

THE KITE RUNNER

IMPORTANT WORDS AND PHRASES

AGHA: great nobleman, commander, signifies respect

AHMAQ: Foolish, stupid, awkward; a greater or the greatest fool

AL HAMDULLELLAH: thanks to God

AWROUSSI: wedding ceremony

BABALU: boogeyman

BAKSHESH: forgiveness

BOBORESH: word meaning "cut him!"

BURQA: women's outer garment that covers them from head to toe, including the face.

BABA: father, often used as a proper name or as a familiar form of address

BACHEM: "my child"

BALAY: yes

BAS: no more, enough

BIA: to take along, conduct

BISMILLAH: in the name of God

BIWA: widow

CHARKA GIR: person in charge of the holding the wooden kite spool in Kite Flying tournaments

CHILAS: wedding rings

CHAI: tea

DIL: heart, mind, soul

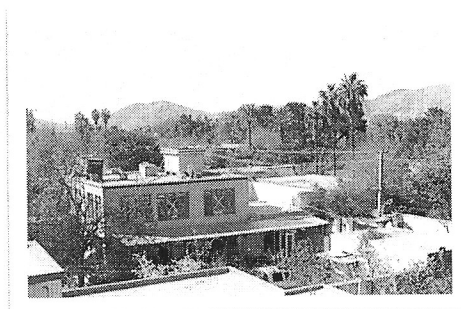
DOSTET DARUM: "I love you"

GHAZAL: love song or poem

GUDIPARAN BAZ: person who controls the movement of the kite in the air in Kite Flying tournaments

GUDIPARAN BAZI: kite-running

ISLAM: the third monotheistic religion, is the name of the religion; *Muslim* refers to its followers. The literal translation of the word "Islam" is "peace." The Mosque is their place of worship. Although the religious leaders of



Islam do not have divine characteristics and people and objects are not "holy," Islam believes that there have been five major prophets: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad who refined and restated God's message.

A trader from Mecca named Mohammed, who lived around 570-632, was visited by the angel Gabriel who relayed the God's message to him for over a period of 23 years. Because Muhammad was illiterate, his followers memorized the teachings and wrote them down to create Islam's dominant scripture, the Qur'an.

HADIA: gift

JAI-NAMAZ: prayer rug

JAN: a word of endearment

KALASHNIKOV: a type of Russian rifle or machine gun

KAMYAB: unique, rare

KASSEEF: filthy

KHAN: used like "mister" when placed after the name of a person

KHANUM: lady; Mrs.

KHASTA: wounded; sick

KHASTEGARS: suitors

KHODA HAFEZ: "good-bye"

KHOSHTEEP: handsome

KOMAK: help

LAAF: boasting; self-praise; one who exaggerates

LAFZ: tone of voice

LOTFAN: "please"

MAGHBOOL: beautiful

MARD: hero, brave, bold

MAREEZ: sick

MAST: drunk; intoxicated

MOALEM: teacher

MOHTARAM: respected

MOZAHAM: intruder

MOFTAKHIR: proud

MUJAHEDDEEN: someone who actively fights for Islam

MULLAH: Islamic clergy

MUSLIM DUTIES:

1. **Sullah:** pray five times a day (morning, noon, afternoon, sunset and evening). Using words and the whole body performs the ritual. Muslims raise their hands and say, "Allahu Akbar," which translates as "God is the greatest." As they recite verses from the Qu'ran, they then bend with hands on knees, kneel with hands on thighs and finally bow their heads to touch the floor. An Imam may sometimes lead the service.
2. **Hajj:** make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in their lifetime (if physically and financially able)
3. **Saum:** fast during the month of Ramadan
4. **Zakat:** give to the poor and sick. Muslims pay a specified amount of money (2.5 percent of one's income each year) to help the poor and the sick. The money does not go to the mosque or Islamic leaders.
5. **Jihad:** strive in the way of God

NAAN: round flatbread

NAH-KAM: doomed to wallow in failure

NAMOOS: pride, dignity

NANG: honor, reputation

NAZAR: looking at, beholding; seeing, gazing upon

NOOR: light

PANJPAR: card game

PARCHAMI: communist

PARI: fairy, angel

QAWALI: Sufi devotional music

QIYAMAT: the resurrection, last day (judgment day)

QU'RAM (KORAN): The Qu'ran is God's message for the proper way to live. It contains much of the basic information told in the Bible's Old Testament and in the Torah. However it updates and expands the Old and New Testaments by giving additional information.

