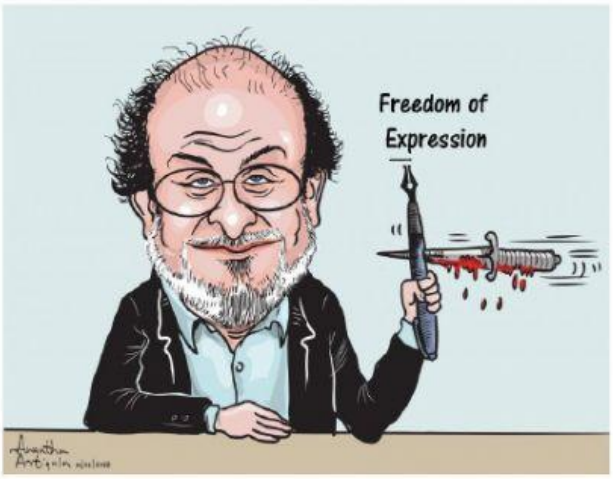


Fatwa 2

Look at the picture. What words and associations does it evoke in you?

If there was a fatwa put on against you, would you hide? Would you hire security guards? Who would you expect to get support and protection from?

1. You are about to listen to a series of snippets with some more facts and opinions about Salman Rushdie, his book and the fatwa. Fill each gap in the transcribed lines with only three words.

1 _____

The Ayatollah Khomeini has ordered Muslims to kill a British _____ .

He's told them to murder Salman Rushdie and his publishers for _____ .

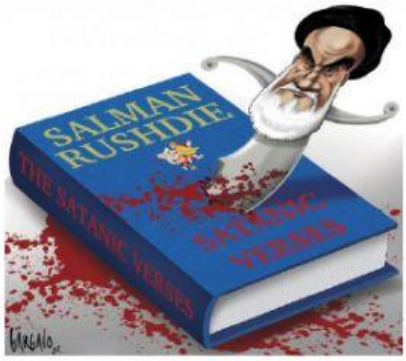
No one is allowed, no one is free to _____ of one billion Muslim human beings.

2 _____

The death threat forced Salman Rushdie to spend years living _____ .

One of the book's translators was killed, _____ .

As time elapsed, the author came out of hiding, but the effect of the original controversy _____ , and now the _____ in hospital.



3 _____

Lots of people thought _____ .

The Satanic Verses was greeted as an event from _____.

Nobody really picked up on anything that _____ controversial.

4 _____

That fairly _____ , as we now know, didn't last.

Rushdie uses a pejorative name for the Prophet Muhammad which _____ to Muslims.

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5 _____ When was the fatwa issued?

He has brought his life to misery _____, by _____ against the _____ of the Islamic world.

That's why it is a problem of _____.

6 _____

I'm very sad it _____.

And obviously, it's horrifying that people are willing to proceed in this way against only, after all, one novel in the face _____ history of Islam.

7 _____

What is important now is _____ the situation.

We say to him in private conversations that the best _____ would be for him to instruct his publishers that this book should not go into paper back.

8 _____

Long before Rushdie became a novelist, he was a _____ . And one of the things he wrote about was the way in which migrant community, _____ migrant communities, constitute themselves as a community.

These were _____ that Rushdie spent so much of his career feeling that he was – if not a product of – somebody who was probably one of its most articulate exponents.

And here were these people coming out saying "this man has blasphemed against the thing _____ to us."

So, it started in the _____ , but spread very-very quickly.

Even before the _____ in Iran, there was opposition to the book from people in the United Kingdom.

9 _____

Indeed, those several years turned into more than a decade. He had to move from one safe house to another, the _____ by the British State.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Sometimes it looked very _____ . You know, you're zooming around and "I'm at [...name of the place], you know, and people are jumping out of opening doors.

It didn't feel grand on _____ , there it felt like jail.

10 _____

What's extraordinary is that more than 25 years later, in 2007, Salman Rushdie was awarded a knighthood for _____ which actually makes him Sir Salman.
But even then the _____ him sparked debate.

This is a man who _____ Muslims in a very powerful way and who _____ __ by the British police against threats of suicide for years and years at great expense of the tax payer.

And frankly, I think that was not wise and not very clever to give him a knighthood.

