



**MUNAWARDIN
LAKANWAL**

Love at First Sight

"In the blink of an eye, they fell deeply in love, only
to discover that their fates were incompatible,
tearing them apart."

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Introduction

In the bustling streets of Kabul, amidst the whispers of tradition and the weight of societal expectations, two souls collided in a moment of serendipity. Zainab, with her captivating eyes reflecting the colors of the Afghan sunset, met Janan, whose gentle smile mirrored the warmth of a summer breeze. Their connection was instant, undeniable, a love born in the depths of their beings.

But in a land where tradition dictates the course of lives, where love often surrenders to duty, their hearts became entangled in a web of cultural constraints. Their love, as fierce and pure as it was, could never defy the barriers that society erected around them.

And so, their story unfolded in the shadows, a tale of longing and heartache, where the echoes of their love lingered in the alleys long after they had parted ways. The result is shocking to such an extent which might cause rivers of tears from your eyes.

“

In the quiet whispers of the night, true love echoes its eternal promise, binding souls together in a dance of

”

unbreakable bonds.

Janan had returned very bored and tired from the city. Upon entering from the main gate of the home, he saw his mother sitting on a chair in the yard. Upon seeing his mother, he headed gracefully towards her and while reaching there, he greeted his mom with “Asa Salaam Alaykum”. His mother replied with “Walikum Salaam” in such a situation that she was sipping her tea.

She told her son, “Welcome my dear son, do you want me to fill up a cup of tea for you as well?”

Janan replied, “No my dear mom, I don’t want to drink tea.”

Upon seeing Janan, her younger sister **Nazaka** was in hurry running towards Janan. At the very moment, Janan said, “I am a little bit hungry. My cute little sister will cook a few eggs for me.” His mother said, “She is very angry at you because when you were leaving for the city, you didn’t ask her if she needed anything from the bazaar.” Janan realized that he has committed a blunder. So, he flatteringly started complimenting Nazaka saying, “She is my cute little sister, she is my beautiful rose.”

While seeing her brother in such complimentary words, Nazaka got a little bit arrogant saying, “No Lalo (a Pashto polite, humorous word for elder people especially brother), I will not accept your sorry or excuse this way, you only compliment me and cosset me when you either have a chore after me that I have to do it for you, or when you need something else; in other cases, you don’t even care about me. I am deeply disappointed in you.”

Janan lovingly took her sister’s hands and sat her beside him and told her, “My beautiful little cutie, I am under your command. Tell me whatever you want, and I will definitely do it for you.” Nazaka got a little bit sad in facial expressions and told her brother, “ I thought that before you go to city, you would ask me if I needed anything, I wanted a new scarf for **Mado** (a male name) Lala’s wedding. Now, what am I suppose to wear there?” Mado whose original name was Madodin was Janan’s cousin, people commonly use the name Mado for him instead of the full name Madodin. He was also Janan’s best friend. Janan with great love told Nazaka, “Oh! my cute sister, I will buy a lot of scarves for you my dear.” Then Janan turned towards his parent and told her, “Dear mom, I was coming from the city on my way that I meet Mado, and he respectfully gave me this wedding card. Furthermore, he told me that we must definitely attend his wedding.”

His mother said, “I cannot attend the wedding, but after the wedding, I will definitely go to his house for congratulating him and his family the wedding. You and

Nazaka will go, Inshallah.” At this very time, Janan put his hand into his pocket and took out the amount of money that was sent by his brother to him and his family from London and told his mom, “My dear mom, Jamal sent us this money and told me to tell you that you should not worry and he added that next time, he is going to send you a smart phone as well. He also said that he would talk with us for hours after sending the money.” Janan was still talking that Nazaka brought the cooked pan of eggs and placed them in front of Janan for eating. So, he started eating his lunch. While he was eating, his mother went into past by bringing Janan’s father Jahangir’s memory into this moment.

Jahangir was a brave man. Besides that, he was an elite pilot as well. Jahangir and his wife had an amazingly comfortable life and the three children had much more relived and revived their life. Jamal is their elder son, The next one is Janan and the last child is Nazaka. Nazaka was one year when her father passed away and that is why the family loved and cherished Nazaka much more so that she should not feel the lackage of the love and unavailability of her father. Jamal had deep passion and love for becoming a magnificent pilot like his father, but because of the family responsibilities and the responsibilities of younger brother and sister, he got compelled to leave this country with his cousins and go to a foreign country. Jamal was trying his best not to let his brother and sister experience the poverty and

problems that he experienced after his father's death. So, because of that, he went to a foreign country.

When Janan finished his lunch, he looked towards his parent and lovingly placed his head in the arms of his mother and exactly by doing that, he brought his mother back into this moment from the worst experiences of past.

