited to people who live within a certain geographic area which is the region of work of the NGO.

C: Unions and Syndicates:
The third form of NGOs is the group that includes labor unions, associations based on professions, and other syndicates. Sometimes, unions are formed by lumping together all employees of a certain organization, which becomes the base for the union.

The main purpose of these NGOs is to protect the rights and privileges of the members of the profession. Membership in these NGOs is limited to those persons who belong to the same guild, profession, skill, etc.

The NGOs have been active in the recent past, and their contribution to development and society's welfare has been effective in spite of their limited and meager.

It has been a wise move by the UN agencies, world donor countries and organizations to shift a small part of their aid programs from the government to these NGOs. In countries where the governments are either too corrupt or inefficient, channelling some resources directly to the public is an important policy decision which will enhance the possibility of success in the development process.

Taiz in an Upbeat Mood with New Governor

Abdul-Kader Mughalles, Taiz Bureau Chief, Yemen Times.

The mood here in Taiz is visibly upbeat. The people are quite happy with the departure of Colonel Mohammed Al-Iryani, whom they blame for the problems which the governorate is going through.

The new governor, Abdul-Rahman Mohammed Ali Othman, is a well-known personality who comes from a respected Taiz family. That is why the people openly say, "At least, he is one of us."

The tasks facing him are enormous. That is why he is asking for a broader mandate from the president "in order to introduce real changes".

The water supply situation, traffic congestion, educational problems, debilitated health facilities, and the oppressive behavior of the security forces are among the key issues that he will need to address in the immediate future. The feeling is that the new governor will be able to address those issues if he gets enough cooperation from Sanaa and the local power blocs.

Already, many circles in Taiz have expressed their readiness in cooperating with the governor. But much will depend on his ability to pool such readiness and transform it into a practical tool.



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