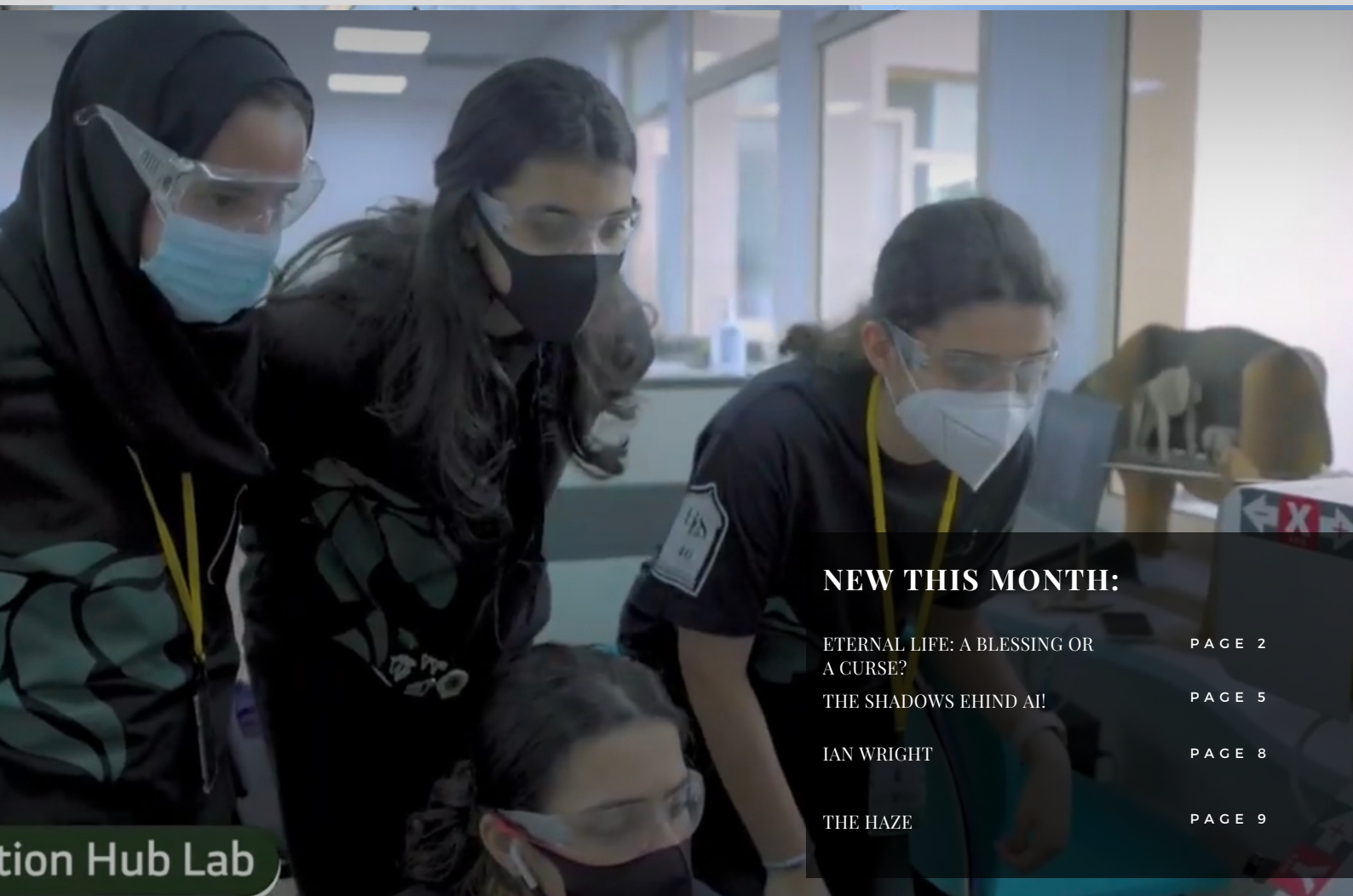


OCT 2021

ISSUE 2

# THE BAYAN POST

A NEWSLETTER WRITTEN BY BAYANIES, FOR BAYANIES



tion Hub Lab

## NEW THIS MONTH:

ETERNAL LIFE: A BLESSING OR  
A CURSE?

PAGE 2

THE SHADOWS EHIND AI!

