

DREAMS UNLIMITED

By Nazia Hussein

According to Oxford's dictionary dreams are a series of thoughts or visions during sleep. Some dictionaries also comment that it just a devise in imagination. Sleeping or wide awake, what ever be the case, it is a common human intuition to dream. Of course the dreams we have while we are sleeping are rather different from the ones we have while awake. Let's leave the resting dreams and talk about the ones we have while fully conscious, shall we?

If you talk with a child, the most common dreams he or she will tell you about, are the ones about floating on a sea of chocolates and ice cream or of having a room full of toys one day! Ask someone who is a little older, their dream would be to grow up and be a teacher or either a film actress or a MTV VJ. But of course there are exceptions. My 9-year-old kid sister has a dream that one day she'll be able to talk to all the animals of the world (Congratulations to the director of the movie Dr. Dolittle!). On the other hand a cousin brother of mine who is of the same age said that, his dream is to become a *Gunda* who will possess a real gun in the future!

A 16 year old girl is most likely to have a dream of becoming a Singer (like Celine Dion), Dancer, VJ or maybe Miss World or Miss Universe. On the other hand a 16 year old guy would have more realistic dreams such as to form a band as soon as possible (if he is interested in music), to try *ganja/heroin/cocaine* or any other drug at least once or if he is too much of an *Ate!* he might plan about going to the space, working for Nasa, discovering new life forms in some other planet!

But as those same teenagers grow up they start to have increasingly perceptive dreams. A guy I know always wanted to be a visual artist but as his parents didn't approve he decided to become a Graphic designer so that he could be connected with the concept of painting. But all of a sudden after completing his Intermediate from Shantiniketon he suddenly decided to go for a BBA, since there is more money in it! A girl of 21, who only dreamt of having a perfect family while she was out with her boyfriend last year, now also starts to dream about a career which might as well be as striking as her husband's.

Newly weds dream about a fun filled, happy family. New parents dream about their children's future, grand parents dream about being able to see their grandchildren get married, and so on.

A movie star wants to become a Megastar some day; an ordinary singer wants to win the national award. Any of the members of our teenage music bands want to win the Billboard award or the MTV viewer's choice award. A dancer dreams of dancing like Prabhu Deva, Michel Jackson or maybe dreams to form a dancing group like Shamakh of Bollywood, a sports man dreams of having the top position in his team.

So as you can see every one becomes something in his dream that he is not in the real life! That's why they are called sweet dreams I guess! But if you have noticed I here have only mentioned the dreams that are most unlikely to become reality in the future. But there are people whose dreams are very down to earth, and if we try we can make them come true.

