

Open Call

Bunyād • Safar • Rūḥ — Five Years of Rawanee

بنیاد • سفر • روح — *Foundation • Journey • Soul*

After over five years of Rawanee, we are bringing together an **anthology** that honours the stories, languages, and creative journeys of our community. This will be complemented by podcast episodes (RawPods on podcast channels and YouTube) and blog posts (rawanee.com/perspectives) .

This open call extends and expands our earlier initiative **Watan ki Mitti**, which sought to highlight the overlooked and unheard narratives of Pakistan and other lands that bear untold stories.

Roots remain central - and now they sit alongside other global majority journeys - whether these be stories of migration and refuge, identity, spirit and the soul, or personal and psychological journeys.

Explaining the Themes

At the heart of this call are the words that have carried Rawanee for five years: بنیاد • سفر • روح — **Bunyād • Safar • Rūḥ** (*Foundation • Journey • Soul*). These are lived truths of migration, creativity, and community. Respond in your own way—through memory, process, longing, play, or possibility.

- **Bunyād (Foundation):** roots, languages, homelands, faith, rituals—fragile or sturdy, fractured or nourishing; Pakistan and diasporas, or any homeland that shapes you.
- **Safar (Journey):** migration, refuge, exile, conflict, rebuilding, resistance—and the everyday journeys from silence to speech, loss to laughter; humour as survival.
- **Rūḥ (Soul):** why we create—faith, love, resilience, imagination, joy; creativity as devotion, care, and community.

Sub-themes from *Watan ki Mitti*:

Culture & heritage (music, food, folklore, humour) • Identity & home amid migrations & conflict • Rebuilding for the future (peace, human rights, unity) • **Humour & satire** (memes, light verse, playful takes).

What We're Inviting

You are warmly invited to submit your creative work in the following forms:

- **Publications (Safhay)** - selected content will be published as an anthology:
 - Poems
 - Short essays or prose (fiction or non-fiction)
- **Podcasts (RawPods):**
 - Audio or video recordings (poetry, stories, or creative reflections to theme).
 - Work may feature in our podcast strands:
 - Rivers of Resilience (*migration/refugee & allied voices*),
 - Creative Thought minis (*craft & ideas linked to the theme*),
 - Short Poems Pod (*poem recitations linked to theme*).
- **Events (Mehfil):**
 - Global Online Mehfil, 16th Nov 2025 - Apply to join
Segments include:
 - Refugee and migrant poetry
 - Youth event
 - Urdu segment
 - Global contributors (everyone is welcome!)
 - Spring 2026 - In person event in London Mehfil
 - Featuring work selected for the anthology
- **Blog (Perspectives):**
 - Short cultural reflections or reviews (e.g. food, music, humour, migration, craft).

Languages: All are welcome. If your piece isn't in Urdu or English, please include a translation.

👉 Send your submissions to: rawanee.submit@gmail.com

Deadlines

- **Anthology (Safhay):**
 - Final submissions by 15 Dec 2025
 - Selected contributors will be invited to the London in person event in Spring 2026
- **Blog & Podcasts:**
 - Rolling submissions; deadline is the last day of each month for possible inclusion in the following month's outputs
- **Events (separate applications — please specify in your email):**
 - Nov Global Online Mehfil (Safar): applications close 30 Oct 2025



Rawanee Safhay (Anthology): Submission Guidelines

- **Format:** .docx or .pdf for text; standard audio/video files or links for recordings.
- **Title Page (first page for text submissions):**
 - Author name + short intro (≤250 words)
 - Title + short summary/intro (≤150 words)
 - (Optional) word or line count
 - Contact details (email + phone)
- **References:** If you cite other texts, include full details on the last page.
- **Editing:** Rawanee may edit/correct texts prior to publication (lightly, with care).
- **Integrity:** Plagiarised or AI-generated work will be declined; repeat offenders may be barred.
- **Values:** Keep to respect and kindness. Critical thought is welcome—without disrespect, hate, or violent speech.
- **Previously published work:** We welcome previously published pieces, as long as they are properly attributed to their original source.

Reassurance & Disclaimers

- **Creative Integrity**
All work will be editorially reviewed, but *no poems or creative pieces will be edited without the explicit consent of the contributor.*
- **Rights & Permissions**
Writers/poets retain all rights to their work.
Previously published work is welcome, as long as you retain the right to re-publish and provide full attribution
- **Consent to Share**
By submitting, you consent to Rawanee featuring your work in:
 - **Publications:** print/digital (anthology, blogs).
 - **Podcasts:** RawPods series.
 - **Events:** live/recorded readings, performances.



RawPods (Podcast) & Perspectives (Blog)

Submission Guidelines



Themes

Respond in your own way — through a poem, reflection, or short recording:

November — بُنياد (Foundation)

- Roots, languages, homelands, rituals.
- First words, beginnings, the foundations of identity and creativity.

December — سفر (Journey)

- Migration, refuge, rebuilding, resistance.
- Journeys across borders and within memory; humour as survival.

January — رُوح (Soul)

- Spirit, resilience, faith, love, collective creativity.
- Why we create, and how community nourishes the imagination.



What You Can Share

- **Poems** (to be read in a short “Poems Pod” episode).
- **Reflections on your creative journey** (personal voice recordings, 3–5 mins).
- **Creative thought pieces** (short essays or audio reflections on craft, creativity, or community).



How to Submit

Email rawanee.submit@gmail.com with:

- Your piece (doc/pdf for text (blog); mp3/mp4/wav or link for audio/video (podcast)).
- A one-line bio (≤150 words) and title.
- Mention the theme you’re responding to and what you want to submit to (e.g. *Submission: December - Safar; Blog/Pod/Publication*).

Deadlines

For inclusion in a given month's podcast/blog → submit by the **last day of the previous month**.

✨ Join us as we reflect on رُوح • سفر • بُنياد — the foundation, journey, and soul of our creative community.