

The Griot: Stories from the Hearth, the Home, the Homeland and the Horizon

Call for Memory Pieces

Some stories are never written down.

They are carried in the rhythm of a grandmother's voice before bedtime, in recipes measured by instinct rather than spoons, in lullabies sung across generations, in the whispered legends of an old neighbourhood, and in the names of forgotten streets that still live in memory.

Submissions Open

We welcome submissions from writers, students, researchers, artists, homemakers, professionals, grandparents, and anyone who wishes to preserve a memory before it fades.

What can be submitted

We invite original, unpublished memory pieces in the following forms: personal essays; memoir fragments; oral histories; family stories; short narratives; letters and diary excerpts; poems rooted in memory; recipes accompanied by their stories; conversations remembered across generations; spatial narratives; folklore and legends; and translations of family or regional oral traditions, with appropriate acknowledgements.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Word limit: 2,000-5,000 words (flexible for exceptional submissions).
- Language: English. Translations from Indian and other languages are encouraged, provided the original source is acknowledged.
- Submissions must be original and unpublished, Times New Roman, font size 12, footnotes included
- Multiple submissions are welcome.
- Contributors should include a brief author biography (100 words) with their submission.
- Send your pieces: griotgathas@gmail.com latest by 15th Sep, 2026

Suggested Sections

I. Stories from the Hearth – Grandma Tales

Stories inherited from grandparents and elders: folktales, bedtime stories, family legends, childhood recollections, moral tales, myths, and moments that continue to echo across generations.

II. Stories from the Home – Whispers from Women

The unseen histories of everyday life: narratives emerging from kitchens, courtyards, festivals, rituals, caregiving, domestic labour, house-help voices, embroidery, heirlooms, recipes, lullabies, handwritten notebooks, and the quiet wisdom embedded in ordinary routines.

III. Stories from the Homeland – Maps of Memory

Stories rooted in place: village legends, city myths, neighbourhood gossip, haunted houses, rivers, old trees, forgotten pathways, migration memories, sacred spaces, local customs, supernatural beliefs, and landscapes that shape collective imagination.

IV. Stories from the Horizon – Echoes Forward

Memories we choose to preserve for the future: traditions at risk of disappearing, fading dialects, family archives, cherished objects, disappearing crafts, inherited values, intergenerational conversations, and reflections on what deserves to be carried forward.

We Are Looking For

Not polished perfection, but authenticity. Use the actual words where needed and provide a footnote on its usage. Tell us about the brass vessel that has travelled through four generations. The lawangeen necklace that your great-grandmother got from her grandmother, and you still have it. The paandaan that stays unused but remembers, the nematkhana that stores memories now, or the palki that stays broken in the ancestral courtyard, the antique wall clock with pendulum that is beyond repair, the sewing machine that is still functional. The recipe your grandmother never wrote down, but your mother told you to write. The story your house-help told while preparing tea.

The abandoned mansion everyone in your town feared after sunset, the smell of monsoon earth in your ancestral village, the lullaby your mother still remembers, the rumour every child believed, the forgotten word that belonged only to your family, the festival that no one celebrates anymore—the ordinary moments that quietly shaped extraordinary lives. If your story carries memory, belonging, inheritance, or the fragile beauty of everyday life, we would love to hear it.

Let Memory Become Literature.

Every family has an archive, every home has a storyteller, and every place remembers.

Help us preserve these voices before they are lost. Submit your memory. Become part of Griot.