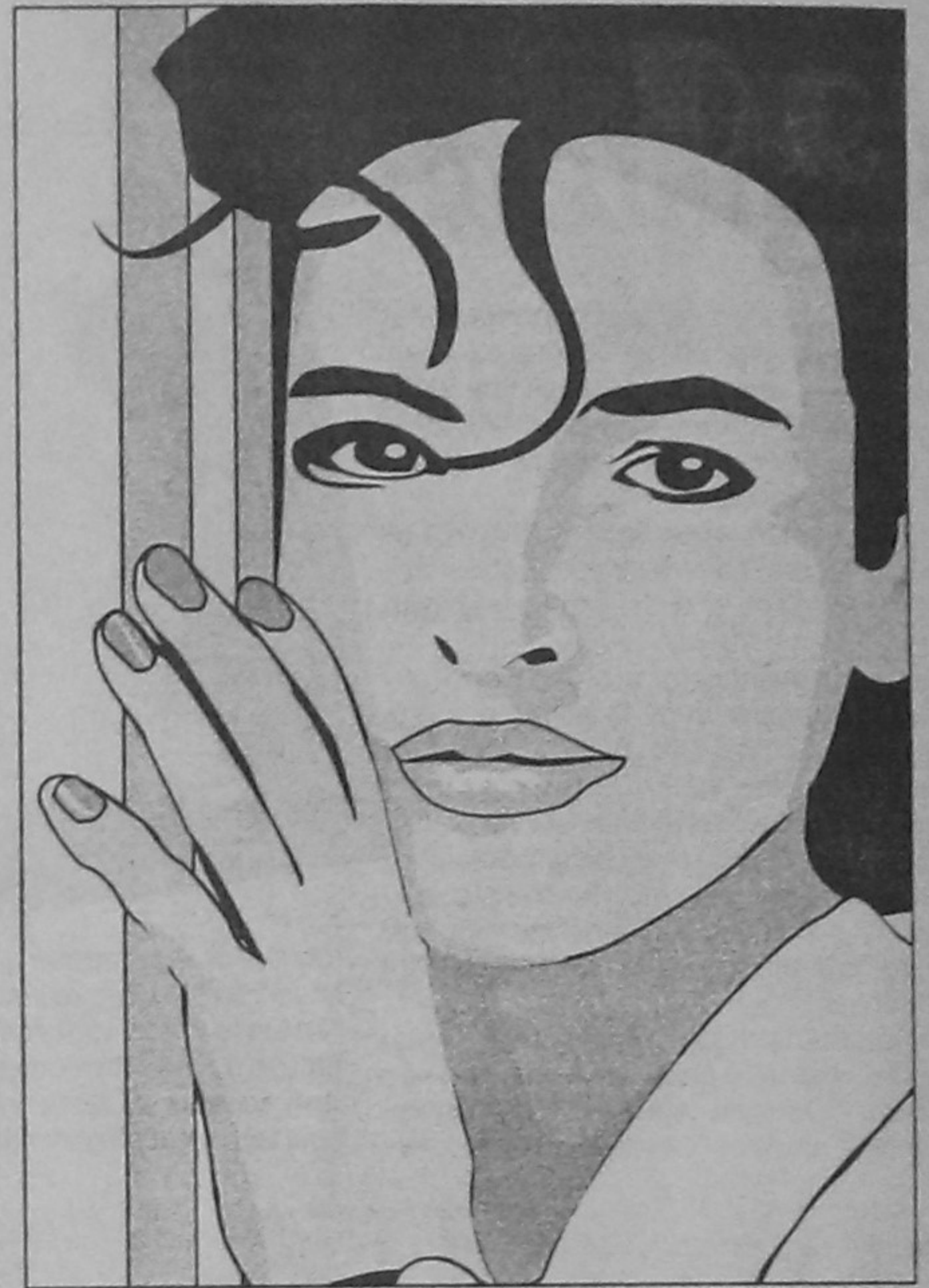
Ask a *Tokai* about his dreams. He won't go higher than dreaming about having dinner in a five star restaurant. Ask a boy who lives in the nearest slum, all he dreams about is that he will be able to live in the multi storied building that is being constructed in place of his slum. Ask the little boy who works in your house about his dreams. Seeing you going to school everyday, being busy in your studies, I am sure he also dreams of becoming an educated citizen of the country. Most of the teenagers today want to become a Rock star or a great musician, even when they are getting a chance to study in one of the most famous English Medium schools of the state, when their parents

are showering money on them like water. A boy of about the same age in the slum dreams of becoming a doctor, so that he can save the lives of the poor who dies without proper care.

