



A-Z PALESTINE





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Team Rashidun

Editor : Nima Ahmed

Head of Content : Kamruzzaman Saif

Head of Graphics : Rubaiati Zannat

Illustration : Sanzida

Graphic Contributor : Rubaiati Zannat, Sanzida

Rashidun Logo credit : Hanan Ziada

Website : Arif Bashar

Animation : Abu Abdullah Nisat

Tales of Rashidun
talesofrashidun.com
Copyright © 2023
All rights reserved.

Supported
by:



techtsy
let it happen

PREFACE

This is a very special book for children and it is to introduce real-life heroes in Palestine and other parts of the world who contributed to humanity. Besides, this book also introduces historical places, traditional foods, and important events in the context of Palestine's history.

A few years ago, one day we were talking about Palestine and discussing the people who have shown great courage and strength in the face of adversity. They have stood up for their rights and the rights of others, often at great personal risk. These heroes come from all walks of life and have dedicated themselves to making a positive difference in their communities. Then suddenly we realized that not many children are aware of the cause of Palestine, its struggle, culture, food, and history. In schools, children are only taught what is in the national and international curriculum. Even though they are learning many important things, it is not enough to teach them about their root and culture. On that very day, we also realized; most children are learning about fictitious heroes populated from Western culture, while numerous real-life heroes sacrificed their lives for the cause of Palestine. Moreover, most children who are living outside Palestine, don't even know their own food or important events that defy the country's heritage and long-standing pride.

Considering all those, we came to a decision and put together all the important events, foods, places, and heroes who believe in the cause of Palestine. In this book, you will learn about the stories of some of Palestine's remarkable people. Though they are ordinary people, they have done extraordinary things, and their stories are both inspiring and heartwarming. Moreover, this book is going to teach all the children about many historical places, traditional foods, and important events that made a difference in the way of Palestinian life.

We hope that reading this book will make the children aware of the cause of Palestine as a whole. And in the collective goal, children will learn about reality rather than the fictional world which will make them more aware of their cultural alignment.



DEDICATED TO

To all the Palestinian lives that have been sacrificed for
the cause of Ummah

Aa

AL-AQSA MOSQUE



AL-AQSA MOSQUE

Al-Aqsa Mosque is considered the third holiest site for the Muslim Ummah. It is also known as the Qibli Mosque since it was initially the first qibla for Muslims until Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) migration to Madina in the 16th or 17th month. According to various sources, King Sulayman (pbuh) reconstructed the holy mosque on a large scale, although its existence predates his dynasty. It is believed that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) met all his predecessors and led them in prayer at Al-Aqsa during his miraculous journey to the Almighty. Unfortunately, due to the Israeli government's restrictions, devotees from outside are currently unable to access this holy ground, yet it does not deter devotees from attending their prayers. While Israel may occupy the holy land through force, it cannot eradicate the thousand-year Islamic legacy.

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى
الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنَ الْأَيْتَانِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ
السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ

Every time we, the Muslim Ummah, recite this verse from the Holy Quran, the image of Al-Aqsa flashes through our minds.

Bb

BETHLEHEM



→ Bethlehem ←

Bethlehem is one of the most sacred cities in the world, located on the West Bank. This historic city holds immense religious, cultural, and political significance for the Abrahamic faith. It is the birthplace of Jesus and is considered the cornerstone of the Christian faith. The city is also a holy site for Muslims, as Jesus holds significant status in Islam as a prophet. The city's Church of the Nativity is central to the Christian faith, and it has turned Bethlehem into a pilgrimage site, attracting millions of people. Beyond religion, Bethlehem also possesses cultural and historical importance, visible in its architecture. Bethlehem also faces political and social challenges due to its location within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its significance as a symbol of peace and hope underscores the need for a peaceful resolution. In 2014, Pope Francis, during his visit to the city, stopped his procession after hearing Adhan of Zuhr in front of Mosque Omer. Later, he delivered the message that everyone is living in religious harmony and peace.

Cc

CHURCH OF NATIVITY



Church of Nativity

Since the advent of Christianity, the Church of the Nativity has been regarded as one of the major holy sites for its believers. It is considered the oldest site built around the cave believed to be the birthplace of Jesus. The construction of this sacred site was initially commissioned by the Roman emperor Constantine the First and completed in 339. Throughout history, it has passed under the authority and care of various rulers, including the Crusaders, Mamluks, and Ottomans. Currently, the Palestine government holds authority over the Church, and it is maintained by the Greek Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic, and Roman Catholic communities. In recognition of its historical and cultural significance, UNESCO declared it the first World Heritage Site in Palestine in 2012.

Dd

DOME OF THE ROCK



→ Dome Of the Rock ←

The Dome of the Rock, also known as the Golden Dome of Rock, is an architectural marvel of the Islamic world. Being situated on top of the Temple Mount, it graces the skyline of Jerusalem with its radiant golden dome and intricate mosaic-adorned exterior. It was built in 691 CE as a shrine to commemorate the Prophet Muhammad's night journey; thus, it holds immense significance in both the Islamic and historical contexts. Its central location near Al-Aqsa Mosque highlights its spiritual importance within Islam; however, the Dome of the Rock should not be confused with the Mosque itself. Beyond its religious role, the Dome of the Rock also serves as a testament to the rich history of Jerusalem. It has witnessed political shifts, cultural changes and remains a focal point of reverence for believers worldwide. The blend of architecture, history and spirituality makes the Dome of the Rock a symbol of unity and a bridge between cultures. Its radiant presence continues to inspire awe and respect, emphasising the interconnectedness of faith and heritage.

