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Forward:  
Afghanistan’s Culture Heritage

Afghanistan, after thirty years of aggressions and warfare, has returned to normal life afresh. Results of these dreadful thirty years of war have seemingly left unpleasant affects. At this stage of our transition from a culture of war to a culture of peace, fostering fraternity and cordiality and promoting the spirit of forgiveness, we have taken great strives. The Ministry of Information, Culture, Tourism, and Youth of Afghanistan has tried to popularize these principles through the promotion of cultural heritage, the holding of sophism gatherings and festivals, and the television and radio broadcasting of concerts and ceremonies. The psychological effects of such cultural services not only alleviate various negative attitudes, but also helps in the development of a culture of toleration. We should continue these kinds of activities for a long time in order to rid the society of the affects of thirty years of war. Attention to arts and cultural activities will help us a lot in this direction. Arts and artists during these thirty years of struggle, especially under the rule of the Taliban, were gravely predisposed towards destruction.

Today we need the revival of arts, and we have worked in this direction for ten years, but our possibilities have been extremely limited. For instance right now in most sections of Afghanistan folkloric music, which are the remnants of artistic progress in passed centuries in Afghanistan, are about to disappear and we need to do something for their protection. Similarly, in areas of other arts such as calligraphy, tilework, handicraft, and painting developed in Afghanistan over many centuries. Our new generation has raised its head from the flames of war and we are doing our utmost to alleviate the affects of conflict, brutality, and hatred.

One shining example is the amazing rediscovery of Silk Road treasures from Central Asia, thought to have been lost during decades of warfare and turmoil in Afghanistan. These masterpieces of the Kabul Museum collection remained hidden for twenty five years, thanks to the heroism of the Kabul Museum's staff, who had secretly crated them and placed them in the vaults of the Central Bank in the presidential palace. It was only in 2004 that the crates were opened to reveal that these works had survived intact, demonstrating to Afghanistan and the world that the dedicated efforts of Afghans, with resepect to even the most fragile components of their cultural heritage, can persevere against the forces of destruction.