



Khala Asia

If you are worried about something, share it with yO's agony aunt, **Khala Asia** — she'll help you with your problem
youth_observer@moe.om

My sparkled star (mum)

EVERY time you rise up your sight in the cool night you will see a sky full of stars, but there is only one moon in the same sky. And if you decide to fly with your fancy in a shining day you will see one Sun in the sky which represents the person who lightens your life... your mother.

On 21st March mums will sparkle in their throne because it is their day... (Mothers Day).

My mum is the most distinguished person that I had ever known. She is an angel that lives on earth; she has wings but she



can't fly. There are no words that can express her right except "God bless you mum".

Dear mother,

I cannot forget your soft voice before I sleep. You are a valuable thing in my life. You are my friend,

teacher, sister and leader. All what I am doing now is to make you feel proud and happy.

In my deep heart you are the stimulus who gives me reasons to complete my life in spite of all the obstacles that I am going through. Finally, you are my sparkled and brilliant star.

— By **Asia Rashid Amir Al Hatmi**

Class: 12/2

Al-Hajar Basic Education Girls School (5-12)
Al-Dhahira Region



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Connecting Cultures Journey...

Young generation working together

By Saif Khalfan Al Kindi

AFTER a 5 days journey to the Omani desert and valley of Al Abyadh (Nakhal), the connecting culture expedition concludes yesterday in Muscat. A reception ceremony was organised by the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Sciences in the Muscat intercontinental yesterday.

Participants spent 5 days discussing global issues about cultures, environment and issues related to globalisations such as concepts of new extremism, misconceptions between cultures and modern civilisations.

The event was presided over by HH Sayed Faisal Bin Turkey Al Saeed, CEO of brand Oman management Unit and attended by Dr Madiha Bint Ahmed Al Shaibania, secretary of the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Sciences. The event was also attended by the chief guests and the founder of the connecting culture project Mark Evans and the 15 participants from global countries.

During the event speeches from participants was addressed conveying their gratitude to the UNESCO, the UNAOC, Outward Bound Oman/Tahaddi, Al Jabir charity establishment and the KLM for their efforts. Working closely with the Oman National Commission/Ministry of Education, the event was really successful and achieved its aims.

In conclusion *Oman Tribune* spotted some participants' opinions about the journey. Zahra from the Netherlands pointed that the trip to Oman has a lot of firsts: the first time I visited the country Oman, the first time I went to the Middle East, the first time I went to a desert even, and the list is still growing... I got to know 14 very interesting ladies



from different cultures and backgrounds, and the conversations we have are very enriching. The Connecting Cultures desert expedition, with the truly wonderful Oman as the background, is an incredible learning school. It is very interesting to observe and at the same time partake in this highly dynamic process that is going on. Each woman in this group has her own strengths and capacities—to see us really combine those ‘forces’ together and try to overcome the barriers that are likely to be encountered on a desert expedition, is amazing.

Then we visited a traditional Omani village. We were warmly welcomed by our host family. Although there might be some barriers if one does not speak the native tongue of a country, there still is a universal language that everyone understands and is likely to beam out to others: genuine smiles and friendliness. We were offered coffee, dates, halwa, and meat, and henna tattoos were painted on our hands. This traditional village was a very interest-

ing experience and in stark contrast to the modern capital, Muscat, which Darshini Paltewari and I got to explore the first day we arrived in Oman. Our experience of today underlines the more that even within a particular country and culture there are differences to be found. But at the end of the day it is important to realise that regardless of culture, race, religion, and sex, we are all human beings and it is, ultimately, our humanity that binds us.

Sarah Ali Al Saeedi from Dohat Al Adab School, Sultanate of Oman pointed out that she was astonished with the amount of content and the topics they discussed. She added that participants were intensively involved in groups' discussions and they shared new experiences. Many global participants were asking me a lot of questions about the Omani and the Islamic culture and it seems that they lack knowledge about our national culture. Therefore, the aim of this camp is to show them part of our Arabic cultural aspect and learn from their culture as well.