Ee

EIN KAREM



→ Ein Karem ←

Ein Karem, which means "spring of the vineyard" in Hebrew, is an ancient village located in the southwestern part of old Jerusalem. This village holds significant historical importance in Christianity. According to tradition, when the Virgin Mary was pregnant with Jesus, she visited Ein Karem and was accompanied by her cousin Elizabeth, who was also miraculously pregnant with St. John. It is believed that both Mary and Elizabeth drank water from the spring that still exists in the area. Furthermore, Ein Karem is renowned as the birthplace of St. John the Baptist. To commemorate these significant events, several religious structures have been built in the village. These include the Fountain of Mary, the Church of the Visitation (which marks the site where Mary and Elizabeth met), and the Church of St. John (which honours the birth of St. John the Baptist). These churches serve as important pilgrimage sites for Christians and are a testament to the rich historical and religious heritage of Ein Karem.



Dates: Islam is indeed more than just a religion with moral and ethical guidelines; it encompasses a comprehensive code of life. This is one of the reasons why the Muslim Ummah is often seen as a unified entity. An example that highlights this unity is the date fruit, which serves as a connection point for the entire Muslim world, both physically and spiritually. During the holy month of Ramadan, Muslims worldwide break their fast with dates. This practice nourishes their bodies and souls, as well as follows the Sunnah (teachings and practices) of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). From a nutritional standpoint, dates provide a rich source of natural sugars that quickly alleviate hunger during fasting. They are also a good source of vitamins A and B, which support muscle and overall body health. Additionally, dates contain important minerals such as potassium, magnesium, and iron. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) referred to dates as a heavenly fruit, and they are mentioned multiple times in the Holy Quran. Therefore, dates hold religious and cultural significance within the Muslim world, serving as more than just a fruit but as a symbolic representation of the faith.



Olive oil: Olive oil has indeed been associated with various health benefits, including the prevention of heart disease and stroke, as well as aiding in weight loss and combating obesity. Additionally, in the context of the holy land, Jerusalem holds great significance in relation to olive oil. The Arabic term "Zaitun" is commonly used in Arab countries to refer to olive oil, which has a deep-rooted history in farming and harvesting that spans over a thousand years. The importance of olive oil is emphasized in the Holy Quran, where Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala mentions it along with the fig, signifying its significance.

وَالَّتَيْنِ وَالزَّيْتُونِ

For the Palestinian people, olive oil holds a national identity and the olive tree is considered a symbol of their homeland due to its slow growth and longevity, which resonates with their attachment to the holy land. Over 80,000 farmers and 100,000 households rely on olive oil as their primary source of income, with 57% of cultivated land dedicated to olive plants.



Knafeh: Nablus, a city in the northern part of the West Bank in Palestine, holds the title of being the "capital of sweets," with its renowned delicacy, Knafeh. This delectable treat has gained worldwide fame, not only in the Middle East but also in the Western world. Knafeh is a mouth-watering dessert made with white baked cheese and shredded pastry, soaked in rich condensed caramel. To experience the variety and the process of making Knafeh up close, visiting Nablus during Ramadan is highly recommended, as it becomes an integral part of Palestinian life during this holy month. In the mornings, the aroma of the liquid dough used in making Knafeh permeates the air, drawing people to the shops. International travellers who come to visit the holy land during Ramadan often flock to the street shops to purchase Knafeh for their iftar, the meal that breaks the day-long fast.



Freekeh: Freekeh, a grain with a touch of magic, emerged from a burning storehouse that charred wheat, revealing young green grains—a miraculous transformation credited to Allah (SWT). Like rice, Freekeh unlocks its culinary charm when boiled, brimming with protein and double the fiber of quinoa. Crush it for stuffing or cook it whole for diverse recipes. A heavenly delight, Freekeh serves as a rice or bulgur substitute in meals, salads, or as a warm, comforting soup—a versatile divine experience.



Musakhan: Musakhan is a unique, delicious, and highly nutritious dish that can be served to anyone. What sets it apart is that, unlike many other Arabic foods, it only takes an hour to prepare. Simply roast chicken with sumac spice and red onion, then serve it on top of the flatbread. It is a beloved Palestinian cuisine that people crave and serve on various occasions. Musakhan is considered the national dish of Palestine.



