

Magazine after magazine to a house

We wrote about him last year that he was "one of those people who succeed in life". After less than a year, Tunan Sadik managed to provide a better place for living for himself and for all his family

Maja Ravanska

At the age of 17, a boy completely renovated his home in which he lived with his seven-member family. Tunan Sadik is one of the most successful sellers of *Face to Face*, and the magazine's sales enabled him to create better living conditions for himself and his loved ones. Maybe he was telling you about this, but it is much more likely that he just offered you the magazine by smiling and winning you over with his straightforwardness, knavery, and courtesy. We wrote about him last year that he was "one of those people who succeed in life". In less than a year, Tunan Sadik managed to provide a better living place for himself and his three younger brothers, Rexhep, Gabriel and Debran, his mother Alisa, his father Bayram and his grandfather Rexhep. Although his father Bajram occasionally works as a magazine salesman, Tunan is the main breadwinner in the family.

- Every day I go out and sell. I enjoy this work, I do not even notice that I'm at work, it's so nice to me. I'm leaving the house and go straight to Debar Maalo. My friends and comrades are there, because of them I have great success - Tunan said.

He explained that he even felt popular, a person with whom people wanted to communicate:

- I have a chat with everyone. We are kidding, they call me brother, cousin ... I feel nice in the company of all those people, I feel like I'm known. I know they respect me and support me because I am hardworking and that I really do a lot of work.

If it were not for *Face to Face* we would have not lived like this

We visited the Sadik family in a cold but sunny November day. Tunan, well-dressed although it was early in the morning, took us through the narrow lane in Shuto Orizari, explaining that almost all sellers lived on the same street.

The houses, some dilapidated, without windows and mud in front of them, some large, with landscaped gardens and fences. In front of the shabby houses, someone always stood at the door or in the yard, while the big ones were staring empty.

- The big houses belong to people who are in Germany. They come and go. They will fix their house and return to Germany; they work there - Tunan explained.

The neighborhood is immersed in music. We only meet smiling faces. I wonder how poverty fails to tame their spirit or wipe off their smile.

- Every morning is like this, filled with music. All of us first play loud music in the morning to get into good mood. It's nice to live in Shutka - Tunan smiled.

We were welcomed in the house by Alisa, smiling and warm, Bayram, who carries the little Debran in his arms, as well as Grandpa Rexhep.

"As the oldest in my family I am responsible for the order in the family," Rexhep said.

Sitting on the wide armchair while everyone else stands, he gave the impression of being the head of the family.

- I also take care of the finances, but also make sure Tunan to stay away from bad influence. Today, it is very easy for a young man to go astray. Fortunately, he is clever and knows that I want the best for him, and he listens to me. Although, sometimes he knows to make me angry - his grandfather joked, although at first glance he gave the impression that he was a strict man.

The narrow corridor, which last year was just a drafty hallway, is now turned into a kitchen where there is a place for kitchen cabinets, a dining table and chairs. The space extends to the living room large enough to host people from different generations. There is another room available they use as a bedroom.

The house is warm and clean, and soon after our arrival, Grandpa Rexhep gives us biscuits, while Alisa sets porcelain cups with Turkish coffee on the glass table. While breastfeeding the youngest son, Alisa told us that she did not find it difficult to deal with the responsibilities she had in her home.

- I want everything to be clean and neat. I do not work, so I can finish everything around the house. Tunan is a hardworking child, he really contributed for us having a nice home - she said.

Bayram, however, his father, was silent all the time, waiting to ask him a question.

- What can I say. It is a real success what we have done with Tunan. Without *Face to Face*, we would not have been able to have all this. Of course, it is important that he is hardworking and that we all listen to the head of our family, my father, who knows what we need - he answered.

Rexhep added that they were saving money for nearly two years.

- Little by little, and we managed to have a new house. Tunan has been doing this for more than a year, but previously Bayram was the boss. My role was to save the money as they were supposed to work. We all have roles and it's good to stay like that," Rexhep said.

He explained they first paid electricity and household bills, and then he made sure to leave some money aside.

- We do not owe anything, we pay everything regularly. For us in Shutka they say that we do not pay for water and electricity, but we regularly pay our bills and we save. We do not use electricity for heating, but woods - he said, adding that he was in charge of putting on the fire, chopping woods and similar activities.

While we were visiting the home of Sadik, there were other guests there, the sellers of *Face to Face* magazine, Mahmud and Suhamet, who are Bayram's cousins. They also praised Tunan:

- He is the best, there is nothing to talk about. Every day he goes, he does not miss a day to go out and sell *Face to Face*. We may skip some day when we do not want to work, but this cannot happen to Tunan. This is why, everyone loves him and he managed to earn money for the house - said Suhamet, and Mahmud confirmed.

Tunan's plans for the next period are to improve his knowledge, he wants to be literate, to learn how to read and write, and become even more successful in doing what he is doing:

- I would like to do this for a lifetime. I am good at this, I just need to learn to read and write. Then who knows how big will be my house...