Janan asked, "Mom, where are you lost?" She replied, "Nowhere my dear, I am here right beside you." While they were busy with each other, Nazaka came and told Janan, "Oh look at Janan, he is still sleeping in the arms of my mom despite being an adult man now." Janan laughed and said, "My dear naïve sister, when it comes to my mom, age doesn't matter, even if I become the oldest person, I will still be a child for my mom. Furthermore, I must tell my dear sister that the serenity and calmness that I get from my mom's arm can be gotten from nowhere cutie."

Nazaka said, "You are definitely right about that my dear brother." Then their mother lovingly laughed and hugged both of them.

On the next day, Janan and Nazaka headed towards Mado's home for the wedding. When they entered into the yard of his home, they saw everybody that they were engaged in doing different chores and activities. Upon seeing them, Mado's mother ran towards Janan and

Nazaka and upon reaching, she first kissed Nazaka on the forehead and then Janan. She told them, “Dear Janan, most welcome, believe it or not, I was feeling hollowness before your arrival here, it is exceptionally nice of you that you came. Dear Janan, nothing is enjoyable or pleasurable without you, now that you have come, your brother’s wedding is going to be enlightened much more.” Janan respectfully kissed her hand and said, “Don’t worry my dear aunt, I am here. Now that I have come, I am going to manage everything properly.”

At this moment, Mado saw them and headed towards them, while reaching, he hugged Janan and caressed Nazaka on her head and asked her, “How are you my dear sister? Inshallah, you are going to be dancing and singing in your brother’s wedding, right?” Nazaka replied, “Yeah, definitely my dear brother!” when they were talking with each other, Mado’s sister **Panra** also reached and gracefully hugged Nazaka. After warmly greeting each other, the girls together headed towards the room.

Mado was the only son of her mother. So, she wanted to fulfill all her desires and make the wedding as perfect as possible.

In a short span of time, the home was thoroughly packed with people and all the relatives had arrived. It was Hina night, the girls were laughingly and actively with sheer zest dancing and singing.

Nazaka and Gul Panra were busy in doing both, sometimes, doing the chores and, sometimes, pleurably singing and dancing. It was about to be dinner time that the sky was brightly shining with the dazzlingly nice moon and staggeringly riveting stars. The sky was felt as if it was also limitlessly happy in this moment of Mado's wedding. Besides that, the touchy and mind-blowing breeze of the spring had much more made the moments relishable in this nighty time of the wedding.

At this time, Mado called Janan, "Go and count the female guests and come back with exact number of them." Janan quickly ran towards home and asked Mado's mother, "According to your opinion, how many female guests have come? We want to prepare the dinner for them." She told him, "My dear son, you are not someone stranger, go enter the home, there are Nazaka and Gul Panra, ask them. They will guide you." She humorously took his ear in her hands and told him, "But my son, don't be naughty with the girls," by saying these words, Janan felt somewhat careful. He smirkingly smiled and told his aunt, "Oh my dear aunt, it is good that you told me otherwise, I would have done something naughty hahaha!" when he reached the area of the hall where all the female guests were, he stopped, from the brink of the hall, he could see girls lively singing and dancing.

After a short moment, Janan saw someone from the brink of the hall coming towards him. He felt

uncontrolled not knowing where to go and what to do, that someone appeared right in front of his eyes. The girl wanted to shout out loud because of seeing him that before shouting, Janan put his hand on her lips. Because of the force of the hand that Janan placed on her lips, she went back and backed her back towards the wall. After a moment, Janan saw the most beautiful, gorgeous and dazzling angel of this world right in front of him with dazzling cute eyes, beauty overloaded on her from all angles. Her exceptional beauty made Janan totally fearless. He had forgotten everything. He was hastily in loss looking to her shimmering eyes. Janan felt his heart's beating becoming faster and faster. He also felt her frail and fragile lips' movement on his calf. After a while, he felt a little conscious. He heard Mado's voice who had come after him to ask the reason behind being very late. Mado without paying any attention to the happened situation, took Janan from his hands headed towards outside and told Janan, "Come on man, how can you get this late after a single task that was assigned to you!" Janan felt nothing but while going out, he heard a name "**Zainab**" who was called by someone. This was the name of this angel that made Janan totally lost in this moment. Janan heard this name and felt it the sweetest name he has ever heard.

“Like a gentle breeze on a summer day, true love caresses the spirit, filling every moment with warmth and serenity.”

He was still looking to Zainab. She was beautiful to such an extent that even the blind can totally feel it and would be lost in it after feeling it. She is like the most expensive pearl used in silk with the most delicacy and excellence having exceptional beauty and cuteness. Everyone desired to just see her beauty for a few moments more and feel lost in her beauty. She was like a dew on the most beautiful rose of this world.