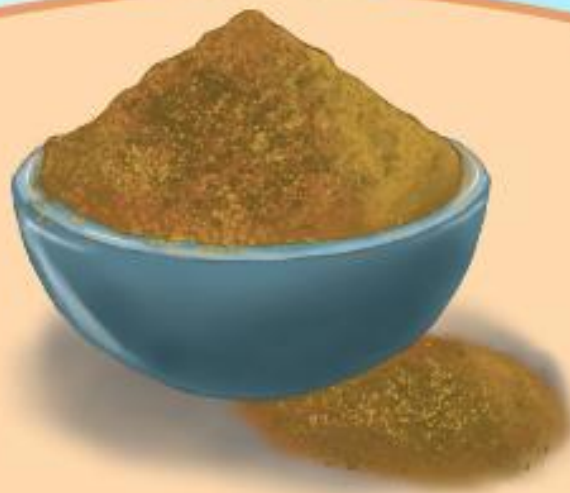
Taboon: As humans, we can take pride in the fact that we have made significant progress in overcoming the global hunger crisis through cultivation and industrialization. However, the quality of food has indeed suffered as a result. In this context, Taboon, a Palestinian bread, stands out as a unique departure from typical processed food items. Taboon bread offers an earthy taste that can be experienced simply by smelling it. With a history and tradition spanning 4000 years in Palestine, Taboon has a remarkable legacy. Its making process involves an oven constructed from clay, mud, straw, pebbles, and stones, which is then buried underground to preserve heat and provide optimal baking conditions. When enjoying breakfast with Taboon bread or savouring Musakhan with Taboon, one can truly connect with the natural elements, encompassing vibe, and atmosphere. Taboon bread has gained international recognition and stands as a testament to the rich culinary heritage of Palestine and offers a unique sensory experience that connects people to the land, traditions, and flavours associated with it.



Kebab: Kebab is indeed a renowned Middle Eastern dish, and the people of Palestine have a long-standing tradition of preparing kebabs for special occasions. While there are various types of kebabs, Palestinians are particularly known for their shish kebabs. This involves cutting small pieces of lamb into cubic shapes, skewering them, and then roasting them over the fire. Another method is to place raw meat directly on a skewer and cook it over a flame. To enhance the flavour, you can also include grilled vegetables such as tomatoes and salad, along with Rucola leaves. This combination adds a delightful taste to the kebabs, creating a well-rounded and exquisite dish. The art of preparing kebabs has been passed down through generations in Palestine, and it remains a beloved and cherished part of their culinary heritage. Whether enjoyed during festive occasions or as a regular meal, kebabs offer a delicious and satisfying dining experience.



Hummus: When it comes to Palestinian cuisine, Hummus is an absolute staple and a favourite savoury item among the Palestinian people. It is enjoyed not only at barbecue parties but also on various occasions. Hummus is a fantastic appetizer and pairs well with falafel sandwiches, burgers, snacks, and more. You can find it in almost every food corner across the West Bank of Palestine. In recent years, Hummus has gained significant popularity worldwide, and now you can easily find the necessary ingredients in any grocery store to prepare it yourself. However, the authentic Palestinian recipe for Hummus offers a unique flavour that represents the region's culinary signature. Preparing Hummus is a breeze, requiring just five minutes of preparation time. Simply blend chickpeas and tahini with olive oil, and add some lemon juice, water, garlic, and sea salt. And voila! Hummus not only offers a delicious taste but also provides a good source of protein and fibre, making it a nutritious addition to your daily food list.



Za'atar: The golden age of the Muslim Ummah may have passed, but the teachings and manners of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) still reside in the hearts of Muslims. This is why Arab hospitality is renowned and holds a special place in their culture. As part of the hospitality, culture, when Palestinians receive you as a guest, they always treat you with Za'atar. It is a staple in every Palestinian household. Za'atar is a type of pickle that is often enjoyed for breakfast with olive oil and Taboon bread. It comes in various forms, with green Za'atar used for salads and as a remedy for cough, while dried Za'atar is used to prepare sauces. Za'atar can be used in various dishes, drinks, and even medicines, making it a versatile ingredient. By tasting Za'atar, you can experience the rich traditions and culture of the Palestinian people. Many Palestinian poets consider Za'atar as part of their national heritage because it holds onto its roots and perseveres, just like the Palestinian people who continue to fight for their country against all odds. Za'atar serves as a symbol of resilience and cultural identity for Palestinians.



Maftoul: Tradition is a legacy passed down from generation to generation. They shape our societies and continue to live on even after we have departed from this world. Maftoul is a wonderful example of such a tradition. Known as couscous in Arabic, Maftoul holds a special place in Palestinian cuisine, often preferred over pasta. Palestinian mothers often feed Maftoul to their children when they have a cold. In Palestine, Maftoul is traditionally handmade, resulting in larger and darker grains compared to couscous in other Arab countries. The process involves women of different ages rolling bulgur with flour and water, then cooking it with delicious stock to create Maftoul. During this process, they share memories of both sorrow and happiness. Each plate of Maftoul tells a unique story and silently bears witness to the joys and hardships experienced by generations. Therefore, Maftoul is more than just a meal; it represents a connection to the past, present, culture, and traditions of the Palestinian people. Its significance goes beyond its ingredients, serving as a tangible link to the experiences and stories of generations past.