Elizabeth from the United Kingdom stated that not for the first time, tonight I was sorry I didn't play the bagpipes. Earlier that evening while we were discussing how others viewed our own culture, our Spanish ambassador, Maria, played us her castanets. Right now the current of conversation around the fire is supported by the steady of beat of the playing of Juma, an Omani staff member of Outward Bound, making enterprising use of an empty water container. I feel I'm somehow letting my culture down by not contributing — although probably not everyone would feel my instinctive heart-tug at hearing the wail of bagpipes over Oman's beautiful dunes.

I had to think hard about my culture and my nationality from a young age. Although I was born in Glasgow, Scotland, my parents sound as English as they come and I spent a lot of time while I was growing up in the United States. Scots are notoriously unforgiving towards the English in their midst; as someone with an oddly mongrel accent who wasn't ever quite sure where to say they were from I tended to land on the wrong side of this. So I began to consider “culture” a particularly fluid concept quite early on. When I got to university I was delighted to discover this being laid out a bit more academically by Benedict Anderson, who talked of “nations” as “imagined communities”.

Although I'd never had to think specifically about this before I found myself drawn towards this viewpoint when asked this morning what I considered “culture” to be. For me, culture is anything that helps a group of people defines themselves as a community, and for that reason what's relevant depends entirely on the situation in question. Although to the rest of the world I proudly sell myself as “British” I gravitated more towards my Scottish roots as a student at an English university, desperate to educate everyone about the Scottish Parliament and nostalgic for my school ceilidh dances. However, the slight twang to the edge of my accent also makes me an American in certain scenarios, or at least someone who is called upon to defend American culture. I never feel I'm the ideal person to ask in any of these situations: I'm not really American, and nor do I sound like any other Glaswegian you're likely



in the Sultanate



to meet. But that's exactly the point.

One thing that became immediately clear to me today is just how interwoven and interdependent supposedly different cultures are. Today I ended up having an extremely lengthy conversation with Maria, who lives in Beirut, about how much we love humours. Lebanon is in a perpetual fight with Israel to convince it of its centrality to its heritage; in Cambridge, where I went to university, I got used to having it on chips from a traditional English fish and chips shop. I love it so much that I make my own every week. I may have never been to Lebanon, much as I'd love to. But every day I carry a little bit of the country's culture along with me in my sandwiches.

During the concluding event a speech by Oman National commission for education, culture and science delivered by Amnah bint Salem Al Blushi, National coordinator of Omani schools associated to the UNESCO. In her speech she said: The Oman National Commission for Education, Culture & Science is also pleased to be an active member, for the third consecutive year, in supporting the Connecting Cultures expeditions.

The Rimal Al Sharqiya hosted the first and second expeditions in Oman in 2007,2008 and Al Jabal Al Akhdar and Jabal Shams hosted the third expedition in 2008. She added: The Chairman of the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture & Science, H. E. Yahya Bin Saud Al Suleimi, the Minister of Education, is committed to ensuring that the dialogue between cultures remains one of the key priorities, and I have the honour to quote

a small part of HE's speech during the General Conference of UNESCO in October, when he said "Our mission in Oman is to facilitate dialogue, as the best way for co-existence between nations. Recognising the importance of inculcating the value of dialogue in the hearts of the youths, the National Commission has implemented several initiatives aiming at emphasising the importance of interaction between cultures, and increasing awareness of cultural diversity and its multitude of human experiences, as well as its resulting benefits to mankind, in a quest to prepare future generations to meet the joint challenges facing mankind."

Later on a speech was addressed by Mark Evans founder of connecting cultures who pointed out that the programme was initiated first in the year 2004 in London and developed to reach Oman from the year 2007 to 2009. The program of this year entailed participants to live in the desert without mobiles and without any being independently workers in groups in order to develop their understanding of other cultures considering alliance of civilisations. Every participant is a cultural ambassador for his own country.

Then participants presented their own experience about the journey describing their activities and their impressions about the journey.

The event was concluded with awarding certificates. HH the chief guest awarded the 15 participants in the connecting cultures journey.

