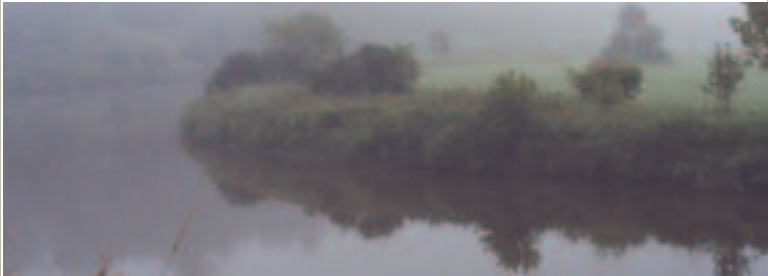




THE ALL HAS SPOKEN:

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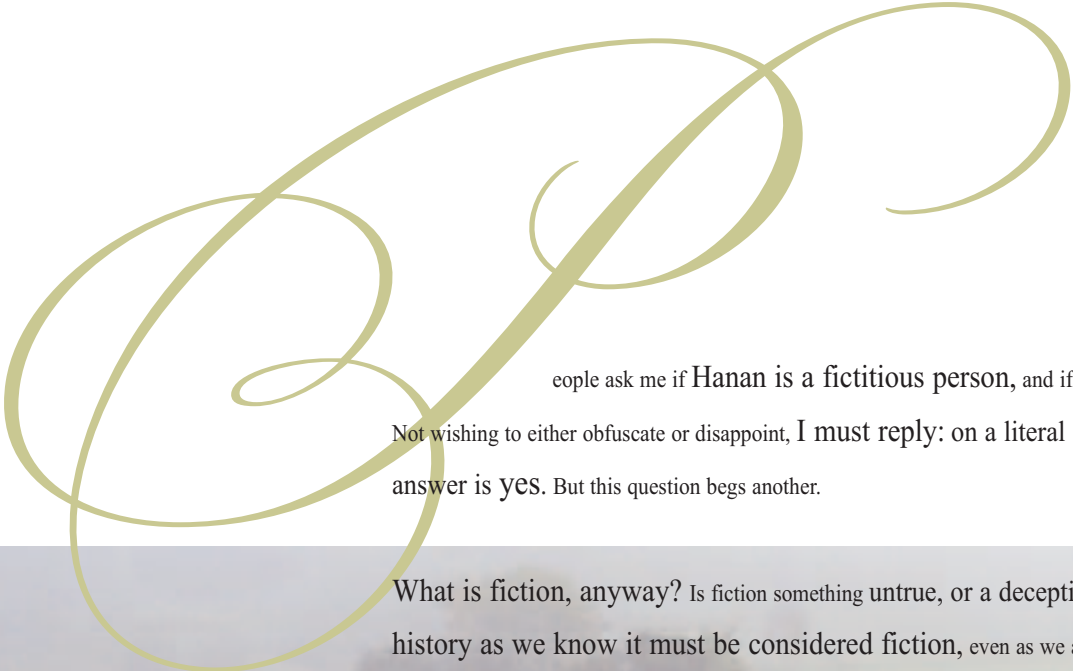
THIS IS MY JOB



“Five sleepless days and nights later I found I had midwived twenty-some poems, much of Hanan’s life-story and a sense that the Universe was not done yet”.

JEF BUEHLER

MM INSIDER SHARING: Early last spring, in an effort to come out of 'my head,' I shared with some friends my long desire to get involved in community beautification. A couple of days later, one of them handed me the name of the person in charge of a revitalization program on the state level. Talk about 'ask and you shall receive!' Upon meeting Jef, I sensed a strong connection. Then one day he asked me about a website for a book he'd just completed. Then it clicked! I never saw it coming. Who would've thought that I would be sharing spiritual philosophies with a State Director of a government program and that he'd be granting me permission to publish the translated poetry from a book of 14th Century Farsi that was channeled through him. That was how I came to learn about "Hanan Says." And for the record, I'm I firm believer that all things happen for a reason. Kim Jacobs



People ask me if Hanan is a fictitious person, and if the works herein are fiction. Not wishing to either obfuscate or disappoint, I must reply: on a literal (and literary) level, the answer is **yes**. But this question begs another.