PAGE 5

IAN WRIGHT

PAGE 8

THE HAZE

PAGE 9

# ETERNAL LIFE: A BLESSING OR A CURSE?

BY AYA AL DAAYSI AND AL HANOUF AL MUBARAK

More often than not, the villain (sometimes the hero, too) in many stories is seeking eternal life, the means to live forever. Now, at first glance, that may appear to be a great prospect. However, if one digs a bit deeper, one will realize that it's not as glorious as it may seem.

It is a known fact that humans fear death; whether it's a small bit of fear, subconsciously in the back of their minds, or if it's an incessant phobia that has taken control of their lives. That is most likely why this whole concept first appeared long ago. Initially, it started out as something promising, something one could gain. One example of that is an ancient Mesopotamian poem, the Epic of Gilgamesh, where a Sumerian king went on a quest for immortality after a close friend of his died. Although, after some time, eternal life in both legends and literature alike turned into something that could be used as a punishment.

Eventually, living forever would get boring, if not numb and empty. Watching strangers come and go, watching loved ones grow old and die, watching empires rise and fall; the only constant is you, frozen as the world turns and time slips through your fingers endlessly, forever out of your grasp. At some point, the person would exhaust all their desires and would experience all the aspects of life, until there will be nothing left to live for. What makes life worth living is knowing that your time is limited, it just makes everything that much more memorable and significant.

Nowadays, writing characters that are on a quest for immortality has become quite redundant. It has become so overused that it is often simply a flat, one-dimensional plot device that is only meant to drive the story forward.





# HAFSAH FAIZAL - DEFYING THE ODDS

BY ZAIN ALRAYES



## WITH PEN AND PAPER, THIS MUSLIM NIQABI WOMAN BREAKS SOCIETY'S STEREOTYPES.

One of her main goals was to create more representation, especially for people of color and ordinary fellows like you and I. Hafsah strongly believed that, “the world of literature must reflect the world around us.” This author expressed her concern in which she never saw people like her in the books she read, and on the rare occasions when she did, they were demonized or even romanticized! The sad truth is that in literature, people of color were (and still are) often associated with struggle and suffering, and it was time to break that stereotype. Hafsah Faizal then worked hard to create a new fantasy world to escape into, and a new adventure to experience a wide cast of characters that beautifully represent the deep and rich Arabian culture.

After almost ten years of unsuccessful writing, Faizal gave it one last try before giving up. That was when her debut novel, *We Hunt The Flame*, the first book in the “Sands of Arawiya” duology, was published. Her book was a great triumph, hitting the New-York Times best selling list after only one week of being published. She was then nominated for Forbes and Times “100 best fantasy of all time.”

Today, Hafsah Faizal has wrapped up the Sands of Arawiya duology with great success, and is currently working on introducing us all to her new world in the fall of 2022. This woman continues to be a wonderful role model to young people who were once told they ‘can't do it’ because of society's opinions and beliefs. As a wise man once said, “when there's a will, there's a way and that's it.”

Born in Florida to Arab/Sri-lankan immigrants in 1993, Hafsah Faizal was brought up in Los Angeles, California as a home-schooled girl who - unlike many others - wasn't interested in writing until around the age of 17 where she started getting into reading adult literature. After picking up numerous books, she found a connection with each and every character. As Hafsah read more frequently, she gradually developed the fundamental storytelling and writing skills. With that, this young teenager decided she was ready to start writing, and potentially publishing her own book. Although she was not an English nor writing major, Hafsah strongly believed that with her wide imagination and fascination towards fantasy, she would be able to do it.



# POCKETS

BY SHAIKHA AL KUWARI

Pockets have long become my immortal enemy due to their tiny size. Their existence was useless, impractical and futile, a cruel joke made to mock my very existence. But pockets have gone through quite a journey before becoming the sham that they are today.



Pockets were first introduced in clothing during the late 15th century, but only garnered attention during the 17th century. The pockets first acted as “tote bags,” where a separate garment was tied to the immense pile of clothing. Those pockets were magnificent, structurally and space-wise; I firmly believe that it would have been able to fit my phone, charger, wallet, keys, snacks, and my EE (I’m sorry Ms. Shruthi, I am working on it). You can see Lucy living her best life with that amazing pocket.

The second generation of pockets were still adequate, though smaller than the ones before. There were two prominent styles of pockets, spotted and hidden. The spotted ones were sewn onto clothing, resembling the pockets we have today on jeans. Hidden pockets on the other hand were layered underneath many fabrics; slits were made to accommodate the placement and allow for easier access to items.

