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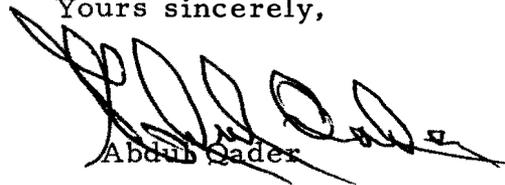
12 August 1985

Dear Mr. Starer,

Enclosed please find my comments, to the extent possible to me, in three typed pages as requested through your letter of 25 July 1985.

I hope the comments would be of any value.

Yours sincerely,



Abdul Qader

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THE FIVE TIGERS VALLEY

BY: Abdul Qader Notes on The Draft

12 August 1985

X Part One, Chapter³, page 42 line 17: Is it really the foothills of the Himalayas or it would have been better presented if it was said "in the foothills of the Hindokush Mountains" ?

X Part Two, Chapter 4, page 64: Abdullah's reaction towards Jane in this particular situation might have been based on his religious beliefs. In Islam the ladies are required to wear protective clothings, especially the sensitive of the body in order to prevent any possible sexual connected crime. Otherwise as a guest and a helper of the community, Jane would have been respected by all villagers including Abdullah. If Jane would have told him that she had to tear her dress to prevent Mousa's bleeding he would have never brought down his stick on Jane's head. It should be understood that Afghans in that part of the country, like the rest of Afghanistan, especially towards the foreigners and those who are helping them, are very hospitable.

X Page 71: Childbirth is not considered by any Afghan unclean. I believe it is a wrong notion.

X Page 72: It is, I believe, too exaggerated to claim that it is unheard-of for an Afghan man to serve a woman. It is quite common that a woman is in need of help, especially when she is sick, her husband, if she is married, in the first place; if not married her father and/or brother will help her in all respects if no woman is around to do the job.

X Page 73: While I don't deny the existence of adultery in such a community it, however, should be understood that if they are caught by the husband, brother, brother-in-law, father-in-law, etc. of the woman both will die without punishment to the killer.

X Page 77: To wash a dead person is not considered UNCLEAN; in contrary it is considered to be a very important religious function on a Moslem who should be buried clean. As many people are sensitive to touch a dead body; the work has been given to those who are not afraid and who know how to do it. Otherwise every individual who has reached the legal age can perform the function.

X Chapter 6, page 108: Zahra does not require an "a" after "h"; page 112 : Farah should have "h" at the end.

Notes cont

- ✧ Chapter 7, page 134: As rightfully it is mentioned the headless body of a calf is usually placed in the centre; never of a human-being. If this has been really the case to put the body of a Russian man in the centre of the ground, it has been definitely for taking revenge. It should be remembered that this is an imposed war on Afghans. When Russians are pulling out the eyes of an innocent Afghan child alive in front of his parents, then they should expect such a revenge.

- ✧ Chapter 8, page 152: We cannot make such a generalized statement that no Afghan would stand up when a woman walk in. I believe it may be more accurate if it is said that generally Afghan males in rural and remote areas of the country will not stand up when a woman walk in.

- ✧ Page 157 : "KAHMIR KHAN " I believe should be written as "KHAMIR KHAN "

- ✧ Page 158 : I don't think that your statement "Moslem men did not seem to have a romantic idea of love" is correct. It is true that a moslem, whether man or woman, cannot, due to cultural patterns, social structure, religious requirements, etc., express his/her love as it is done in the western societies. If one go through the literature and the folklore productions of that region and if the person has the mastery to understand it then he will know whether they have a romantic idea of love or not. The lovers in those regions are burning to ashes in their inside of not being able to express it openly.

- ✧ Chapter 9, page 181; Please note that the Panjshir River does not ran toward the capital city. It rans toward Sorobi and Jalalabad - Eastern Province.

- ✧ Page 196 : "Pagman " is wrong; "Paghman" is corredct.

- ✓ Chapter 16, Page 342 : This is absolutely wrong and a misconception to claim that " the Nuristanis aren't involved in the war - they don't care who is in power in Kabul, they hardly know where Kabul is ". Nuristan and Kunar were the first who challenged the pro-Russian Government in Kabul. This happened before the Russians were slauthered in the Herat Province at arround April 1979. The earliest stage of heavy bombardments, destructions and killing took place in Nuristan and Kunar before anywhere else in Afghanistan. They are devoted moslems and they cannot remain indefferent of the Russian presence in the country.

Notes cont

- X Chapter 18: It is really unrealistic for a group of half a dozen Russian soldiers to travel in this part of Afghanistan without being getting killed at the first stop. If each searching group would have been consisted of 50 to 100 heavily armed soldiers under the protection of visibly strong air defence it is understandable, otherwise nobody will buy this portion of the story.

- X Page 383 : I don't ^{think} any Afghan will accept the statement "He treated the Whole of Afghanistan as if it were his personal kingdom". There are areas in Afghanistan that Russians even cannot send any of their troops there. Such a statement will give an impression that the Afghans' struggle has been fruitless and the success has been merely an unfounded claim by the Afghan people.

- X Chapter 19, page 430 : If Ellis had the control of the situation as explained in the preceding paragraphs, why didn't he ask for the key to the handcuffs rather than ask Jane to shoot off his handcuffs?