

Kathamann

May, 2009

Mon posta Aghanistan deq shadom
As ateriky mon zendagi kadom onja
baraye do salas, tagriban chel sal pesh.
Mon besyar jawan bodom; bist salas.
Bismillah Rahmani Rahim.

Salamalakum, chaturisti, hubisti,
jonnie juris, bahassti, honeton hubus?
Mon kar kadom duftari Peace Corps
de Shari Naw.

Mon senfi Farsi yad gerefton
de Kalofatalahan.

Beser tuklif kay Farsi yad gerefton.
Laken in ali, beser Farsi yadom raft.
Inshallah.

Mon posta Baba, Bibijon, Asyajon, Quasem,
Nasrine, Faima, and Faiqua deq shadom;
familiy Afghani de Karteh Seh mon zendigi kadom.
Mon tushocks bish kadom. Desta ras baraye nan.

Desta chap baraye tashnab.

Bibijon pokhta bulani ba gandana wa
catalou. Maza dot.

Alhamdulillah.

Mon posta Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif,
Charikar, Pulikumri, Gardez, Khanabad,
Baghlan, Herat, Maimana, Khost deq shadom.

Hup should kay shumara dedon.

Hup joy boot.

Farq na makona. Par wa nace.

Mon posta Afghanistan deq shadom.

Santa Fe

*I am sad about Afghanistan
because I lived there for two years
about forty years ago.*

*I was very young; twenty years old.
In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate,
the Merciful.*

*Peace be to you. How are you? How is your body?
How is your home? I worked at the Peace Corps office
in the new city. I studied Farsi in Kalofatalahan.
It was difficult to learn Farsi. But now, much Farsi
is forgotten. If God wills it.*

*I am sad about Baba, Bibijon, Asiajon, Quasem,
Nasrine, Faima, Faiqua; an Afghan family I lived
with. I sat on mattresses. One eats with the right
hand. The left hand is for the bathroom. Bibijon
cooked bulani with leeks and potatoes. It gave good taste.
Thanks be to God.*

*I am sad about Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif,
Charikar, Pulikhumri, Gardez, Khanabad,
Baghlan, Herat, Maimana, Khost.*

I'm glad I saw you. These were good places.

A national slogan:

It makes no difference.

It makes no difference.

I am sad about Afghanistan.

*When a thing is lost, the Afghans say: da jebbie mas
It's in my pocket.*

*When something or someone departs, the Afghans
say joyish sabz, may its place be green
I am sad for Afghanistan, but Afghanistan is in my pocket.
May it become a green place.*

*Tashakor
Thank you.
Kathamann*



Band-e-Amir