But that all changed when the 19th century attacked. Sadly, with the late 19th century introducing more sleek and slimmer styles of outfits, there was less space for a pocket to be placed. Thus, making the pocket obsolete. These days though, the pockets I see on a daily basis would make anyone wish the robe a la francaise was still in fashion.



# THE SHADOWS BEHIND AI

BY ALI AL JEHSI

**AS I'M SURE MANY PEOPLE ARE AWARE, AI - OR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - IS THE FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY.**

Many corporations are and have been utilizing AI to make our lives easier and more efficient. AI encompasses us almost all the time, but most don't realize it. The fact that we are blinded brings about its disadvantages.

While AI has innumerable benefits in health, education, and other fields, it has downfalls in others (lifestyle and personal well-being being the most prominent examples). AI is slowly encouraging us to stop using our minds and thinking skills. For instance, when we browse online, many 'cookies' and trackers can interpret and understand what we are looking at, what we are interested in, and other minuscule things that we would never even think of. The more we use the internet, the more information is collected and, as a result, the better the ability to predict or suggest things that might interest us. What many people don't recognize is that AI does not think. Rather, it uses data that has been collected and analyzes it using complex algorithms to find patterns. As this process takes place over an extended period of time, AI-based algorithms have enough data to predict things we subconsciously desire! And as technology and AI develop and improve, we will no longer use our cognitive abilities. AI will predict our thoughts ahead of time, and we will no longer rely on our thinking skills.



We can see a similar analogy in smartphones and social media. Smartphones were initially designed for communication and to make the search for information simpler. As the years pass by, the designed purpose of smartphones became exclusively for social media. Similarly, AI's intended reason is to give consumers a better experience and improve health and education. Moreover, the purpose of AI is slowly beginning to change since the capabilities are enhanced in a way that promotes meaningless tasks.

All in all, AI has its advantages and disadvantages. While the benefits outweigh the drawbacks at the current moment, it is likely to change soon.

# WINTER BREAK!

BY MUNEERA AL SHAMLAN AND ZAIN ABU RUMMAN

The winter break is coming up soon, which means 3 weeks of relaxation. Despite the plans that you may have over the winter break, make sure to spend time with your family whether you are traveling to see them or staying over New Year. This is a crucial time to reconnect with your loved ones with school stress being put on hold. If you intend to spend your winter break traveling, make sure to stay safe and have fun while you are away. Explore somewhere you haven't been before, visit the tourist attractions and most importantly enjoy yourself.

With Semester 1 exams are around the corner, the time has been going by extremely fast. The time for Semester 1 exams will creep up on us if we are not prepared. Having a positive attitude will help get you prepared for them. After a year and a half of doing assessments online, it's going to be our first in-person exams in 2 years. You can properly prepare for them by staying up to date with all your classes, especially for IB students and those taking exams for the first time. Here are some things you can do to prepare:

- Make sure to focus in class and stay up to date with all the topics you're taking. Tests and Quizzes are a chance to practice for the exam. The more you focus in class and study effectively, the easier studying for Semester exams will be.
- To keep yourself on top of your studies, study well for your tests and quizzes! After all, practice makes perfect.
- For each subject, create a practice notebook. Make a note of where you went wrong. Then revisit those notes and keep going back and forth until you've mastered some new difficulties.
- Concentrate on those crucial chapters and sections in which you are lacking.
- Make a list of lengthy chapters for further updates. Doing these things will guarantee you good grades, make studying much easier, and make you feel less stressed.
- Practice using past papers and question banks for IB students
- Make sure to practice using active and not passive methods. Instead of highlighting items in a textbook, try making flashcards.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE THE 3 WEEKS TO REST AFTER THE FIRST 3 MONTHS OF SCHOOL. .**





# DREAMS

BY NORA YOUSIF

Dreams are a subconscious reflection of our thoughts and feelings in our everyday lives. There are many different theories on the exact meaning behind our dreams, but the following five are the most prominent. The first is wish-fulfillment, which states that we dream in order to subconsciously solve a conflict in our lives. This can be something recent, or an unresolved issue from the past. Another theory, known as information-processing, states that we process the day's events and information we have retained through our dreams. Psychological function and activation-synthesis suggest more scientific reasoning behind dreams, that being brain stimulation that preserves neural pathways or processing the neural activity that occurs during REM sleep. Finally, cognitive development is also a prominent theory, which states that dreams are part of the developmental process of a person's brain. However, none of these theories can be confirmed, as there is a lot we still don't know about dreams and the subconscious. Dreams aren't always subconscious, as they can sometimes be controlled through a phenomenon known as lucid dreaming.