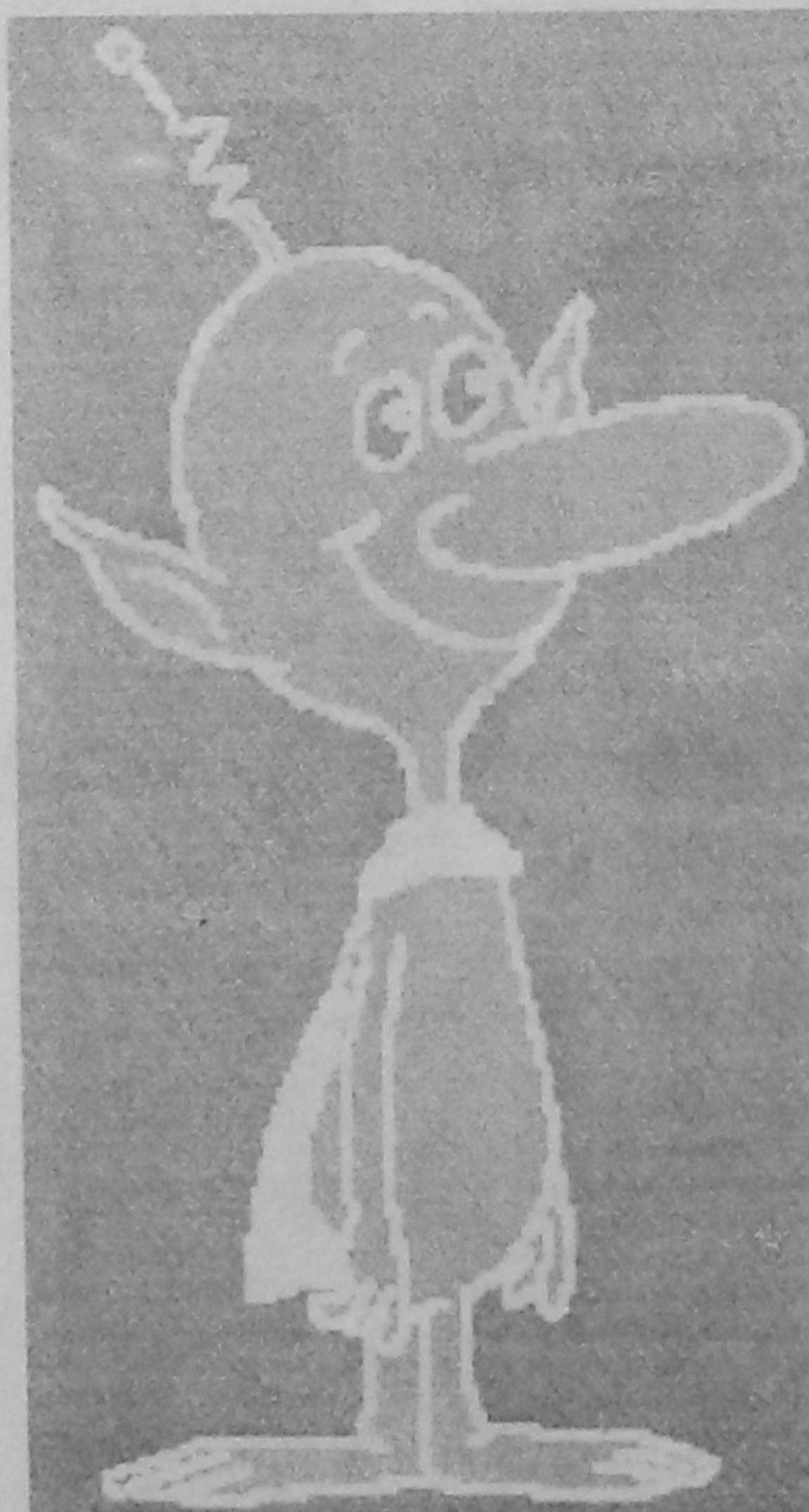
We, the privileged group of the society can actually make their dreams come true. Without letting your daughter throw a party at Wimpy every month, or by not buying a branded label cosmetic every other week we can actually make a poor little boy's dream come true. Can't we at least try, if not succeed to make those poor little children's dream come true?

What about those of us who have an important position in the society and have power to actually change the prejudices of the citizens? Yes, I am talking about the Political Leaders of the country. What sort of dreams do they outline? I am sure, they do plan to do good for the community, they do want to help the poor and the distressed, and of course they also want to solve all the problems of the city dwellers as well as the simple villagers! According to them their only dream is to see the country compete with the developed countries of the world. They make preparations to go through different routes, in order to achieve this success in every possible way. But do they succeed? Or do they even start their efforts in this regard? The answer is known to all!

Dreams are unlimited! But only a few of them can actually come true. So let's start the new Millennium (I'm sure you people are sick of the word by now! But still...) with a dream which not only will do well for us but will also benefit the whole nation. Wondering about what that dream might be? Think about this on your own, in that way we will have loads of beautiful dreams from the same old pesky kids of the country who are only known as the irritating, stubborn, problematic teenagers. Let's prove that we can also make a difference!