The family served all the guests and finally, now it was time that the young boys, the adults were supposed to celebrate this wedding. They had prepared all the musical instruments for the party, but the drum was making exceptional melodious sounds making the environment and the moment as enjoyable as possible. The flute and rabab were mercilessly attention grabbing. I must also add that the young boys were smoothly dancing for the melodious music that was coming out from the beauty of those musical instruments. They were dancing with sleekly great elegance. Furthermore, the people were also totally ready to carry Hina into the family of the bride. The girls were brutally playing musical instruments and sometimes were romantically and smoothly dancing for the melody of the instruments.

There were seven exceptionally gorgeous girls who had red clothes in their hands with lit candles and were dancing in the lead positions of other women and girls who were going into the home of the bride with laughs, great enthusiasm and pleasure. All the girls and the women were drastically happy and were laughing out

loud because of the enjoyment of the present moment. They were highly elated for the reason that they were going to the bride's home for putting Hina on the hands of the bride.

Janan was with Mado, but he was secretly looking to the clan of the girls to find his gorgeous, beautiful and unmatched Zainab. Mado had also realized and felt to some extent the change that had taken place in Janan due to going home at the moment that he told him to do so. He was not as active and lively as he was before going into home. He was very silent and lost. He had lost the waves of smiles that were always available on his lips. On the other side, Zainab's situation was also not totally perfect or normal. She was also feeling herself somewhat lost.

“In the tapestry of life, true love is the golden thread that weaves through every joy, every sorrow, stitching hearts together in an unbreakable embrace.”

This night was short for some, very long for some, and limitlessly enjoyable for some. Some slept comfortably, some passed it sleepless, some were lost in it. Anyhow, it was just a night that passed by.

In the morning, it was the rooster's voice that woke all the people up. And after a couple of hours, the home was filled with girls singing, dancing and enjoying. And

outside, the boys were doing the same and at the same time working and preparing things for the guests.

But Janan and Zainab were still lost after that first meeting. They were still like barren deserts.

After serving the guests, they finally brought the bride into the groom's home in a decent car. According to the culture of Afghanistan, a bride doesn't eat in groom's home until the nikkah/wedlock is tied and they are announced husband and wife. So, all the family, the bride and the groom prepared for the nikkah. All the people were tired but it was a tiredness from something extremely pleasing and pleasurable. So, that is why no one was feeling tired or bored. It was just a sip of tea and a simple movement of dance that would totally end all the boredom and tiredness. The day was about to finish, the evening spread its wings and then the night did so.

The next night was supposed to be the night for the nikkah. Mado was impatiently waiting for the nikkah, but the girls were naughtily planning for the moment of Nikkah. It is a culture in some provinces of Afghanistan that the witnesses of the nikkah are usually teased by girls who are with the bride. Sometimes, the girls disperse flour on the witnesses, and sometimes they are annoyed through other ways. Furthermore, the bride is told by the girls that she should not accept the nikkah at the first time of asking, so the males who come and ask the bride usually come for more than two or three times to ask the acceptance and willingness of the bride and

during that time of coming, the witnesses are badly annoyed by the girls. So, at this wedding, the girls were planning the same teasing acts against the witnesses. The climax was that Mado's wait was about to approach to its end. But Janan's heart beats were increasing second after second because of it to be separated from his Zainab.

Janan said to himself quietly, "I never knew I could feel this complete until I met you."

At this moment, Mado's mother told Janan that he should be the witness, as a result, Janan got very anxious and confused, but he couldn't reject his aunt's proposal. So, he accepted the proposal.

Mado's mother kissed him on his forehead and told him, "My lovely and cute son is unique! My obedient son." Janan along with two other guys decided to go to the side of the bride and seek her acceptance.

When they entered into the room of the bride, they saw that a beautiful girl was standing in front of the bride holding a red scarf so that they couldn't see the bride. And other girls were standing around the bride like hunters waiting for the hunting of the witnesses. Although, Janan was very courageous and brave, but this time, he was new to this scenario so he was following the other two and was doing whatever they were doing. The other two guys along with Janan sat near the girl who was standing in front of the bride. While sitting, the girl who was standing in front of the bride unexpectedly

dropped her scarf's part on Janan's shoulder leaving a sweet perfume and smell on Janan and taking Janan away with the smell from this moment. He lost himself here once again.

“True love is a sanctuary, a refuge from life's storms, where two souls find solace in each other's arms, knowing they are home.”

This was Janan's second time that he got lost feeling hopeless in his life especially the love life.

