

The journeys we make; A UASC story

We are similar; you and I have shared situations, journeys, loss.

We have escaped with one beginning journey to a journey's end,

Just to start all over again.

So it is a beginning again and the journey is hard and long, similar and yet different.

This new journey is made step by step, it has many paths from which more loss can come

And yet there are steps that take you to your dreams and hopes;

The dream of belonging, of safety, of freedom to be;

The dream that my kin will be safe and free.

In the beginning; at the start of the first journey, I turned to run from the massacre

To escape the torture,

To run into your arms of safety.

And at that journey's end I was left naked of tongue, or knowing how to be,

I was left alone because of the fear in your eyes that spoke of my loss.

So I arrived, to start the journey again;

I arrived to a new place, a new culture and the socio vertigo that made me dizzy

It put me into a spin.

I heard the stories that made the fear in your eyes,

I climbed the steps that made the fear go away.

I proved the lies of your fear to be untrue.

Each step a milestone; each step a victory.

Your lie said I would not speak, so I dived deep into your sounds and found I could make them,

Your lie said I would always take from you, so I learnt how I could earn and give you back more than you have given,

Your lie said that I would hurt you, so I learnt how to bring peace through a kaleidoscope of knowledge made up of the journeys, of BA's and MA's and the socio vertigo that I now understand and can translate.

Each step is a challenge; and the challenge is not the end of the world, it will change.

The challenge is never as bad as what you have seen and what could be;

In the moments of anger and fear, of not knowing, there are hands holding you, wishing you well.

Don't forget that you bring with you amazing things;

The stories our grandparents told us;

Our culture,

Our way of being community.



People here like to know these things and it is a way we can contribute and give what is ours.

When I came and started this journey, I shared my music and the music made people look at me without fear and we became friends. The music is now something we share and celebrate together, it is us and our community, and we have all been changed.

What the home office decides, it does, what it does,

Yet in every other way you are in control;

So follow the steps, my steps, the steps of success, and the steps of doing and being your dreams.

I am a leader,

I am making a difference,

I am changing things,

My story is shared and told and retold – it honours my loss;

Yet my loss is never gone, it is in my breath, in my eyes, in my steps.

I am in a place of safety and I can achieve.

Today is not my worst day;

Today I am held and I hold you by sharing my steps to success.

As told to Dr Ana Draper and UASC in Kent; 21/04/2016