Gg

GAZA STRIP



-> Gaza Strip <-

Gaza is known to be one of the most confined areas on Earth. It is one of the two major cities in the Palestine Liberation Movement, situated along the Mediterranean Sea and sharing borders with Egyptian and Israeli territories. The movement of Gazan citizens is severely restricted by Israeli authorities through the implementation of a two-layer buffer zone, which creates a no-man's-land area filled with risks and fear. Israeli authorities have constructed the world's longest wall, estimated to be 65 kilometres long and 6 meters high, that stretches across the city. This barrier further adds to the confinement and separation experienced by the people of Gaza. Furthermore, Israel has imposed sanctions on the coastal areas of Gaza, targeting the fishing industry and limiting the livelihoods and resources available to its people. These measures and restrictions contribute to the challenging living conditions faced by the people of Gaza, limiting their opportunities for economic growth and development.

Hh HEBRON



-> Hebron <-

Hebron is one of the oldest and most continuously inhabited cities in the world, with profound historical significance in the existence and identity of Palestine. It is home to the Cave of the Patriarchs, a sacred site for both Muslims and Jews. Hebron has also been a city with vibrant markets and traditional handicrafts, particularly intricate glassblowing and pottery, which reminds us of its rich cultural heritage. However, today the city bears witness to tensions due to Israeli oppression in Palestine. Its significance is a reflection of the broader struggle for self-determination and cultural preservation. Despite all the challenges, Hebron still remains a testament to the endurance of culture in the face of adversity, embodying both the timeless traditions and the contemporary challenges that shape Palestinian identity.

Ii

IBRAHIM TUQAN



Ibrahim Tuqan

Ibrahim Tuqan, a prominent poet, is widely regarded as the voice of national liberation in the Arab Muslim world during the twentieth century. Through his powerful words, he utilized poetry as a weapon to protest the violence inflicted upon his people, his country, and humanity as a whole. Tuqan exposed the hypocrisy of the Western world and offered warnings about their actions. In his poetry, Tuqan celebrated the heroes and martyrs of his homeland, emphasizing their importance and condemning any act of selling or compromising the land. His words, particularly in his famous poem "Mawtini" (My Homeland), have been adopted as lyrics in songs that have become anthems for the Arab people who dream of achieving freedom one day. Tuqan's poetry resonates with the longing for liberation, justice, and the restoration of dignity. His works continue to inspire and guide those who strive for independence and yearn for a better future. Ibrahim Tuqan's legacy as a poet and advocate for the Arab Muslim world remains influential, reinforcing the collective aspirations of those who seek freedom and self-determination.

Jj

JERUSALEM



→ Jerusalem ←

Jerusalem, throughout history, has indeed been a significant focal point of human civilization. As an ancient city, it carries immense geographical, political, and spiritual weight. When walking through its streets, one can witness the diversity of its people, each with their distinct food, ideology, and beliefs. Jerusalem holds great importance to the three major Abrahamic religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Drawing millions to pay homage to their respective holy sites. Ironically, despite its name meaning "city of peace," Jerusalem has been a centre of conflict and contention for thousands of years. Various rulers and powers have fought to conquer and control the city, resulting in a long history of conflicts and struggles. Despite the ongoing conflicts, Jerusalem continues to be a symbol of faith, heritage and shared history for millions of people worldwide. Its significance transcends political disputes, as people strive to preserve and protect the city's cultural and religious heritage.

Kk
KOFIA



→ Kofia ←

The "Kofia" is an iconic headdress for the Palestinians holding profound cultural and political significance. In Palestine, it is also known as the "Kufiyeh" or "keffiyeh." When it comes to its symbolic representation, it is not just merely a fashion statement; it is a symbol of Palestinian identity and resistance and it stands against the Israeli occupation. The black and white checkered pattern of the keffiyeh became internationally recognized during the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Palestinians, activists, and supporters wear it as a symbol of solidarity and a tangible representation of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination. Beyond its political connotations, the Kofia is an integral part of Palestinian traditional attire. It is worn by men of all ages on various occasions, reflecting their connection to their heritage and homeland. In essence, the Kofia in Palestine encapsulates a rich blend of cultural heritage, political activism, and a steadfast commitment to preserving Palestinian identity in the face of adversity.

LL LEADERS





FIASAL BIN ABDELAZIZ

Faisal Bin Abdulaziz: Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud was the King of Saudi Arabia from 2 November, 1964 until his assassination in 1975. King Faisal is often remembered for his progressive and transformative policies within Saudi Arabia and the Arab world. As part of the reform, he actively advocated for Palestinian rights and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital which was also rooted in Arab unity and justice initiatives. One of King Faisal's notable actions was his leadership in the 1973 Arab oil embargo, which aimed to pressure countries into reassessing their policies and showing solidarity with the Palestinian cause.



FIDEL CASTRO

Fidel Castro: Have you ever heard of any person who devoted his entire life to revolution? His name was Fidel Castro. His ideology was socialism but his life was a revolution. At a young age, he participated in the Dominican Republic and Colombo revolutions to overthrow the government. With three guerrilla missions against his government in Cuba, he became the top political leader of the country and later he assumed power from 1959 to 2016. Castro became the president of Cuba when he was only 33 years old against all odds and maintained a rebellious life. Officially, he retired in 2016 but kept the authority behind the curtain till he died in 2019.



