



By: Duong Jai

Turkish Coffee

As the sweet aroma of home made Turkish coffee wafted through his senses, the memories of a mystical coffee reader from his past once again came to him.

"I see a major change happening in your life", she said. "...one which entails you moving to a foreign land, a western country with its flag consisting of the colours red, white and blue."

When Abdi first heard this, he had found it amusing that the coffee reader had had such a creative imagination that it was bordering on the line of delusional. What did she mean he was going to move to a foreign land? How could she have seen that by just looking into coffee? It was plain ridiculous! He had everything going for him in Turkey. A successful construction business, his entire family and a sweet country girl who he was about to marry. He was too happy living where he was that there was no way he would trade it for living in any other place in the world!

He had thought it was a waste of time seeing this crazed coffee reader and had planned to leave when curiosity got the better of him. "I wonder what other strange tale she is going to conjure up", he thought. However, since he had paid for the reading, he decided to stay and find out what else she had to say. Having made up his mind, he then attempted to listen as the coffee reader continued with her reading.

"You will have two special women in your life whilst you are in that foreign land. One who would become your wife, and another who would come into your life as quickly as she leaves it. You will know the woman who is to become your wife. Her name starts with the letter "S" and her birthday is in May", she went on to add.

At that point, it was becoming more and more apparent to Abdi that this woman was just sprouting sheer nonsense. He then thought about the sweet girl that he was about to marry in mere days, turned his full focus on her and their life ahead and gave up listening to what the coffee reader had to tell him.

Two years later, who would have thought? Just as the coffee reader had predicted, he had moved to the land of Australia (Note: the flag of Australia has the colours red, white and blue) and was married to an Australian woman. It was strange how the events had unfolded.

A few months after he had had the coffee reading, his business went astray. The competition for the construction business became so intense that he was outed from most of the major deals that he had thought was secured. From a business that once was profitable, it soon became one faced with huge losses. The situation became so bad that Abdi had no choice but to sell whatever he had left of the business to his stronger competitors and make a run for it whilst he still could.

Broken spirited and low in self-confidence after the sale of his business, Abdi couldn't bring himself to marry the sweet girl that he had wanted to give world to. He was afraid that he could not provide for her and so he told her to move on without him, telling her that this was best thing to do, considering the circumstances that he was in. He then kept away from her so as to minimize the pain that had embedded deep within his heart.

Everything that he had once held in the palm of his hand was now no more and Abdi became a man truly lost. He wandered the streets like a man with no aim or purpose, in mental disarray as to how this could have happened to him in such a short span of time. It had seemed as if this agony had lasted forever until one day, a business associate of his came knocking at his home door asking for him.

This associate had a business proposal for Abdi. It was one that promised Abdi his life back. However, this life, would have to be found in the land of Australia. The associate had planned on opening a construction business in Australia and had wanted Abdi to go there to run the business for him.

Needing to get out of his predicament, and having nothing left to remain in Turkey for, Abdi decided to take the position. He then packed his bags and got ready to leave for the promised land, hoping that somehow, his life would get a lot better.

Whilst there, Abdi had his fair share of ups and downs. For one, he didn't speak nor write English, which was the common language used in Australia. So it made it all the more challenging for him to get around or communicate with the people there. In order to resolve this issue that he had, he then took up an English course at one of the tertiary institutions, so that he could learn the language.

The English class was very helpful and Abdi made quite a few friends there. In particular, he met this one particular girl, Jo whom he took a liking to. The girl was really helpful to him in his course and they had spent quite a bit of time keeping each other company during the many lonely days that he had faced. They enjoyed each other's company so much that it had puzzled Abdi when one day, the girl suddenly decided to avoid him without any indication as to why.

He stopped seeing her around and was confused as to why she didn't want to know him anymore. However, not long after, another woman came into his life. As he was walking home one day, this woman stopped her car in front of him and asked him for directions to a restaurant as her family had planned her birthday party for her there. It was May the 10th as Abdi clearly remembers. After they discussed the directions, they then introduced themselves to each other, and exchanged names. To his surprise, the woman's name was Samantha, the woman who was to become his wife.

It is interesting how the images seen from a cup of coffee could tell so much about one's future. In Abdi's case, he had ignored it to find out later that there was more truth to what those images were telling him than he had known. How would you react to such a situation? Would you heed the signs from the coffee cup, or will you follow your own mind and do what you think is right for you? Think about it for there may come a time when you yourself could be faced with such an occurrence.

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