My Alien Compadre



By Razeen Ibne Wahid

I went to sleep late at night because I had to work on my term paper. After some hard work, I went to sleep and I passed the night. At 8am, the alarm started to wake me up. It was an exhausting night

for me, without opening my eyes, I switched the alarm off, and while I was about to go into the second phase of my sleep when a knock on the door interrupted me. As I went to open the door, I never imagined what was there waiting for me.

With two sleepy eyes and a tired body, I went to open the door. When I did, all the sleep in me vanished like thin air. I was staring at a spooky looking thing, which didn't fit into any classification, although it was standing on two legs.

It entered the living room and said 'aren't you surprised?' and when I heard the voice I recognized who he was. It was the child who lives next door; he is a kind of friend of mine.

He lay down on the sofa and told me to shut the door. I did and he started to unfold the story.

'Well I wanted to test how brave you are so I turned up with this idea of an alien to shake you up a little. Did you enjoyed it or not?'

'Oh yes, especially because of the sleep, you picked a great time. Well done.'

For the first time I looked closely at the dress; it was green, like that of a typical Martian we see in the movies. It also had a trunk like an elephant. There were two eyes and a mouth and in total it was great. I couldn't examine it closely because he interrupted me.

'What happened? You still sleepy, amazed or what!'

'Never mind just a little sleepy. Let's have some breakfast.'

'Oh, yes I am hungry too' he uttered.

I took out some milk and sandwiches from the refrigerator. After warming the sandwiches in the microwave oven we both sat down and started eating.

To my surprise he didn't open the mask while he was trying to get milk through the trunk.

'Enough is enough. You had a lot of fun now be normal.'

But he just laughed and sucked some milk through the trunk and said, 'Maybe its time to make everything clear. I am not who you think I am. I am an alien from a distant galaxy. I had to take shelter because those Air Force guys were really on my back. Thank you for giving me shelter and if you don't mind I will stay for another 30.00 minutes. Please don't do anything foolish and don't scream.'

I was too angry and tried to snatch off the mask from his face but it didn't came off and the 'ALIEN' started laughing in a horrible way. As usual, I couldn't resist the burden on myself and so I went unconscious.

When I opened my eyes I was laying on the sofa with a spooky strange story of an alien haunting my mind. The first question was, 'Was it real?' I don't think so but as I read the paper on the table beside me, a cold chilly wave passed through my back. I was shocked & began to feel dizzy. The message went something like this:

Thanks for what you have done for me and for saving my life in fact. I will always remember you and please don't tell anybody about me because that will only lead you into trouble. We may not meet again but you will be always in my heart, although I don't have one.

-Your Alien Compadre

*That white thing which you call milk does not taste good

By SK MUNTASIR

Y2K COMPLAINT



Its gone,
We have destroyed it.
Our human beings have
Done it.
But it did cost a lot
Of cash,
2 billion smackers
On the slash.
To save the world from
Century's of darkness,
They did their best to bring
It back to brightness.
Now we are in a new millenium,
Or you could say it a thrillenium.
The new sun of the new generation,
Let's hope we can make peace
In the world federation.
Y2k is now a history,
So no one's gonna solve
It's mystery.
We will now make this world
Free from polution,
We have got to find a solution.
The bug is now destroyed
So don't worry.
Those who will try to make this world a
Place of sorrow and sadness, will be sorry.

WAR

By Atef Hasan

The scream of innocence
The death of thousands-
All for a bit of land.
The murder of children
with a thundering gun.
To live they run!
The whistle of ones doom coming
towards them as a missile.
It strikes quickly then suddenly a bang.
Like a snake armed with fangs.
On the battlefield bombs are exploded
Guns are loaded
And lives are lost.
Finally all is quiet
At the end of the tunnel gleams a light,
From the ruins people appear
Fear is lost and peace is finally hear.
A scream is heard
One not for fear
But for freedom,
An unsuppressed cry for freedom.