HOUARI BOUMEDIÈNE

Houari Boumediène: Houari Boumediène was the second Algerian President who was in power from 1965 until he died in 1978. He played a significant role in Algeria's post-independence history, particularly during a critical phase of nation-building and the consolidation of power. He was also a key figure in the Algerian War of Independence against French colonial rule. During his time, he exhibited a strong alliance with the Palestinian cause and recognized the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation. Boumediène's advocacy extended internationally, emphasizing Palestinian rights within the Arab League and other global forums.



INDIRA GANDHI

Indira Gandhi: Indira Gandhi was one of the most prominent Indian politicians and served as the third Prime Minister of India. During her tenure, she took numerous steps to reform the country's economic, political, and social landscape. However, her legacy is a mix of both admiration and criticism and remains a complex figure in world politics. Until her tragic assassination, Indira Gandhi always supported the cause of Palestine and its right to self-determination. She believed that a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli occupation of Palestine was essential for regional stability and global peace.



JAMAL ABD NASIR

Jamal Abd Nasir : Jamal Abd Nasir, commonly known as Gamal Abdel Nasser, was an influential Egyptian leader and a central figure in Arab and global politics during the mid-20th century. Nasir served as the second President of Egypt from 1956 until he died in 1970 and played a significant role in shaping the political landscape of the Arab world. As a strong advocate for Arab unity, he believed in the cause of Palestine and its right to self-determination. As one of the closest allies, his government offered both political and material support to Palestinian resistance movements.



DR MAHATIR

Dr. Mahatir Mohammad: Dr. Mahathir Mohamad is a prominent Malaysian politician who served as the fourth and seventh Prime Minister of the country. He is known for his extensive contributions to the country's development. During his terms as Prime Minister of Malaysia, he displayed a strong and consistent connection to the Palestinian cause, advocating for Palestinian rights and self-determination on the international stage. Besides, during his time, the Malaysian government provided diplomatic and humanitarian support to Palestinians affected by conflicts while strongly criticizing the Israeli occupation.



NELSON MANDELA

Nelson Mandela: Nelson Mandela is a prominent figure in world politics whose name pops up everywhere when it comes to freedom and peace. And his movement and life's struggle are quite relevant he is to us. Though he died almost a decade ago, his work is still inspiring to the whole world. He dedicated his whole life to the equality of black and white people while his immovable, firm decision against institutional racism toppled the government and made him the first black president of the country.



SADDAM HUSSEIN

Saddam Hussein: Saddam Hussein is presented as a monster in western media. He was a dominating figure and dictator in the Arab world. After he sieged the power of Iraq, never gave up until NATO invaded the country in 2003 and overthrew him. Because of his crime against humanity, he was hanged in 2006. But he is still popular with his Sunni followers. We can't deny the fact that if he was still in charge, the political turmoil and anarchy we face now would still be less severe.



ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the fourth President of Pakistan from 1971 to 1973 and the ninth Prime Minister from 1973 until 1977. Bhutto was a charismatic leader, with significant contributions to both domestic and international affairs. One of his most notable achievements was the drafting of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan. Bhutto was among the few voices who condemned Israeli policies and advocated for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He also played an instrumental role in organizing the 1974 OIC summit, which recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Mm

MOHAMMED AL DORRA



Mohammed Al Dorra

Muhammad al-Durrah is a symbol of the Palestinian struggle and Israeli oppression who inspires millions of people. He was a young and brave boy from the Gaza Strip who died a tragic death during the early days of the Second Intifada in 2000. Jamal al-Durrah, Muhammad's father, tried to shield him but was fatally shot as they were trapped in a crossfire between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers. A French cameraman captured Muhammad's last moments, which were captured when he lost his life and his father was injured. The images deeply impacted global opinion, highlighting Palestinian suffering and resistance while sparking controversy over the authenticity of the incident. As always, despite investigations, no conclusive narrative emerged. Muhammad al-Durrah's story continues to resonate, illustrating the power of media in shaping perceptions of the conflict's complexities and human toll.

Nn

NAKBA & NAKSA



→ Nakba & Naksa ←

Al-Nakba, which means "catastrophe" in Arabic, refers to the displacement and expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes and the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. It is a significant and tragic event in Palestinian history. The declaration of Israeli independence on May 15, 1948, led to a series of events resulting in the forced displacement of Palestinians from their ancestral lands, which continues to happen today and is a pressing issue. On the other hand, Al Naksa means 'setback' or 'relapse' and refers to the second Nakba—the expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip along with the Syrian Golan Heights and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula during the 1967 war. It also marks the beginning of Israel's illegal military occupation. Recognizing and understanding these two events along with their historical context is essential in fostering dialogue for a lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Oo
OLIVE TREE



-> Olive Tree <-

The Olive tree is a national treasure of Palestine and it carries cultural, existential, and economic significance for the holy land. Zaitun is another name for Olive, popular in Arab countries. Olive plantation is an integral part of Palestinian culture and heritage that goes back in history for more than a thousand years. Today, the olive tree stands as the national symbol of Palestine because of its slow growth and longevity resembling the prosperity of the holy land. Throughout the whole process of cultivation and harvesting, each olive narrates the story of hardship, struggles, joy, and a sense of belongingness. From mid-September to the next two months is the harvesting season and during that time, Schools, colleges, and universities along with some other public institutes are kept closed, so that everyone can join the harvesting activities. The harvesting season is nothing less than a festival that they celebrate with dancing and folk music.