11 _____

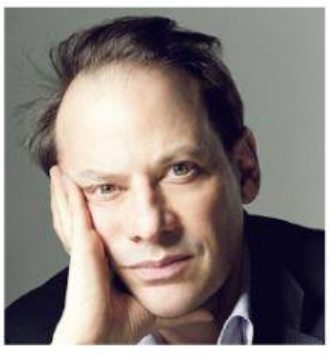
I think that's a contemptual statement and I think everyone who applauded it should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves.

Do you think really that it's a waste of time and money defending free expression from suicide murderers? If you do, can you think of _____ the money should go on?

When I hear idle talk about how this country, this culture could or should punch above its weight, as we say, I think, what do we have this better _____ ?

And isn't it extraordinary that we have an author who has helped to spark a Renaissance of writing in the subcontinent. This produced a _____ of English literature.

You are going to read an excerpt from an article from The New Yorker



Salman Rushdie and the Power of Words

by Adam Gopnik

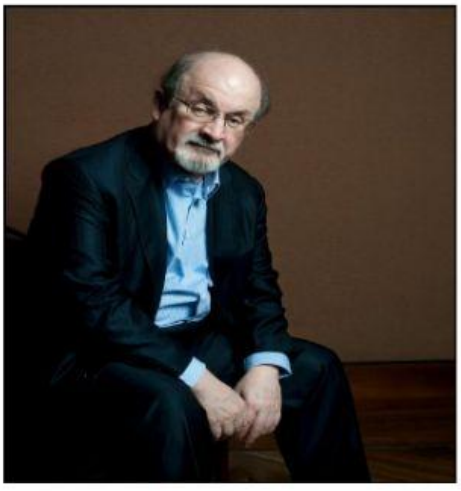
Efforts are bound to be made to somehow equalize or level the acts of Rushdie and his tormentors and would-be executioners. This is a despicable viewpoint.

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A. Join the words and their meanings/synonyms

eloquently	destroying, hurting or ruining something sacred
to be scarred	intended to learn more about something
to maim	unfair or cruel treatment over a long period of time because of race, religion, or political beliefs
exploratory	to be marked with or scars
sacrilegious	in a way that gives a strong, clear message
invective	a forceful and bitter verbal attack
persecution	to wound or injure (a person or animal) so that part of the body is permanently damaged
diatribe	insulting, abusive, or highly critical language against someone or something

B. Read the text and do the T/F activity



1.Salman Rushdie was repeatedly attacked in the stomach and neck and shoulder. ___

2.The author of the article says that even trying to get the victims feelings can't leave you uninjured either. ___

3.Authorities released a motive for the incident as soon as it happened.___

4.The terrorist who assaulted Rushdie was a radicalized Islamic civilian. ___

5.The attacker grew up in the northeast of the USA. ___

The terrorist assault on Salman Rushdie on Friday morning, in western New York, was triply horrific to contemplate. First in its sheer brutality and cruelty, on a seventy-five-year-old man, unprotected and about to speak—doubtless cheerfully and eloquently, as he always did—repeatedly in the stomach and neck and face. Indeed, we accept the abstraction of those words—"assaulted" and "attacked"—too casually. To try to feel the victim's feelings—first shock, then unimaginable pain, then the panicked sense of life bleeding away—to engage in the most

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moderate empathy with the author is to be oneself scarred. (At the time of writing, Rushdie is reportedly on a ventilator, with an uncertain future, the only certainty being that, if he lives, he will be maimed for life.)

Second, it was horrific in the madness of its meaning and a reminder of the power of religious fanaticism to move people. Authorities did not immediately release a motive for the attack, but the dark apprehension is that the terrorist who assaulted Rushdie was a radicalized Islamic militant of American upbringing—like John Updike's imaginary terrorist in the novel "Terrorist," apparently one raised in New Jersey—who was executing a fatwa first decreed by Ayatollah Khomeini, in 1989, upon the publication of Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses." The evil absurdity of the death sentence pronounced on Rushdie for having written a book actually more exploratory than sacrilegious—in no sense an anti-Muslim invective, but a kind of magical-realist meditation on themes from the Quran—was always obvious. (Of course, Rushdie should have been equally invulnerable to persecution had he written an actual anti-Muslim—or an anti-Christian—diatribe, but, as it happens, he hadn't.)

