

suggests that Amir is once again trying to escape his past, although Afghanistan's culture continues to follow him around. Aside from Soraya, no other women are at the table and Soraya's uncle gives a speech. Later on, the Afghan wedding song is played, reminding the reader of the incident with the truck and Russian soldier, who hums the tune. This also shows that Amir is still haunted by his past. There is also a lot of sensory language with the descriptions of food (e.g. "*colourful platters of chopan kabob*") and dancing, which goes on until dawn.

We learn that Soraya "*dedicated herself to take care of Baba*" and insists that she moves in with Amir and Baba. This presents her as the ideal nurturing maternal figure - something which Amir never had. She appears to be a humble, devoted wife who is loving and thoughtful. Soraya and Baba have a close relationship and even conspire to read Amir's stories. At last, Baba takes an interest and pride in Amir's talents. This reinforces the Afghan respect for elders and expectation for women to care for their family. Baba is even in control of his own death, as he refuses his nightly dose of morphine, and dies with a sense of peace, dignity and happiness.

Baba's funeral is a massive affair, although it solely consists of men. Amir remarks that parking bays were filled up and overflowing with hundreds of mourners - many of them he "*barely knew*". As Amir greets the mourners, they mention Baba's generosity and say how he lent them money or found him jobs. This highlights the community's respect for Baba and a terrifying turning point for Amir, as he has to make his way in the world alone as an adult with a family to support.

Amir learns a lot about the Taheris in the months following the rushed wedding. Both General Taheri and Jamila Taheri appear to be plagued with illness and are difficult to live with. Whilst the General experiences blinding migraines and takes antidepressants, Jamila is a hypochondriac who is afraid that every little pain is a stroke and is desperate for attention and a purpose - hence why she loves Amir, as he gives her the time of day. The General is also very petty towards his wife - they have different bedrooms and he upsets Jamila by criticising her cooking. He is also controlling, as part of their marriage deal was that Jamila would never sing in public again (despite being a famous singer in Afghanistan). The General also controls Soraya, by forcing her to return home from her dodgy boyfriend, armed with a gun. He also forces her to cut off all her hair - a symbol of beauty and femininity which prevents Soraya from leaving the house for weeks. General Taheri appears to be a foil to Baba, as he refuses to engage in degrading work and would