When the bride was once asked, she didn't reply at all. So, the other girls told witnesses to go out please and come again, naughtily. While going out, Janan couldn't control his eyesight and looked back to see the girl who was standing in front of the bride, when he glanced towards her, he saw the same gorgeous and angelic Zainab. His disobedient look was totally unwilling to leave looking to Zainab until his friend took his hand and pulled him. While going out of the room, the girls started dropping water and flour on them which made them totally wet and somewhat floury.

The witnesses went for the third time to seek the acceptance of the bride. Upon reaching, Janan took the part of the same red scarf that Zainab was wearing

unwilling to leave it. He was lost in her and was totally unwilling to leave her here and go out. He wanted to hug her tightly, take her body and touch it tightly to his body.

"It's the silent vows whispered in the depths of the night, the unwavering support in times of need—true love is the unwritten poem of the heart, penned by destiny's hand."

He was lost here feeling that the bride is Zainab and he is the groom that the girls dropped water on him and came to life back. The girls laughed on him very loudly.

Janan whispered with himself, "In your arms, I've found my home."

Janan had totally explained his situation to Zainab that he is lost in her love in a single look of eyes. He told Zainab in his eyes, "With you, every day is a new adventure filled with love." And it was felt clearly that Zainab had also accepted his love making both of them real lovebirds.

The wedding was about to reach its end. Some were congratulating. Some were saying farewells to each other. Janan and Nazaka were also supposed to leave and go to their home.

While coming back from the wedding, Janan was trying to get information from Nazaka through various excuses about Zainab. According to the information of Nazaka, Zainab was the daughter of Gul Khan and were living in a village which was beside them. Nazaka also told Janan that they were living near our farmland. And I must also say that Nazaka had also fallen for Zainab considering her personality and ethics.

Because of asking all these questions, Nazaka mischievously nodded her head to Janan and told him, “So my dear brother, you have looked to girls as well!” Janan laughed and passed her words as if he has heard nothing important.

Their initial attraction blinded them to the red flags, leading to a disastrous relationship that left them both scarred.

Janan was sometimes going to the near village’s farmland that they had there where Zainab’s home was appeared from that land. He was symbolically working in his land there. Faiz uncle who was famous there for his artistic skill of flute was playing flute there and Janan was exceptionally enjoying it. Janan deeply loved to learn playing flute, but he couldn’t learn it because it was not his piece of cake. Faiz uncle was a very pious

and religious person who was in deep love with Islamic activities. Everyone in the village loved him very much because of his great sense of humor, respect and a very calm nature. But there was deep pain in his flute playing and people would come to hear his flute and would release all their depression, tension and sadness here.

Faiz uncle deeply liked Janan, but after listening to his love story which was deeply honest and truthful, he was deeply attached to Janan's personality. Sometimes, Faiz uncle was making fun of Janan telling him that, "Dear Janan, don't you love that piece of land very much! Whenever, I see you, you are in this farm." Then he would laugh at him. Then Janan would smile and tell him, "Dear uncle, I come here for you, and solely for your flute. Faiz uncle would usually play flute for Janan and he would romantically listen and relish it. Faiz uncle would always sing this Pashto song for Janan with his flute.

Biya hagma shaan wawaya

Mata janana wawaya (Pashto song lyrics)

Janan would laugh and then would tell Faiz uncle, "Come on uncle, why do you always sing this song!" then they would laugh together.

When Faiz uncle would play the flute very nicely, Janan would shut his eyes, and went into imagination imagining the love, hugs, kisses and existence of his Zainab in his arms. This would make him feel the most

joy and pleasure compared to nothing else. And when Faiz uncle would see him, he would start playing the flute as beautiful and melodious as possible so that he could feel it much more deeply.

Village girls usually come out of their homes for different excuses like going to a tomb, bringing water from a nearby river, or going to a garden, Zainab would also come out by making such excuses, and then Janan would see her. At that moment of seeing Zainab, Janan would feel an incomparable pleasure that he could feel nowhere and from nothing else. Zainab would romantically glare her eyes towards him and then they would love each other deeply romantically through their eyes. One day, Zainab unexpectedly saw Janan near the river, there they both shared their feelings with each other. Both confessed their unwavering and limitless love for each other. They had tied the knot of their love right at that area at that moment. Zainab told Janan, "Being with you is like living in a dream I never want to wake up from." In response Janan told her, "My heart dances to the rhythm of your love."

One day, Zainab, Niaza, Salgay and Lalma went to the river, there they enjoyed the moment, when they were leaving the area, Zainab was the last to leave. Right at that moment, someone called her, when she looked back, Janan was standing. Without saying a single word, Janan tightly hugged her. They were in each other's arms for

about five minutes. Then Janan kissed her from her forehead and told her, "In your eyes, I find my home, where love resides and dreams come alive." Zainab in response told Janan, "With each heartbeat, I whisper your name, for you are the rhythm of my soul."

and right at that moment, they promised each other that if they are marrying, they will only marry each other or will die.

