

Sunday

In the chapter titled "Sunday," Cyrus Shams finds himself grappling with his emotions and memories as he spends his third day in Brooklyn. He attempts to connect with his uncle Arash after a significant event—the funeral of his father. The chapter begins with Cyrus making a hesitant call to Zee, reflecting his uncertain feelings of remorse. Instead of leaving a message, he opts to reminisce about the sparse attendees at his father's burial, which included Ali's boss, his English teacher Mr. Orenn, his girlfriend Shireen, and friends, all sharing a somber presence.

Cyrus reflects on his uncle's furious response when he finally informed him about his father's passing, feeling the gap that distance has created. Seeking solace, he opens the hotel window to let the cold air in, momentarily staving off his chaotic thoughts, and reaches out to Arash on WhatsApp. Their conversation reveals a mix of familial warmth and the complexities of their relationship. Arash greets him with affection, despite the distance and years apart, demonstrating his caring nature through light-hearted banter about learning French from his assistant.

The dialogue unfolds with Arash sharing his musings on life and death, illustrating a remarkable understanding of existence through anecdotal stories, such as his love for music and the impact of Mozart's "Miserere." This conversation evokes a sense of nostalgia for Cyrus as he grapples with his identity in contrast to his uncle's profound experiences. Arash's stories touch on heavier topics, like the repercussions of their pasts and the absurdity of life's fleeting nature.

As their conversation progresses, Cyrus reveals a painting that reminded him of Arash, straddling memories of family and loss. He tries to bridge their emotional distance through storytelling, but hears Arash emphasize the weight of shared history, underscoring that many bear similar stories. In the end, the chapter encapsulates Cyrus's blend of anxiety, longing, and the comfort of connection, as he contemplates his uncle's words, readying himself to absorb the significance of the music that links them across cultures and experiences.