

University of Biskra

Faculty of Human and Social Sciences

Department of Human Sciences

University year 2024/2025



Courses of English Language (first semester)

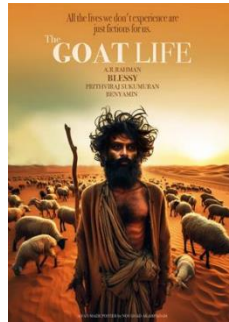
Class

Master 1

Set by

Dr. Houfani Asma

The Goat Life-: The film that angered the Saudis





Courses of English Language (first semester)

Class	Set by
Master 1	Dr. Houfani Asma

The Goat Life-: The film that angered the Saudis

Cinema isn't just a passing trend in the world — it's a vital part of the countries' s culture and the lives of its people. Breathes this art form, using it to reflect its unique culture and the diversity of its sources, including its political, religious, and ethnic conflicts.

The three-hour film portrays the life of Najeeb Muhammad, a simple young man from the southwestern state of Kerala who dreams of going abroad to secure a better future for his unborn child. As the story goes, Najeeb and his younger brother struggle to gather the money needed to obtain a visa for a Gulf country. After much hardship, they manage to secure jobs with a Saudi company, and their lives begin to seem like a rosy dream — until they arrive at Jeddah Airport. Here, their lives take a dramatic turn when Najeeb's sponsor, or "kafeel," forces him to live alone in the desert, with only goats for company. The film shows how, over time, Najeeb becomes one of the goats, losing all sense of emotion, time, and even the desire to speak or think. This isolation takes a toll on his memory and speech, and the film follows his harrowing journey until he miraculously escapes after three years of suffering.

The Indian writer Benyamin published the full story titled, "Goat Days" in 2008, revealing that the true events took place in 1992. His life would have taken a completely different turn had it not been for a Saudi man kidnapping him from the airport and exploiting Najeeb's inability to communicate due to the language barrier and his inexperience with travel and dealing with the outside world.

Indian reactions

Although Najeeb managed to return home after three years of horror, he struggled to move on from the experience, even decades later. He underwent numerous physical and psychological treatments to regain a semblance of normalcy.

Several Indian organizations took up Najeeb's case, and after the film's release, campaigns were launched to monitor abuses against Indian workers worldwide and to establish laws to protect these workers both financially and mentally. Najeeb became a frequent guest on various television programs, while newspapers and websites published detailed interviews about his ordeal to ensure that no one else would have to endure a similar fate.



Courses of English Language (first semester)

Class	Set by
Master 1	Dr. Houfani Asma

Saudi backlash

Although the film has been available on Netflix since July 19, the Saudi backlash only began with the addition of Arabic subtitles, which brought the movie to the attention of Gulf audiences. The film's significant success and the global debate it sparked also turned the Arab world's, particularly Saudi Arabia's, attention toward the film.

Some Saudis criticized the movie even before watching it, a sentiment that became evident on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), where Saudi users launched fierce attacks on the film and its creators, circulating many false claims about the production.

<https://globalvoices.org/2024/09/15/the-goat-life-the-film-that-angered-the-saudis>

Activity one: complete the following terminology

English	Arabic
Angered	أغضب
Trend	ضجة الأخبار الرائجة
The countries' s culture	ثقافة الشعوب
Political	سياسي
Religious	ديني
Ethnic conflicts	الصراعات الدينية
Portrays	يحكي
Gulf country	دول الخليج
Sponsor	الكفيل
Isolation	العزلة
Goat Days	أيام الماعز
Published	نشر
The outside world	العالم الخارجي
Horror	الرعب
campaigns	الحملات
Abuses	الحملات
Laws	القوانين
Fate	المصير
Ordeal	المحنة
Guest	الضيف
backlash	ردة الفعل



Courses of English Language (first semester)

Class	Set by
Master 1	Dr. Houfani Asma

subtitles	الترجمة
audiences	الجمهور
the global debate	الرأي العالمية
fierce attacks	حملات شرسة
claims	حملات

Activity one: Put the × in the true or false

	true	false
Cinema is just a enjoyable in the world		×
The Goat Life The movie that gladness the Saudis		×
“Goat Days” is the origin of the goat life movie that is the true story of Mohammed Najeeb	×	
Najeeb’s sponsor, or “kafeel,” forces him to live alone in the Saudi city		×
Najeeb underwent numerous physical and psychological treatments to regain a semblance of normalcy.	×	
The Saudi backlash only began when has been available on Netflix since July 19		×

Activity tow: complete the table

Indian reactions	Saudi backlash
<p>- to ensure that no one else would have to endure a similar fate</p> <p>establish laws to protect these workers both financially and mentally</p> <p>were launched to monitor abuses against Indian workers worldwide</p>	<p>launched fierce attacks on the film and its creators</p> <p>The backlash only began with the addition of Arabic traduction- criticized the movie even before watching it</p> <p>circulating many false claims about the production-</p>