They were in each other's lapses that the girls came and told Janan, "Dear Lala, it is enough for now. You will continue later what you were doing now. Janan lastly told her, "In your laughter, I hear the echoes of joy, a melody that fills my world with endless delight." And very proudly, in response, Zainab said, "With you, I've discovered the true essence of love, a bond that transcends space and time."

Then all the girls laughed and took Zainab from her hand and pulled her from the lap of Janan. Janan and Zainab were both lost in each other feeling nothing except each other's love for each other.

Janan had also confessed his love and attraction for Zainab in his home. He firstly told Nazaka. Then Nazaka told her mother and her elder brother Jamal as well. His brother loved Janan very much. He wanted to fulfill every desire of Janan, especially the marriage of Janan and all his other desires. He told Janan that he would come to home and Inshallah, he would definitely fulfill this desire of his with all his strength and endeavors.

Janan was also secretly impatient for his brother's coming, and sometimes, Nazaka was also annoying Janan telling him that they would bring his bride for him. His mother would laugh at Nazaka annoying Janan.

Sometimes, Janan would sit with himself and would repeat this line about his love with Zainab, "With you, every sunrise is a promise of a new beginning, and every sunset a celebration of our love."

Jamal talked with his family that he is going to come home next Thursday. By hearing the news of his coming, his family got much more anxious and impatient for his coming especially his mother. Janan and Nazaka were also extremely happy for his arrival. Although the days were short and less to wait, but they got very lengthy and were not passing easily because of their impatience. Janan had also shared the news of Jamal coming back with Faiz uncle because of which he was also very much merry.

The wait has come to its end. It was Thursday, and Jamal had arrived home. Because of seeing his son after a long time, the mother's eyes weren't ready to stop the river of tears that were flowing from her eyes. Janan and Nazaka were extremely happy. They felt this day of coming their brother like the day of Eid. Faiz uncle was also playing a

happy flute sharing the pleasing news of Jamal joining his family.

Jamal and Janan were the two eyes of their mother. She would see the world through them. As a result, she was immensely happy at that moment. She felt herself as the richest woman of this world. She would look to one and then to another to feel happy and enjoy the moments. She would consistently thank Allah for this moment and this life.

Janan would sometimes annoy her mother telling her, "I know mom, now your elder son has come, you don't want me, you even don't look properly to me." Then their mother would laugh. Nazaka was totally engaged in checking all the gifts that her brother had brought for her from USA.

Janan was extremely happy for his brother that he had come and repeated this sentence about his future life with Zainab, "My dear Zainab, your love is the warmth that fills my heart, melting away the coldest of fears and insecurities."

Jamal had only passed three days in home. But whenever, he was going out, Janan would ask him, "Where are you going Lala?" Nazaka would uproariously laugh at Janan and would tell him, "No Lala, he is not going anywhere." Then all the brothers and sister would laugh out loud for this act of Nazaka trying to mock Janan. Jamal really loved this moment that sometimes, because of fun and humor, he would say,

“So, I will leave.” Janan had also realized that his brother Jamal is trying to annoy him and is enjoying annoying him and because of that, he would usually try to be silent and avoid asking this question of “Where are you going Lala”?

Today Jamal after discussing with his parent headed towards Gul Khan uncle’s home. Nazaka shared this news with Janan as well.

After some moments, Janan, Nazaka and their mother were very worried and impatient for the coming of Jamal from Zainab’s home. When he came back and entered home through the front gate, he was somewhat sad and gloomy trying to hide his sadness so that the family members should not feel him, he told Nazaka to prepare a cup of tea for him and started whispering with his mother. At this moment, Janan was not at home.

When Janan came home, he wanted to know what they had told Jamal, but because of deep respect, shyness and dignity, he couldn’t ask anyone. But it was clear from his facial expressions that he was worried and anxious. After going to Gul Khan uncle’s home a couple of times, this time Jamal had determined that he will go once again and will discuss with him regarding Janan and Zainab.

Gul Khan uncle with deep respect got up from his place and first hugged Jamal and then kissed him on his forehead telling him, “Dear Jamal, I get both happy and

sad with your coming to my home. I get happy because I love you and when I see you, I feel happy. I get sad because you come with your proposal and return back empty handed which is somewhat disappointing.” Jamal replied, “I come here to you with deep sincere request of wanting Zainab for my brother. Now I will keep coming if you do not accept my proposal. So, now it is your choice whether you fill my coming with sadness or happiness. Please give me Zainab’s hand for my brother Janan. I promise that your daughter will not even experience a single drop of tear in her entire life.”