C. Read the meanings of the bolded words from the chunks, then find the correct place for each chunk in the text (there are two extra gaps).

going by the **moniker**	name, nickname
mordant humour	having or showing a sharp or critical quality; biting
how **implacable** those enemies are	unable to be appeased or placated
italicizing his notoriety	emphasizing

For the next decade, Rushdie was under protection and, though far from disappearing from the world—for the most part, he went where he wanted—it was always under guard. (I remember him, at least once, with , Michael Jackson, by hiding under the name of someone even more notorious.) Over time, though, with a courage that seems even more remarkable now than it did then, he dropped the protection and went about unescorted and unprotected—reclaiming his own humanity by refusing to be made into a special case of any kind. He would not allow himself to be reduced to the caricature that his idiotic enemies wanted to make of him, or into the equally caricatural role of a martyr for truth. He was a writer, with a writer's pastimes and a writer's rights. Friday's attack was a reminder of just , and a reminder, at a timely moment, that, when an autocrat encourages violence, violence happens.

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When theocrats or autocrats or simple demagogues inflame their followers, fires erupt, and innocent people are burned even if the time between the fuse being lit and the flame exploding may be longer than we could have imagined.

D. Read the words and their meanings, can you translate them?
Read the excerpt.

wince	make a slight involuntary grimace or shrinking movement of the body out of pain or distress.
reiterated	said again or a number of times (typically for emphasis or clarity)
denounce	publicly declare to be wrong or evil
gloating	feeling or expressing great pleasure or satisfaction because of your own success or good luck
crowing	expression of great pride or triumph, especially in a tone of gloating satisfaction
spouts	speaks a lot, in a way that is boring or annoying for other people
contentious	(of a person) given to provoking argument
lore	the body of knowledge, especially of a traditional, anecdotal, or popular nature, on a particular subject



Finally, if more locally, it was horrific because it had seemed to those who knew him that the fatwa had faded in significance and threat, that it had become the subject for retrospective memoir, as in his fine one, "Joseph Anton," and even for actual comedy. No one can forget—or now not wince a little at the memory—Rushdie's hilarious cameo on Larry David's "Curb Your Enthusiasm," a couple of seasons ago, where he counselled Larry, then under an imaginary fatwa himself, on the benefits of fatwa sex. Though the apologists for the Iranian government insist that the fatwa had been disregarded or increasingly neglected by the authorities, none in power had had the decency to reject it, much less denounce it—indeed, the current Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, seems to have reiterated the fatwa as recently as 2019—and the murderous assault on Rushdie only seems to have earned gloating and crowing from the holy men in Iran. Seyed Mohammad Marandi, a figure involved in the U.S.-Iran nuclear negotiations, announced on Twitter that he "won't be shedding tears for a writer who spouts endless hatred & contempt for Muslims & Islam."

Of course, Rushdie did no such thing. What makes the story so tragic, and the comic-television moment so illustrative of his nature, is that Salman, to those who knew him—no, *know* him—as a

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friend, was the most amiable of men, the least narrowly contentious, the most rational and *reasonable* guy they would ever meet. Full of lore and life, with immensely comprehensive tastes and subjects, over dinner he would talk as readily, and as ably, of movies and TV series and pop music, which he loved, as he would of literature and religion.

Curb Your Enthusiasm is Larry David's misanthropic comedy. In season 9, having written *Fatwa! The Musical,* Larry becomes a frightened target of a fatwa from the Ayatollah in Iran. In episode 3, Larry reaches a new nadir — and his breaking point — as his friends cancel golf games and ditch his poker night/text chain because they don't want to be associated with this walking death threat. But then he realizes that there is a man who can truly understand his plight: the subject of his musical, Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*.

Watch this (distorted) version of the scene from the episode and answer the questions:

1. What huge benefit of fatwa does Salman tell Larry about?
2. What is his reasoning?
3. Where do they go then?
4. What actor was Larry going to invite to perform Salman character in the musical?
5. Why does Salman not like the cast?
6. What actor does Salman himself suggest?
7. What is the other benefit of fatwa Salman tell about?
8. How does the lunch end?

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