Pp

PALESTINE



→ Palestine ←

Palestine is a country with a rich culture and heritage, and its history dates back thousands of years. It is a holy land holding immense significance for three major world religions: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, making it a focal point of cultural and religious diversity. Palestinian unique culture, heritage, architecture, and cuisines reflect a blend of Arabic, Mediterranean, Roman, and Levantine influences. From mosques to shrines, palaces to cities stand as testaments to its cultural diversity unmatched by any other nation in the world. However, due to its religious and cultural significance, Palestine has always been marked by decades of political struggles and conflict. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has led to displacement, violence, and ongoing tensions. Despite hardships, it has endured challenges in maintaining its cultural identity and heritage remaining a symbol of resilience in the face of the earth, and we believe, it will continue to do so with the help of its brave souls.

Qq

QIYAMAH CHURCH



Qiyamah Church

Qiyamah Church is considered the holiest site for Christians in the world, located in the heart of Jerusalem's old city. The church is also known as the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the church of the Resurrection. It encompasses both the crucifixion site and the tomb where Jesus Christ is believed to have been buried and resurrected; thus, since the 4th century, it has been the most important pilgrimage site for Christians. Like its spiritual significance, it also stands as an architectural marvel, blending various styles from different periods, reflecting the layers of history and religious traditions. Despite divisions among Christian denominations, the church remains a potent symbol of unity, often requiring the cooperation of multiple Christian sects to maintain and operate the site. Notably, the Qiyamah Church bears the core message of Christianity: resurrection and salvation. Its significance also extends beyond religious bounds, as it has been a focal point for cultural exchange and interfaith dialogue, inviting people of all backgrounds to reflect on the shared human experience.

Rr

RIGHT OF RETURN



-> Right of Return <-

The right of return is a political principle that asserts the right of Palestinian refugees – both first-generation and their descendants – to return to their homes and lands which are now within the territories occupied by Israel. This principle was first formulated on 27 June 1948 by United Nations mediator Folke Bernadotte and is deeply rooted in the displacement of Palestinians during the illegal establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. Now it is considered a sacred and human right, that applies both generally and specifically to the Palestinians. Moreover, it is no longer just a principle, it is protected under international law that Israel continues to violate. Since the beginning of the Israeli occupation, the right to return has been seen as a fundamental element of justice and identity. Beyond everything, this right holds significant symbolic and emotional importance for Palestinians, embodying their longing for justice, historical connection, and reclamation of lost heritage.

Ss
SIEGE OF
GAZA



-> Siege of Gaza <-

The Israeli occupation troops have been enforcing an embargo on the Gaza Strip for many years. It was first initiated in 2007 after Hamas, the major political party in Palestine, took over the city. The blockade, or Siege of Gaza restricts the movement of people, goods, and resources in and out of Gaza aiming to contain its people and political and human rights movements, which have a substantial humanitarian impact. Over the past two decades, the illegal siege has led the people of the Gaza Strip to dire living conditions, with limited access to basic necessities. International organisations have raised concerns about the impact on civilian populations and the serious violation of human rights. The overall impact of this unlawful blockade has transcended borders, affected regional stability, and complicated the prospects for peace. It was a highly concerning humanitarian crisis and human rights violation causing damage to the well-being of the people of Gaza, a densely populated Palestinian territory, beyond measure.

Tt
TABARIA LAKE



➤ Tabaria Lake ‹-

Tabaria Lake, popularly known as the Sea of Galilee, is a historic and religious landmark located in the northern part of present Israel. It is the lowest freshwater lake in the world, with awe-inspiring landscapes. This beautiful lake has witnessed centuries of cultural, spiritual, and economic interactions in this region. Most importantly, the lake marks the backdrop of many pivotal moments in the life of Jesus Christ, thus, it carries deep religious importance to Christians and Muslims alike. To date, pilgrims and visitors come from around the world seeking a connection to their faith and biblical narratives. Tabaria Lake has played a vital role in the livelihoods of local communities for centuries as well. Its waters have sustained fishing and agriculture for generations, while its serene beauty has inspired artists and writers. As a historical crossroads, the lake's influence extends to the realms of culture and trade, acting as a bridge between civilizations throughout history.

Uu

UM NASIR ABU HMAID



Um Nasir Abu Hmaid

When it comes to inspiring people from the Palestinian resistance movement, Um Nasir Abu Hamid joins the shortlist. She is a brave Palestinian woman and activist known for her active role in the Palestinian resistance movement. Today, she stands as a symbol of Palestinian resilience and the struggle against Israeli occupation. Her bravery in the movement of Palestinian resistance landed Nasir Abu Hmaid in Israeli jail along with other members of Abu Hmaid family. Her story of sacrifices and activism is an example of the challenges faced by many Palestinians living under occupation, while also sparking debates about the methods and consequences of resistance. Nowadays, her name is often uttered in discussions surrounding the Palestinian struggle, symbolising the deep-seated grievances, activism, and personal sacrifices made by Hmaid and her families in the pursuit of justice and self-determination.