A Red Rose to my mum

There is a person
who I can trust much
who I love so much

Our Islam tells us to be more wise
her companion leads to the paradise
I and you must obey our mum's dears

In this day I would present a red rose
Revealing to her our sincere hopes
"mum we love you forever and more"

This feeling lives within my heart
You are teaching me the real life
I will love you forever without timeline

In my heart You are so near
in my eyes You are always a deer
with you I feel not lonely and not weard

I can't say how much you mean to me
But with my deed I can show my mean
My deed is to give you a red rose
from heart of me

A red coloured rose to
my mum
A red coloured rose
to my mum
A red coloured rose to
my mum

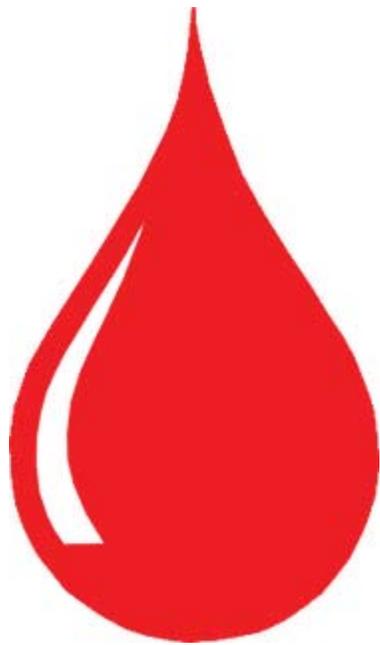


— Maryam Muneer Al
Bulushi
Al Mubaila South School
Grade 11

Youth themes

September 8 International Literacy Day Ramadhan Back to school	10 , International Day of Human Rights February Teacher day
October 5 International Teacher Day	March 21 Mother Day
November 4 Unesco Day; 18 , the National Day	April 22 Earth Day
December 3 International Day of Disabled	May 3 Asthma 31 , World No Tobacco Day

The Blood donation



BLOOD donation has a big meaning and it is one of the charity works "Give drops and Save lives".

The blood donation took in Fatma bint Qais School

Blood donation took place in Fatma bint Qais School on Wednesday, January 17, 2010. A big numbers of the students from the school and about 15 teachers donated their blood.

We all believe in the importance of blood donation to save lives of others who are in need of blood transfusion such as people with chronic blood disease and people injured in car accidents.

Donors are evaluated for anything that might make their blood unsafe to use. The screening includes testing for diseases that can be transmitted by a blood transfusion including HIV and



viral Hepatitis. The donors are also asked about their medical history. The amount of blood drawn is usually about 450 millilitres (one unit) and donors need to wait around 8 weeks between each donation.

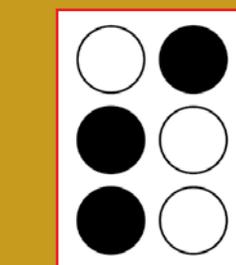
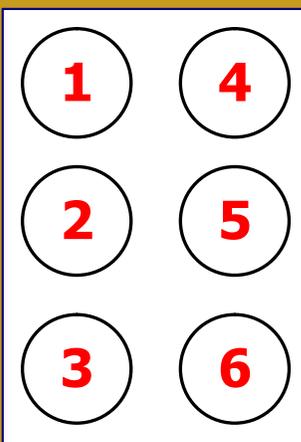
So my dear friends, blood donation is very safe and important. Don't hesitate to donate and encourage others to do the same because many lives are waiting to be saved by drops of your blood.

— By **Maryam M Iqbal, Grade 12**
English Club
Fatma bint Qais School



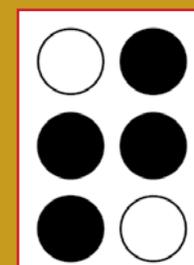
Learn
Braille
in an easy way

Braille Cell



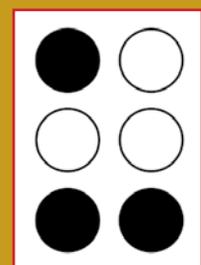
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Dot number 2,3,4,5
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T



Dot number 1,3,6
mean letter

U