

## Paths

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### Introduction

On 9/12/2001 I wrote my representatives in Washington DC to please do not go to war, go to peace.... I predicted decades and trillions would be spent to build only hate, and so instead we should invest in renewable energy to strip oil of its power and stop global warming before it's too late. Two trillion dollars over two decades could made all US energy production carbon free. No one listened, and here we are now, with one final chance to get things right before humanity casts itself onto the hell the Earth will otherwise become; and curiously, once again Afghanistan holds the key.

Accordingly, as an introduction to my poem "Amazingistan" I provide below an inspirational poem written long ago for the ages then and now forever and ever amen:

*'Human beings are members of a whole  
In creation of one essence and soul  
If one member is afflicted with pain  
Other members uneasy will remain  
If you have no sympathy for human pain  
The name of human you cannot retain'*

*Saadi of Shiraz*

Why Afghanistan? Throughout history, its people have shown a resilience and will unconquerable by others; and thus as humanity approaches a point of global warming no return that may well end civilization as we know it, Afghanistan has an amazing potential to wake up and show the world "if we can do it, you can do it, and this is the way".

It is thus that I wrote the poem *Amazingistan* for all to ponder, enjoy, and please take seriously and act accordingly. In addition to the words, please look at the shape of the lines and their nesting in the stanzas.... I have specifically not copyrighted this poem, as I intend it for all to enjoy, pass on, build upon, and hopefully help peace be with us all (please). The greatest return on the investment of time it took to write this will be peace.

### Amazingistan

Amazing rugged beautiful Afghanistan  
A place to and from many have ran  
From it's height to its length  
Its people are its strength

A vast promising land

with a bright future at hand  
Awaiting a vision bright and bold  
with peace and prosperity for all, behold

Now that foreign military are there no more  
The people have the keys to their store  
But time is short and do not hesitate  
To open up a future green and great

Some say they must first avenge  
For transgressions they seek revenge  
Will you follow them and so bow to Iblis  
And choose everlasting hell instead of eternal bliss?

Thus to each and every sister and brother  
You must please stop killing each other  
Do not fall prey to the evil guile of Iblis  
and to the Prophet's word be remiss (peace be upon him)

In the future each of us will be dead  
but about us what will be said?  
That we sought peace or hate  
only the former is truly great

So do not be led by an evil Jinn  
To endless battles only he can win  
No fighters should use you as a base  
Send them away and leave not a trace

Else you just invite others to Wakhan on in  
As your land's riches are a trophy to win  
All resistance will be futile and will melt  
As you are assimilated into a silk belt

The future do not waste  
beware revenge and haste  
Set aside intolerance and hate  
Reconciling the past is never too late

Carefully plan the direction you take  
A green sustainable future you can make  
Study teachings of settlement and reconciliation  
With peace and justice build a great, green, and pious nation

Move forward with what is known  
we all can only reap that which is sown  
The teachings of the Prophets in the past  
all point to a path forward for a future to last

Obey teachings of tolerance or respect  
Forge a green path that for you is correct  
Mine the great mineral wealth of your land  
Turn it into products by the people's mind & hand

It can be funded by a worldwide greenhouse gas emissions fee  
Produce minerals and machines for a world net carbon free  
Broadcast this from every temple, steeple, and minaret  
A path to a peaceful green energy future must be set

Embrace the words of wisdom  
for a peaceful prosperous kingdom  
With teachings of the Creator's Prophets  
Peace be upon them and you, forever will be met

And thus from the ashes of the past  
Achieve a future designed and built to last  
With all people working together every day  
Afghanistan can show the world this is the way

### **Epilogue:**

Afghanistan has much arid landscape, a lot of sand... And thus the poem "Footprints in the Sand" (authorship in dispute, but it is hoped that all those claiming authorship would agree it's ok to show the poem here) is presented here to help shown us that whoever, whatever any of us believe in, there is a peaceful path forward together to make Earth a Garden of Eden:

*'One night I dreamed a dream.  
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.  
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.*

*After the last scene of my life flashed before me,  
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,  
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,  
there was only one set of footprints.*

*This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.*

*"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,  
You'd walk with me all the way.  
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,  
there was only one set of footprints.  
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."*

*He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you  
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.  
When you saw only one set of footprints,  
It was then that I carried you."*

With tolerance, respect, hope, prayer, and love for all people  
Alex