Five basic beliefs:

- There is only one god, Allah; *Allah* is the Arabic word for "god." Allah is the same supreme, figure worshipped by Christians and Jews. Islam does not have an initiation ceremony into the religion; Muslims worship God directly.
- Muhammad was a prophet as well as the others before him: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus
- God's justice
- Belief in the Imams (Apostles) of God. This is a Shi'ite belief.
- There is a Day of Judgment

QUWAT: powers, forces

RAFIQS: comrade

ROUSSI: Russians

SAHIB: friend; courtesy title similar to "sir"

SARATAN: cancer

SALAAM: "hello"

SHAHBAS: "bravo!"

SPASSEBA: Russian for "thank you"

TALIBAN: Islamic fundamentalist political movement. Held power in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 by enforcing a strict interpretation of Sharia, or Islamic law.

TANDOOR: traditional oven for bread making

TANHAI: alone

TASHAKOR: "thank you"

TASHWEESH: nervousness

TASSALI: condolences

WAH WAH: "admirable"

WATAN: native country, home possessions

ZENDAGI MIGZARA: "life goes on"

THE KITE RUNNER

CHARACTER LIST

ALI (AH-lee): Hassan's father; servant to Baba and Amir

AMIR (AH-meer): main character and narrator of *The Kite Runner*

ASSEF (AH-sef): Pashtun boy who bullies Amir and Hassan, becomes a leader in the Taliban

BABA (baw-baw): Amir's father. He is described as "a force of nature" or "a bear of a man."

DR. FARUQI (fa-ROO-ka): Amir's doctor in Peshawar

GENERAL IQBAL TAHERI (IG-baw TAH-hair-REE): Soraya's father, a decorated general in Kabul who worked for the Ministry of Defense

GHOLAN (GO-lawn): taxicab driver in Peshawar

FARID (Fah-REED): taxicab driver

HASSAN (HA-sahn): Servant and friend to Amir. He is a Hazara, a minority group in Afghanistan

KAMAL (kuh-maul): boy who dies trying to escape in a fuel tank

KHALA JAMILA (ha-lah jah-MEE-la): Soraya's mother

MR. NGUYEN (winn): Grocery store owner who lives in the United States

OMAR FAISAL (O-mar FI-sal): immigration lawyer

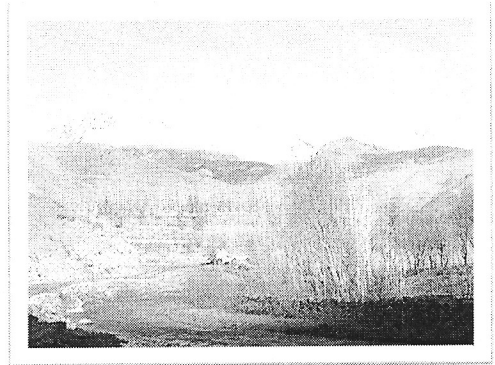
RAHIM KHAN (RAW-heem HON): Baba's friend and business partner. He is a mentor to Amir and offers him a way to "be good" again

SOHRAB (so-RAWB): son of Hassan

SORAYA TAHERI (so-raw-YAH TAH-hair-REE): Amir's wife

SANAUBAR (sah-NU-bar): Hassan's mother

ZAMAN (ZA-man): director of the orphanage



Author Khaled Hosseini

Khaled Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1965. He is the oldest of five children. His father worked for the Afghan foreign ministry and his mother was a teacher of Farsi and history at a large girls high school in Kabul.



In 1976, Khaled's family was relocated to Paris, France, where his father was assigned a diplomatic post in the Afghan embassy. The assignment would return the Hosseini family in 1980, but by then Afghanistan had already witnessed a bloody communist coup and the Soviet invasion. Khaled's family, instead, asked for and was granted political asylum in the U.S. He moved to San Jose, CA, with his family in 1980.

He attended Santa Clara University and graduated from UC San Diego School of Medicine. He has been in practice as an internist since 1996. He is married, has two children, a boy and a girl, Haris and Farah. *The Kite Runner* is his first novel.