The thing was that Gul Khan uncle had rejected Jamal’s proposal from the very beginning telling him, “See dear Jamal, if you had come before, I would have said yes. But now it is not possible.”

Although Gul Khan uncle loved Jamal and Janan very much and would always appreciate their efforts. The main point was that Jamal didn’t know what the reason was behind Gul Khan uncle’s rejection and Gul Khan hadn’t clarified this reason to him as well because of which Jamal was coming again and again so that he could either know the reason behind the rejection or to get Gul Khan accept the proposal.

But this time, Gul Khan uncle told Jamal that his friend Fatih Khan had demanded his daughter for his son and he had said yes to him. So that is the reason that he cannot accept his proposal. The thing was that only Fatih Khan and Gul Khan had talked with each other regarding

this issue without letting their families and relatives know about it. Now, Fatih Khan had also shared this news to his family. So, Gul Khan told Jamal that he couldn't break his promise and maybe in the upcoming two weeks, Zainab's wedding might also take place.

Their love ignited instantly, but the flames burned out just as quickly, leaving behind only shattered dreams and regrets.

Gul Khan wanted to round off this issue as soon as possible. As a result, he wanted that Zainab should marry as soon as possible. Maybe he was doing that because he wanted to end this coming of Jamal again and again because it was annoying him. But Jamal was trying to convince Gul Khan to the point that verbal promises are not very important and that a girl's acceptance is much more important than just simply staying on a promise and forcing her to marry someone whom she doesn't really love. But when it comes to Pashtuns, the acceptance of a girl in marriage usually doesn't matter a lot.

Gul Khan's "Yes" had destroyed everything. He was determined to stay on his decision and promise regardless of Jamal pleading, Zainab's disagreement, and Janan's sadness and hollowness. Here, no one's words, pleads, tears and disappointment mattered except the cruel Gul Khan's verbal promise.

In the labyrinth of life, they were meant to find each other, but their paths diverged, leaving their love lost in the maze of what ifs and could have beens.

After Jamal's father's death, this was the second time that Jamal was feeling desperately hopeless and gleeful. He was trying to hide all these from Janan so that he should not be affected badly. But he wasn't able to hide it anymore because people were talking about the marriage of Zainab in the village.

Jamal painfully said, "Like echoes in an empty canyon, their love reverberated through the depths of their souls, but never found its way back to them."

Janan couldn't believe that he would lose the love of his life, the happiness of his life, the coolness of his eyes with such ease in such a short span of time. Sad situation, disappointed heart, and a wavering and unconvincing mind of his couldn't find any proper solution. He was trying his level best to connect with Zainab and ask about her situation.

"What seemed like destiny turned into a cruel twist of fate as their love at first sight turned into a painful lesson in heartache."

And it was also very difficult now because Gul Khan had somewhat felt the sensation of their love and was because of that very much in hurry to finish Zainab's marriage as soon as possible. Maybe Gul Khan had thought of something else.

Their love was a masterpiece painted on separate canvases, forever doomed to hang in solitude, never to intertwine.

When Mado heard about this incidence, he went to the side of Janan to ask about his situation. Mado was the second person after Faiz uncle on whom Janan could count and could share all his secrets and plans with him. Janan's eyes were filled with painful and deep tears and told Mado, "Come on, this shit should not happen to me. I cannot tolerate this. Believe me, I cannot see this happen in front of my eyes. I am guilty of nothing, so why should all this happen to me!"

Mado was silent because he had nothing to tell Janan that could convince and calm him. He felt that Janan was totally right. They were walking slowly on the edge of the farm. On the other side, Faiz uncle was romantically playing the flute. Janan sighed very painfully and said, "my deceitful luck, if you couldn't give her to me, why the hell did you make me fall in love with her!"

Their whirlwind romantic story of love crashed and burned when the reality of their lucks shattered the illusion of love at first sight.

Jamal also couldn't tolerate Janan's situation and his lost existence. Sometimes, he would think that he should forcefully take Zainab and bring her to Janan and

brighten his love life, but his mindset and conscience weren't allowing him to do so. On the other hand, Janan couldn't pass even a single second comfortably in the village. The village had become like a burning fire-producing oven for Janan. When he heard about the hina night of Zainab that her in-laws are coming to her home, he knew that he couldn't pass more time in the village that he should leave the village as soon as possible because he couldn't tolerate this situation.

He added, "Time mocked our devotion, as it mercilessly stole the moments we could have shared together."

He decided to leave the village because he didn't want to let his mom, brother and sister to suffer because of him. While leaving, Jamal saw him and called upon him, "Where are you going my dear?"

