

Assyria; The Teenager and the Hope

Fred Aprim

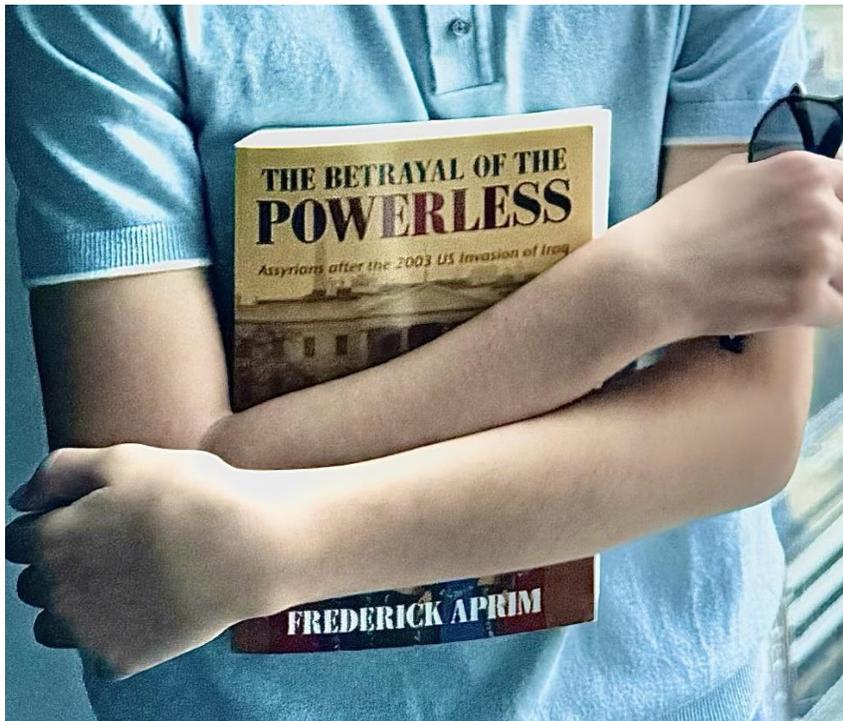
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It's a common observation that negative events tend to overshadow positive ones, and the actions of a few bad individuals often dominate over the good deeds of many. The human brain naturally amplifies negative experiences while overlooking the positive. This is true in every society. To counter this, we need to retrain our minds to celebrate and amplify every positive emotion, events or actions that promote our advancement in life. We must also learn how to cherish the little things that bring joy and hope to our lives and society at large.

Having said that, I confess that I, too, have sometimes let the negative behavior of a few that appear on social media overshadow the wonderful contributions of many Assyrians worldwide.



Christian Dawod, a 12-year-old boy from Chicago, Illinois, is the son of Susan and Sargon Dawod and the grandson of Gladice and Zaya Shamoon. Christian has a passion for studying history, especially Assyrian history. The love for learning is a precious gift that families can give their children; it requires much love, patience, and care. This value was well-known in Christian's great-grandfather, [Younan Namato Younan](#), and has continued through his grandparents to his parents. Christian's dedication to education is evident; he even brings a book to the table during meals, a habit he inherited from his great-grandfather.



Last week, the Dawod family traveled to London, England to visit family members. As always, Christian brought with him a book or two to read on the trip. While in London, his mother Susan took the above beautiful photo of Christian and his sister, Zara. In the picture, Christian is holding my latest book, "*The Betrayal of the Powerless: Assyrians After the 2003 US Invasion of Iraq.*" Susan sent the photo to her mother Gladice, who then shared it with my cousin Helen Baba and other relatives after noticing that my book was in her grandchild's arms.

Positive thinkers and educated Assyrian teens and youth, like Christian, give us hope for the future of Assyria. Christian's dedication to education embodies this bright hope.