Vv

VIRGIN EYE
(MARY'S WELL)



→ Virgin eye ← (Mary's Well)

Mary's Well, located in Nazareth, is a significant site associated with the Christian tradition. It is believed to have served as a water source for the Palestinian people from the Byzantine era until 1966. According to Christian belief, it is associated with the Annunciation, the moment when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that she would conceive a child, Jesus (Isa), through the Holy Spirit. The Greek Orthodox Church has built a church over the well to commemorate this event, while Catholics believe the exact location of the Annunciation is slightly further away, where they have constructed another church. It is important to note that interpretations and beliefs regarding the exact location of historical events can vary among different religious and cultural traditions.

وَأَذْكُرُ فِي الْكِتَابِ مَرْيَمَ إِذِ اتَّيَبَدَّتْ مِنْ أَهْلِهَا مَكَانًا شَرْقِيًّا

This Quranic verse points to the story of Mary taking place on the east side of Jerusalem, which may differ from the specific location associated with Mary's Well in Nazareth. The significance of Mary's Well lies not only in its religious associations but also in its historical and cultural value as a gathering place for the community over the centuries.

Ww
WEST BANK



→ West Bank ←

West Bank is a land-locked territory of Palestine located along the Jordanian River and the coast of the Mediterranean. Since 1967, after the Arab-Israeli war, it has been under Israeli military occupation, and politically, it stands as a focal point marked by territorial disputes, settlements, and negotiations for a two-state solution. Culturally, the West Bank is a treasure trove of historical and religious sites, including Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, and Hebron, with deep significance for various faiths. Its diverse population contributes to a rich cultural mosaic, shaping traditions, art, and cuisine. The region is central to Palestinian national identity, embodying their aspirations for statehood. However, it's also home to Israeli settlers, which adds another layer to the existing complexities. Due to decades-long Israeli oppression, the West Bank's cultural heritage and historical monuments are under threat. However, its significance lies in its potential to bridge historical divides, foster understanding, and serve as a canvas for a shared future.

Xx
X MALCOLM
IN PALESTINE



➤ X Malcolm in Palestine ‹

Malcolm X, born Malcolm Little, was indeed a significant figure in the civil rights movement and a prominent Muslim leader. His activism and advocacy for the rights of African Americans left a lasting impact on the struggle for racial equality. Malcolm X's journey to Palestine and his interactions with Palestinian leaders and individuals undoubtedly influenced his understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His experiences witnessing the hardships faced by the Palestinian people and his critique of Zionism reflected his broader stance against imperialism and oppression. It is worth noting that Malcolm X's views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict evolved over time, and he became more critical of Israeli policies as he delved deeper into his study of Islam and examined global issues of oppression. His call for Muslim leaders to support the Palestinians reflects his commitment to justice and solidarity with the oppressed. Malcolm X's legacy continues to inspire and influence individuals and movements seeking social justice, including the Black Lives Matter movement.

Yy

YASSER ARAFAT



➤ Yasser Arafat ‹-

Yasser Arafat was indeed a complex and influential figure in the Palestinian liberation movement. He emerged as a prominent leader and symbol of Palestinian resistance. Arafat played a crucial role in establishing the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and became its chairman. Despite numerous challenges and obstacles, he led the PLO in an armed struggle against Israeli occupation, seeking to establish an independent Palestinian state. Arafat's leadership and charisma earned him support from Palestinians and recognition on the international stage. He engaged in peace negotiations with the occupying Israeli leaders, culminating in the signing of the Oslo peace agreement in 1993. For his efforts, he was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. However, the peace process faced numerous obstacles and ultimately faltered. Despite mixed views, his ability to navigate the complexities of the Middle East and balance relations with both the West and the Arab world left a significant impact on the region's political landscape. Yasser Arafat passed away in 2004, but his influence and the struggle for Palestinian self-determination continue to shape the discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Zz