Janan who wanted to hide his tearful eyes from his brother told him, "I am not going anywhere dear brother. I will come back." Jamal also easily felt his state and didn't insist very much on leaving.

Janan silently whispered with himself saying, "Like two ships passing in the night, our souls yearned for connection, but the currents of fate drove us apart."

Janan went out of his home, but he didn't know where to go, his eyes were filled with painful tears of Zainab's loss and their incomplete love. Like a river, tears were dropping from his eyes. He was going out of the village that he suddenly heard Faiz uncle's flute's sensationally

romantic sound. As he heard the flute, unintentionally, he went towards the flute, upon reaching, he saw Faiz uncle sitting and playing the flute. It was not an accident, but rather, it was a planned action that Faiz uncle did because he wanted Janan to come out of the village, but still far away from the village, they could hear the drums drumming, the people celebrating the wedding. They could hear people firing bullets in the celebration of the wedding. These celebrations were signs of happiness for the people, but for Janan, they were signs of hopelessness, the end of their love life, the end of his happiness, the full stop of his life. It was like the death of his hopes and ambitions.

He narrated to himself, “Our hearts beat in harmony, yet the melody of our love was silenced by the cruel symphony of circumstance.”

Janan couldn't control himself anymore. He painfully started weeping, by the passing of minutes, he started crying with loud sounds, shouting to his Allah, seeking his death from Allah, asking him that why he did this to him. His eyes were like the most uncontrollable rivers flooding water on his face. His eyes got thoroughly watery and red because of a lot of tears and crying. He cried to such an extent that he got fainted there in Faiz uncle's arms. After a couple of minute, he got back to life and said the following lines, “My pain is your isolation, my pain is your non-existence, I have lost myself and I will never regain myself. I have lost my first love, my Zainab, my life!”

He added, “With every step closer, destiny seemed to push us further apart, leaving our love stranded in the void of what could have been.”

Faiz uncle was also weeping beside him with him. On the other hand, people had come for Zainab and were drumming, dancing and enjoying their moments.

Janan said to himself, “Our love story was written in the stars, but fate tore the pages apart before we could reach the final chapter.”

Faiz uncle turned his face to Janan and told him, “Dear son, life is not only about Zainab, there is your mother, your brother, your sister that you should live and be happy for them. There are a lot of other things in life beside Zainab. Zainab might be a single page of the book. You cannot through the entire book because of single page that is very disturbing and disappointing. You should not be very weak, come on.” He was telling all these things to Janan advising him, when he looked to Janan, he was looking to him in constant eyes without any blinks of the eyes. After a few seconds, Faiz uncle saw red blood on Janan’s white clothes flowing from his chest. When he touched Janan, Janan fell into the arms of Faiz uncle fully soaked in blood. Janan had been in bloods without any specific reason at the moment.

Faiz uncle was shocked, lost in words, didn’t know what to do. After a few seconds, he uncontrollably started shouting and crying. He put his eyes towards the sky and painfully started shouting and crying seeking justice and

expressing his deepest shock and disappointment. On the other hand, Jamal had come out of his home in search of Janan and he was also coming towards Faiz uncle and the killed and dead Janan. When Jamal heard the shocking shout of Faiz uncle, he hadn't yet noticed the accident, but his bodies hair stood and he got shaky and trembling. Upon seeing Janan dead, his eyes stood wide open in sheer shock and dropped to his knees! He was in that state for a long moment, then crawlingly came towards Janan and told him, "My Janan, my dear, my love, what did you do! Why did you leave us!" he cried very painfully for around ten minutes on his dead body. Then he and Faiz uncle together took Janan's dead body and went towards the main road, when they were about to reach the main road to take Janan to hospital if there is any hope, Mado glimpsed over Janan's bloody body in the arms of Jamal. He shouted and started crying as well.

But before doing or saying anything else, they directly placed Janan properly in the car and tried to take him to the hospital as soon as possible. When in the car, all of them were thinking that how can Janan do this, why did he do this, was he that much weak? What will they do if he died? On the other hand, this news had also approached the village and had been spread there as well. They had reached the hospital, Janan was in the emergency room. They were all walking in the hall of the hospital waiting for a positive answer from the doctors. On the other hand, there was only darkness, only darkness. There was nothing bright. It was about to

be morning, but there was no appearance of the sun. they had thought that from now on, there might be no brightness, there might be only darkness in their lives. The sun was also not interested to bring brightness or to shed light on this world and these cruel people. After hours of wait, doctors came out and answered all their questions by saying that he was shot in the chest by the bullet which was shot to the sky in the happiness of the wedding and because of that he lost his life. That cruel and barbarous bullet of Zainab's wedding took Janan's life. From now on, Janan's heart stopped beating and it will not be beating in the name and love of Zainab. From now on, There will be no one who will listen romantically to Faiz uncle's flute. from now on, there will be no one who will laugh out loud on Nazaka's jokes. From now on, There will be no one who will ask Jamal, "Where are you going my Lala?" From now on, there will be no one to tell Mado, Mado's mother and his mother that "I am here and totally obedient to do whatever you order". And the last sentence is that Faiz uncle was wrong that Zainab was not his life. She was his life and she took his life as well.