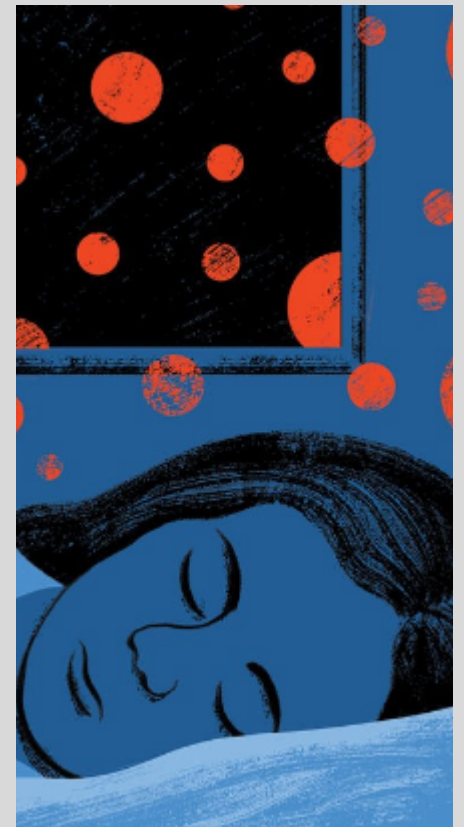


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**THOUGH DREAMS ARE DEVELOPED BY YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS, THERE IS A MYSTERY WHEN IT COMES TO THEM, MORE SPECIFICALLY A MYSTERY MAN.**

A record of people have stated that they saw the face of an unknown man in their dreams. He started being known as, "This man" after a psychiatrist sketched him following a series of dreams centering him in 2006. Since the drawing was released, the image was spread around the internet, and many people have come forward saying that they'd seen this man in their dreams before. Andrea Natella, who was plagued by his face, stated that when she saw the man standing by a door in silence. Several other dreamers, however, have heard the man give "an order"; He would tell them to head north in the various dreams he was in, though there were no similarities between the dreams. Natella had also stated that this man appears in two different kinds of dreams: the first being a typical nightmare, where the man would chase, hunt, or even kidnap the dreamer and kill them. The second type is the complete opposite, the man is friendly and tries to help the dreamer in various tasks or continues to stare at the dreamer. "It seems like a gnostic struggle between evil and good but it could also be a complementarity, like Yin and Yang," said Natella.

It's an interesting phenomenon and multiple people were waiting a long time for an explanation, they did eventually get one but it wasn't what they expected. The entire phenomenon was written out as an internet hoax, though it did fool a lot of people during its prime, with a whole website being dedicated to tracking his whereabouts, and adding to the lore.



# IAN WRIGHT

BY MOHAMMED RAIS



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**AFTER IAN GOT SICK AND TIRED OF THE RACIAL ABUSE FROM SOME FANS, HE DECIDED TO LEAVE PALACE AND JOIN THE MOST HISTORIC CLUB IN LONDON, “THE ARSENAL.”**

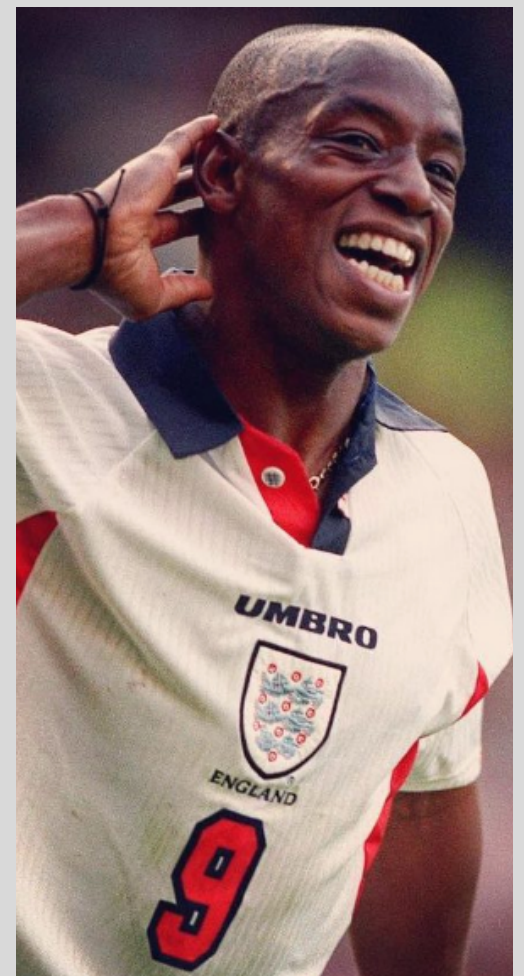
Ian found this decision simple since Arsenal had the most culturally diverse team with the highest number of black players in the league. Ian found most of his success at Arsenal, playing 257 games and scoring a staggering 153 goals. Ian was finally playing at a team that respected him with fans who pretty much worshiped him, finally getting the appreciation he deserved all those years gone by. At Arsenal, he won a total of 4 team awards (which include a Premier league title, 2 FA Cups, and 1 English League Club), and won 2 individual awards (which were the 1 top scorer award in the 91/92 season scoring 29 goals, and 1 EUROPAPOKAL DER POKALSIEGER SIEGER). Ian was in one of the greatest footballing duos in football history, which consisted of him and the IceMan Dennis Bergkamp. With Denniss' amazing vision and Ian's goal-scoring prowess, they were pretty much the perfect duo.

