

The Kite Runner

Glossary of Foreign Terms

Numbers in parentheses represent the page in *The Kite Runner* where the term appears.

Word	Definition
Agha (208)	Great lord; nobleman; commander; Mister
Ahesta boro (148)	Wedding song. Literally <i>Ahesta</i> , slow; <i>Boro</i> , go
Ahmaq (145)	Foolish, stupid, awkward; a greater or the greatest fool
Al hamdullellah (297)	Thanks to God
Alahoo (184)	God
Alef-beh (151)	The letters A (<i>alef</i>) and B (<i>beh</i>), used to signify the entire alphabet
Allah-u-akbar (6)	God (is) greatest, omnipotent; (Arabic) <i>Akbar</i> means great and <i>Allah</i> means God
Attan (171)	A Pashtun tribal dance performed on festive occasions and as a physical exercise in the army. It is performed to the ever-faster rhythm of drums, the tribesmen's long hair whipping in unison, and is often continued to exhaustion. In some respects it resembles the dance of the "whirling dervishes" of the Ottoman empire. Although Pashtun in origin, it has also been adopted by other ethnic groups as the Afghan national dance.
Aush (352)	Afghan soup with noodles, meat, vegetables, tomato broth, and yogurt and garnished with mint.
Awroussi (169)	Wedding ceremony

Ayat (62)	Arabic word for sign or miracle—typically referring to verses of the Koran
Ayat-ul-kursi (211)	One of Koran’s long verses
Azan (68)	The call to prayer, five times a day, by the muezzin from the door of a mosque or a minaret of a large mosque
Babalu (8)	Boogeyman
Bachem (139)	Word meaning “my child” or “my baby”
Bakhshesh (355)	Forgiveness
Bakhshida (72)	Pardoned (by God)
Balay (140)	Yes
Bas (37, 289)	Enough
Bazarris (26)	Merchants; people or workers from Bazzars
Bia (280) bī-wal (72)	To take along, conduct, lead, convey, remove, transport (peculiar to animate objects)
Biryani (300)	Indian rice dish made with meat, vegetables and yogurt
Bismillah (110)	In the name of God! (Frequently used as an ejaculation)
Biwa (275)	Widow
Boboresh (65)	Word meaning “cut him!”
Bolani (138)	Afghan dish consisting of flat bread stuffed with foods such as potatoes or leeks
Burqa (209)	A women’s outer garment that covers them from head to toe, including the face. Now rarely worn outside of Afghanistan.
Buzkashi (20)	An Afghan national game meaning “goat-pulling” and is played on horseback by two opposing teams who use the carcass of a calf (a

	goat was used in former days) as their object of competition. The purpose is to lift up the carcass from the center of a circle, carry it around a point some distance away, and put it again in its original place. All this has to be done on horseback and the chapandaz, expert player, must try to keep possession of the headless carcass. Cash prizes are given to the player who scores a goal and to the winning team.
Caracul (14)	A type of sheep
Chai (203)	Tea
Chaman (30)	A town in Afghanistan
Chapan (61)	A traditional coat for men popular among the Turkic population of northern Afghanistan, but worn also by other Afghans. It is a long, buttonless caftan with knee-length sleeves which in warm weather is worn open with a sleeve thrown over a shoulder. In cold weather fur-lined or quilted chapans are worn, tied around the waist with a cummerbund. It comes in various colors, often striped, and is fashioned of cotton or silk.
Chapandaz (20)	A "master" horseman in the Buzkashi competition
Chi (89)	"What?"
Chilas (169)	Wedding rings
Chopan kabob(171)	Pieces of lamb chops marinated and broiled on a skewer
Dil (144)	The heart, mind, soul
Dil-roba (280)	Very beautiful. <i>Dil</i> , heart; <i>roba</i> , thief. A heart thief—someone who takes your breath away
Diniyat (62)	Religion, religious

Dogh (186)	Buttermilk
Dozd (235)	Bandit
Dostet darum (326)	I love you
Ferni (183)	Rice pudding
Ghazal (166)	Love song or poem
Hadia (238)	Gift
Hadj (15)	Pilgrimage to Mecca
Hijab (174)	Veiling
Iftikhar (165)	Honor
Ihtiram (168, 208)	Veneration, honor, reverence, respect
Inshallah (33)	Word meaning "God willing"
Isfand (211)	A wild plant that is burned for its aroma and to ward off misfortune
Jai-namaz (345)	Prayer rug
Jan (17)	Word of endearment; dear (formal). Joon is the informal form of it that literally means "life."
Jaroo (192)	Broomstick
Kaka (83)	Uncle
Kamyab (357)	Unique, rare
Kasseef (40)	Filthy, very dirty
Khala (83)	Maternal aunt (<i>Ameh</i> is a paternal aunt.) Calling an unrelated woman <i>khala</i> indicates that she is very close to the family or to the child.
Khan (1)	Title of tribal chiefs, landed proprietors, and heads of communities . Now <i>Khan</i> is used like mister when placed after the name of a person.
Khanum (134)	Lady; Mrs.
Khasta (355)	Weary; wounded; sick, infirm
Khastegar (142)	Suitor

