

Tuesday

In the chapter "Tuesday," the characters Cyrus Shams, Zee Novak, and Sad James gather at the Naples Café, a gathering place known for its relaxed ambiance among local counterculturalists. Cyrus shares a new creative project focused on the theme of martyrdom, having been inspired by both personal experiences and readings about historical martyrs. He reflects on his mother's meaningless death and contemplates if she can be regarded as a martyr, expressing a deep-seated desire to find significance in loss.

While discussing poetry and the representation of martyrs, Cyrus considers incorporating various historical figures into his work. Sad James and Zee provide playful commentary about the nature of their contributions to the open mic scene they frequent at Naples. The night serves as a comforting backdrop where they explore heavy themes through the lens of camaraderie and creativity.

Cyrus grapples with existential questions tied to his past, including the impact of his family's history and the traumas of war. His musings lead him to articulate a profound sense of longing for meaning beyond mere survival, particularly regarding the deaths of loved ones that felt disconnected from larger narratives of history and culture.

During the evening, they learn about an art exhibit featuring a dying Iranian artist, Orkideh, who invites people to converse with her in her final days. This strikes a chord with Cyrus, who begins to see a potential connection to his own project. His friends encourage him to visit Orkideh, pointing out that this encounter could provide insight into the significance of death and martyrdom that he seeks in his writing.

The chapter culminates in Cyrus's epiphany—he realizes that he has been stagnating in his current life and decides to take action by visiting the artist, a decision that excites him and marks a desire for deeper meaning in his work and personal journey .