An emergency ambulance that was coming from the hospital towards the village was producing shocking and terrifying sounds and had a flickering light on it which was flickering with red and blue colors and was horrifyingly coming towards the village which was giving an indirect indication of a massive disaster and calamity. This ambulance wasn't only bringing the dead

body of Janan to village, but rather was also bringing the death of true love towards the village giving the villagers this message that they are not anymore allowed to fall in love with anyone, to truly love someone, that from now on, they are not allowed to openly talk about love, that they have lost the rights of true love. This was such a saddening occurrence that everyone could feel as if the ambulance was accompanied by huge crowds of angels sent from the sky by Allah to be with Janan's dead body.

Someone had told Gul Khan that Janan had passed away because of the bullets shot to sky, he was desperately sad and was feeling a huge burden on his shoulders. He was feeling that he couldn't carry this burden, he was feeling that he had committed a huge unforgivable sin. He had told all his family members and relatives that they should not tell Zainab anything about this accident. The people who had come from the side of the groom to Gul Khan's home for Zainab's wedding were heavily celebrating the moment by singing and dancing not knowing that their nonchalance and shot bullets killed someone highly innocent.

On the other hand, Zainab who had lost her life and everything else in her father's verbal promises was sitting in wedding clothes like a statue having no life. She had been given huge scars of love to her by her father. But to keep her father's dignity, she was highly loyal and faithful to her father's words sitting to a wall, leaned there thinking about the future life and the loss of Janan. Her friend Lalma was sitting beside her crying in

huge tears. Only Lalma could feel her situation and the level of sadness that she was experiencing. But Zainab was somewhat doubtful on Lalma because of crying so loudly and so much. Zainab could feel this to be the indication of something extremely dangerous that had either happened or was about to take place. Lalma was fiercely making holes in the heart of Zainab because of her limitless tears and crying. Zainab got very doubtful and was sometimes, looking to Lalma, Salgay, and Niaza as if she had questions to be answered because of their tears. Lalma couldn't control herself anymore because of her asking questions in her eyes. Lalma took out a bangle from her hand and broke into two parts and gave a piece of it to Zainab and told her about her Janan that he got killed because of a bullet shot to the sky in her wedding.

Zainab was in deep shock her eyes wide open saying nothing. She was stall in one position for five minutes. After five minutes, Lalma slowly touched Zainab and told her to cry so that she could feel calm. Zainab was looking gorgeously cute and beautiful. But after five minute, when Lalma touched her, she dropped to one side. She was looking exceptionally gorgeous. She had died. Lalma, Salgay and Niaza were in shock looking to her. She was dropped to one side looking beautiful to such an extent that was out of limits. After a couple of minutes, they started shouting and crying. They cried for a few minutes.

No one could tell whether it was Zainab's good luck or bad luck, whether it was Zainab's happiness or sadness, whether it was her dismal failure or overnight sensation, whether it was her sorrow or pleasure, but the blood that had come from Zainab's nose and eyes proved that her love was as strong as Janan's, that her love was as deep as Janan's, that she was as strong as Janan. When it came to their love, that her loyalty was as believable as Janan's, that her Pukhtonwali/Pukhtonism was not weaker than her father's Pukhtonwali.

The people who were in the yard were still singing and dancing not knowing what had happened to Zainab.

They thought they found their soulmate in an instant, but soon realized that love at first sight was nothing more than a fleeting illusion, leaving them both dead.

Love is the most powerful feeling in the world, yet the most destructive feeling and thing as well.

Love will let you feel both hell and heaven if experienced thoroughly.

The end,

Munawardin Lakanwal

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

FROM THE CONTEXT OF THE NOVEL

"In the symphony of life, our hearts harmonize, dancing to the rhythm of true love's melody, forever entwined in an eternal embrace."

AUTHOR



Munawardin Lakanwal is the former co-founder of Elite English Language Center and ELSA Educational Platform. He is also an international Tests Trainer like TOEFL iBT, IELTS, and Duolingo. On top of that, He is an Amazon FBA seller, Social Media Influencer and YouTuber. He also helps people as an educational consultant in getting visas of different countries.

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