Nowadays Ian spends his days as a well respected and liked pundit; As a highly experienced player his insight is always useful and valid. Most importantly, Ian is still highly influential at Arsenal, especially with the social media part of it, as he always brings wonderful energy with him pre and post-game. He's a brilliant player that makes time for his fans, could you ask for anything more as a club supporter?

After everything Ian has been through, good and bad, he still has a heart made of pure gold, and as a fan myself, he is truly an inspiration. Thank you Ian, for showing us that overcoming adversity could lead us to what we wish for and more. He is the true icon of English football.

The premier league has had some of the greatest ever play football: Thierry Henry, Cristiano, Alan Shearer, and Eric Cantona are great examples. But there are very few legends as well respected as the great Ian Wright; His enthusiasm and character has always been appreciated by members of the English public, leading to the love he receives today.

Ian started playing at West Ham, scoring 9 goals in 23 games as a non-professional player. Later, Ian joined Crystal Palace at the age of 22, becoming the first professional contract he had signed. Ian's start to his career was tougher than most because of the racial abuse and pressure from the very fans that should be chanting his name, and cheering him on. Ian's time at Palace was pretty successful: playing 24 games, scoring 12 goals, having a .5 goal per game ratio (which means scoring a goal every 2 games consistently).





# THE HAZE

BY MOHAMMED AL NOAIMI

**“AND, WHEN YOU WANT SOMETHING, ALL THE UNIVERSE CONSPIRES IN HELPING YOU  
TO ACHIEVE IT.”**

**— PAULO COELHO**

Where did everything go? I was just driving around with my car, now I'm floating here in darkness stretching as far as I can see – not that I can even see my hands right in front of me because there is no light. I am still wearing my long-sleeved jacket and black jeans, though, which were initially to avoid attracting too much attention.

Something taps the edge of my foot, and I pull my leg back out of reflex, barely holding back a gasp. I look down and see nothing. I reach my foot back out and feel a hard, flat surface – a wall? Or perhaps a floor to settle on. When I run my hand over for a feel of the texture, the rest of me suddenly plops onto it. Yup, it's a floor – a cold, though smooth one.

The space around my room began to shift, things appearing out of nowhere. As if I was watching a movie buffer in real life, all I could do at that moment was stare as I began to realize that the objects phasing in this room resemble my childhood bedroom... Am I in the right place? Was there something dodgy in my drink?

An eerie feeling started to creep up my spine; everything felt cold, empty. As if I was standing in a void, powered by negativity and ill-will. I needed to get out of this room.

As I started to walk towards my childhood room's door, the floor began replicating the texture of quicksand, holding me back and forcing me to exert more power than necessary. The thoughts crept into my mind, what if I was stuck here forever? What if the floor consumes me? It was as if I summoned those thoughts into reality. As a dark haze started to appear in the room, I practically couldn't even see the door's shape anymore.

I have to persevere. I have to get out of this place. I thought I was close to the door when I realized that I was now back to the other end of the room, back to where I started. Those thoughts I had crept back into my mind again as the room kept on getting colder and colder.

I gave up. I was too scared to keep on going, worried that the next wave of even worse consequences would manifest wherever this nightmare was happening. I sat in the same position for a while until a thought came to me that there was a pattern to my failure to reach the door.

The room's conditions worsened right after I thought about them getting worse. I felt powerful that moment as I knew exactly what I had to do.