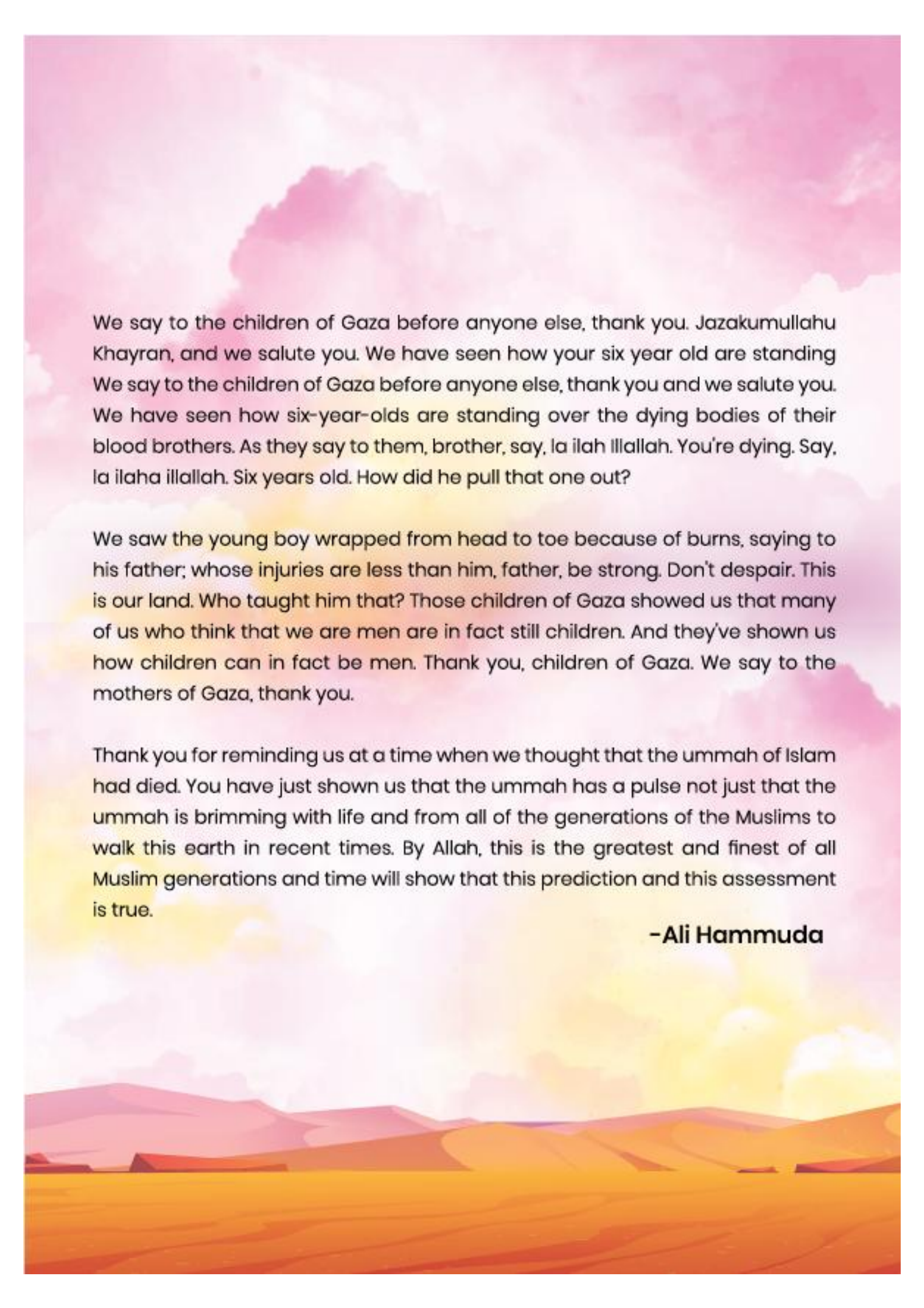
ZAKARIA ZUBEIDI
(Palestinian Prisoner)



➤ Zakaria Zubeidi ‹

(Palestinian Prisoner)

Zakaria Zubeidi's story is one of resilience and resistance in the face of adversity. As a prominent figure and symbol in the Palestinian liberation movement, Zubeidi's experiences and actions reflect the ongoing struggle of Palestinians against Israeli occupation. Born and raised in a refugee camp in Jenin, Zubeidi witnessed first-hand injustices and violence inflicted upon his community. The loss of loved ones and the hardships he faced fuelled his determination to resist the Israeli occupation and fight for the liberation of Palestine. Zubeidi's involvement with the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a resistance group affiliated with Fatah, placed him on the Israeli army's most-wanted list. His daring escape from an Israeli prison alongside five other activists further amplified his image in the Palestinian resistance movement. Zubeidi's story reflects the grievances and frustration of Palestinians under Israeli occupation, driving them to fight for freedom and rights. However, it is important to note that the conflict is multifaceted, and there are differing perspectives and narratives surrounding individuals like Zakaria Zubeidi. However, Zakaria Zubeidi's story represents the human cost of the conflict and the ongoing struggle for self-determination and justice for the Palestinian people.



We say to the children of Gaza before anyone else, thank you. Jazakumullahu Khayran, and we salute you. We have seen how your six year old are standing We say to the children of Gaza before anyone else, thank you and we salute you. We have seen how six-year-olds are standing over the dying bodies of their blood brothers. As they say to them, brother, say, la ilah illallah. You're dying. Say, la ilaha illallah. Six years old. How did he pull that one out?

We saw the young boy wrapped from head to toe because of burns, saying to his father; whose injuries are less than him, father, be strong. Don't despair. This is our land. Who taught him that? Those children of Gaza showed us that many of us who think that we are men are in fact still children. And they've shown us how children can in fact be men. Thank you, children of Gaza. We say to the mothers of Gaza, thank you.

Thank you for reminding us at a time when we thought that the ummah of Islam had died. You have just shown us that the ummah has a pulse not just that the ummah is brimming with life and from all of the generations of the Muslims to walk this earth in recent times. By Allah, this is the greatest and finest of all Muslim generations and time will show that this prediction and this assessment is true.

-Ali Hammuda