Khastegari (161)	A suitor's official visitation to a prospective mate's family—usually accompanied by his mother, sister, or khala—to propose marriage
Kho dega (184)	Phrase meaning "so!"
Khoda hafez (146)	Good-bye (Farsi) Literally, <i>Khod</i> means God and <i>hafez</i> means safe, so this construction means "God keep you safe."
KhoshtEEP (166)	Handsome
Kocheh-Morgha (195)	Chicken bazaar
Kochi (26)	A nomad
Kofta (14)	Meatballs
Kolcha (138)	A kind of bread
Komak (158)	Help
Kuni (39)	Derogatory word for homosexual
Kursi (57)	Electric or coal heater under a low table covered with a quilt
Laaf (12)	Praise; boasting; self-praise; bragging
Lafz (166)	Tone of voice
Lawla (218)	Tulip flowers
Lochak (146)	Small scarf
Lotfan (252)	Please
Loya jirga (365)	Pashto phrase meaning "great council"
Maghbool (178)	Beautiful
Mantu (65)	A piece of sheep's tripe sewed up and stuffed with rice and other condiments
Mard (39)	A man, hero; brave; bold
Mareez (82)	Sick

Mashallah (32)	Praise God. Typically said when seeing someone beautiful or smart—anything that one wants to praise.
Masjid (346)	A house of prayer, mosque
Mast (24)	Drunk; intoxicated
Mehmanis (232)	Parties
Moalem (151)	Teacher
Moftakhir (131)	Proud
Mohtaram (147)	Respected
Mojarad (146)	Single young man
Moochi (51)	Shoe repairman
Morgh (366)	Chicken
Mozahem (145)	Intruder
Naan (8)	Bread; a light round cake
Nah-kam (357)	Doomed to wallow in failure
Namaz (15)	Prayers, those especially prescribed by law (which is repeated five times a day)
Namoos (145)	Reputation; fame; renown; esteem; honor; dignity
Nang (145)	Honor; reputation; estimation
Nawasa (184)	Grandson
Nazar (211)	Looking at; beholding; seeing; gazing upon; viewing; turning the eyes or the mind towards; scanning (Evil eye)
Nazr (182)	A vow to have a sheep slaughtered and the meat given to the poor
Nihari (196)	Curry stew made with beef or lamb
Nika (169)	Swearing ceremony of a wedding
Noor (168)	(Arabic) Light

Pakol (230)	A soft, round-topped Afghan men's hat
Pakora (65)	Indian snack made of deep-fried, battered items, such as chicken, onion, eggplant, potato, spinach, cauliflower, tomato, or chili
Parchami (138)	A member of the Parcham faction of the communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan
Pari (98)	Fairy; angel
Pirhan-tumban (230)	Dress and pants
Qabuli (138)	Afghan rice dish with meat, raisins, and carrots
Qaom (326)	Family member
Qawali (225)	Sufi devotional music
Qiyamat (16)	The resurrection; last day (judgment day)
Eid of Qorban (285)	A Muslim animal sacrifice ceremony to commemorate Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son (Also called <i>Eid ul-Adha</i>)
Qurma (48)	Gourmet; stew
Quwat (40)	Powers; forces
Rafiqs (112)	Comrade
Raka't (108)	Sections of prayer
Rawsti (343)	Anyway; after all
Roussi (115)	Russians
Rowt (125)	A type of sweet
Rubab (218)	A four-stringed instrument in the form of a short-necked guitar, but having a surface of parchment instead of wood
Sabagh (369)	Lesson
Sabzi challow (173)	White rice with spinach and lamb
Sahib (208, 215)	A friend; a courtesy title like "sir"

Salaam (234)	Hello
Salaam alaykum (45)	Hello to you
Samosa (299)	A kind of puff—a small, triangular pastry stuffed with minced meat
Saratan (14)	Cancer
Saughat (98)	A magnificent present made to kings or grandees, or sent by friends to friends; a curiosity
Shahbas (280)	Bravo!
Shalwar-kameez (299)	Pants and dress
Seh-parcha (366)	Fabric
Sherjangi (19)	Battle of the poems
Shirini-khori (169)	Engagement party
Sholeh-goshti (171)	A kind of food
Shorawi (111)	The former U.S.S.R.
Shorwa (172)	Broth
Spasseba (114)	Russian for “thank you”
Tandoor (85)	Traditional oven for bread making
Tanhaii (368)	Alone
Tar (50)	A thread; a wire; a glass-coated cutting line on a kite
Tashakor (46)	Thank you
Tashweesh (325)	Nervousness
Toophan agha (12)	Mr. Hurricane
Wah wah (84)	Bravo! Admirable!
Watan (174)	Native country, home
Watani (229)	Belonging to one's country
Yelda (143)	The first night of winter and the longest night of the year
Zakat (15)	Purity, purification; alms given according to Muhammadan law, by way of purifying or securing a blessing to the rest of one's

	possessions
Zendagi (207)	Life
Zendagi migzara (140)	"Life goes on"

Definitions from:

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