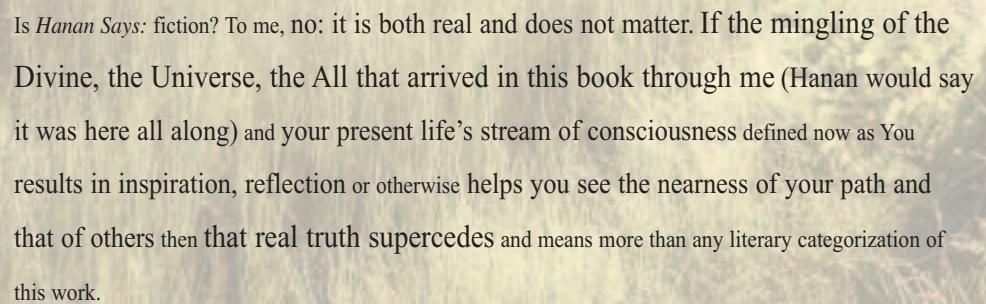
What is fiction, anyway? Is fiction something untrue, or a deception? If so, much of history as we know it must be considered fiction, even as we are taught to believe it and consider it almost sacrosanct fact. Ask the Taino natives of the Caribbean about their version of history around 1492 and it surely appears radically different than that of Columbus' fans then and now.

Try to define what is historical reality and fiction among the numerous perspectives of Jews and Palestinians, Americans and Iraqis, and even within America regarding current and millennia-old issues and conflicts in the Middle East. The conglomeration of subtle, pervasive and filtered ways of looking at reality Daniel Quinn so aptly describes in *Ishmael* and his other works as *Mother Culture* is very much at work here, yet is broken down to multiple Aunt and Uncle Cultures that further complicate matters of what is real – or not. Where you stand so often is tied to where you sit.

When that which I call “I” opened up to the intense flow of universal energy(?), spirit(?), God(?) and allowed it/them to enter my being and inform me about Hanan's life and what Hanan said during that life I had 3 choices: I could attempt to **fight it actively** (e.g., take sleeping pills, get drunk); I could **attack it passively** (e.g., distract and numb myself with work, TV, food, etc.); or I could **ride it out**, be with it and see what might happen. Five sleepless days and nights later I found I had midwived twenty-some poems, much of Hanan's life-story and a sense that the Universe was not done yet.

The contrast between what I thought was my path and *raison d'être* and the joyful, unnerving, exhausting and ecstatic experience of Hanan speaking through me was stark beyond description. **The only antidote was and is to keep hearing Hanan**, translating his words from 14th Century Farsi and writing them down. **The All has spoken: this is my job.**

I do not claim to know the ultimate truth of even my own history, let alone that of the global theater known as Earth. Yet, what if the expressions of experience and interpretations of life that coursed through me in the birthing of *Hanan Says*: are as true to me as their chosen vessel and recorder as an apple I hold in my hand? Their form and taste are real and equally there.



Is *Hanan Says*: fiction? To me, no: it is both real and does not matter. If the mingling of the Divine, the Universe, the All that arrived in this book through me (Hanan would say it was here all along) and your present life's stream of consciousness defined now as You results in inspiration, reflection or otherwise helps you see the nearness of your path and that of others then **that real truth supercedes** and means more than any literary categorization of this work.

I believe, more than anything that what Hanan Says: is valid both for his time, our present and the future. Equally, I believe that we all have inner voices, connected in some way to something greater, some source beyond our complete grasping and that when we listen to what comes, swimming so often against seemingly strong and surrounding currents of everyday life, we move closer to the specific path, to our purpose, to treating ourselves and others as seekers on that journey, and maybe, just maybe, get to follow the breadcrumbs to peek behind the curtain and see that which is not yet revealed. **mm**

WITH PEACE, LOVE AND GRATITUDE, Jef Buehler

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Jef Buehler is the State Coordinator of Main Street New Jersey and a Director in the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth, also serving as the administrator of the nationally recognized Downtown Revitalization Institute.

He holds an FCC license for radio, an International Teacher's Certification program for Kundalini Yoga and a PADI Open Water Diver certification and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic. Currently, he is finalizing a book of his Sufi poetry.

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# *Hanan says*

Feelings go away  
Like ripples from a stone  
Thrown in a pool of water  
The larger we allow our pool to be  
The more space it contains to absorb  
Feelings we emanate

Trying to tighten that space  
Holding on and controlling our feelings  
Causes great waves of repercussion  
Bouncing back and forth off our shores and  
Turbulence in our hearts  
Delaying the return to placidness



It is the still pond  
That best reflects the true essence  
Of Heaven