I got up and kept on reminding myself that I had already arrived at the door, just kept on reminding myself of that, silencing any thoughts of the empty and cold feeling of the room. Before I could even account for where I was, my palm was holding the doorknob, was I prepared to walk through the door?

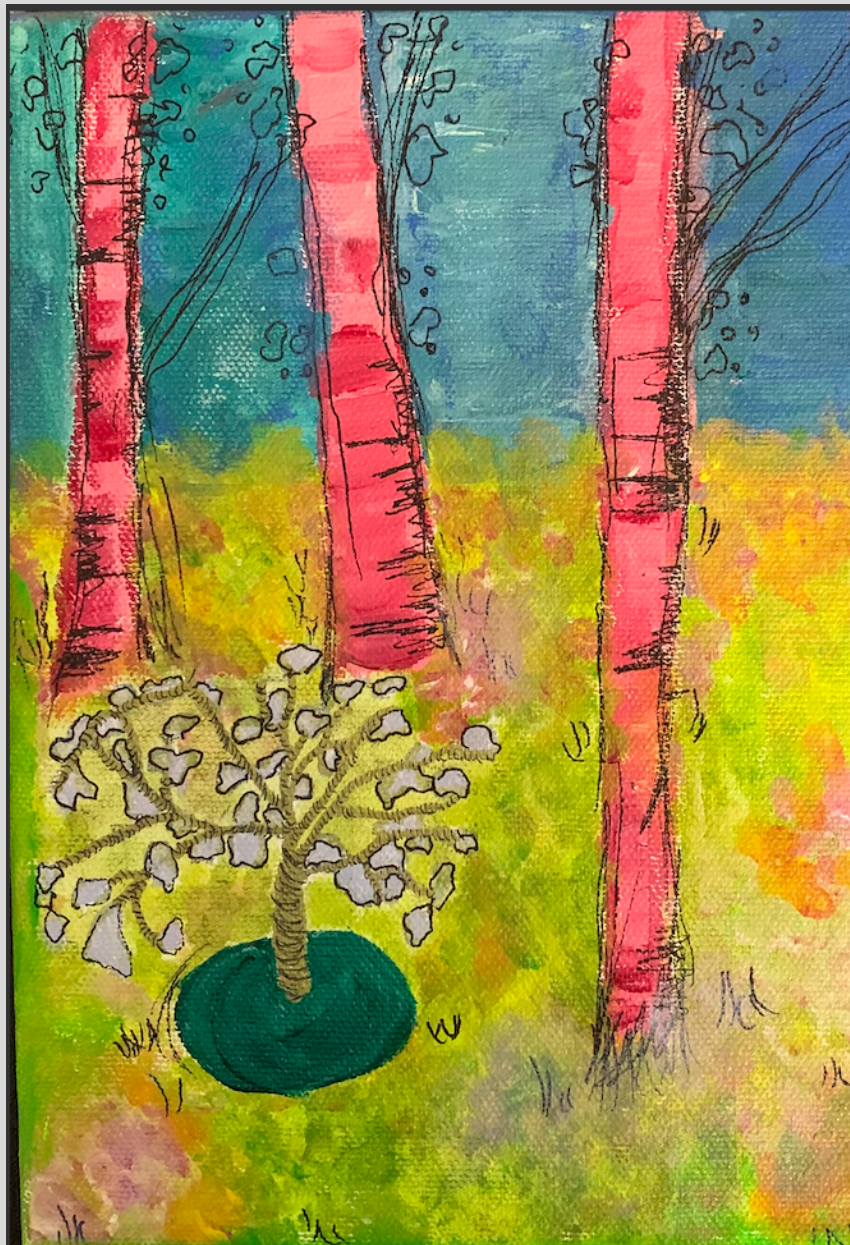
# SUSTAINED OBJECT STUDY

BY JOOD KHOJA

In art class, we were assigned to work on a sustained object study on an object of our choice. The object that I chose for my Sustained Object Study project is a tree made of gemstones. Labradorite makes up the base of the gemstone tree, the leaves are Aquamarine, and the branches are copper.

I decided to pick the gemstone tree as my object since I find the concept of gemstones fascinating. Also, Aquamarine is the gemstone of my birth month which is March.

In this investigation I decided to create an artwork including the object of my choice, I decided to place the object in a forest to show the difference between the two trees and show how the gemstone tree is replicating trees.







# MEME GALLERY

BY BUDOOD ALI

