

The long minutes of war

Let me tell you that in war you will lose all the trifles, many of the luxuries, and most of the necessities, and you will be left to think about or care about only the very, very, very necessities, for example. You will not be interested in Facebook, and you may find that it is inactive for more than ninety percent of the people. No one will care who posted a like, or who did not like, or why they don't! The picture of your sick father or mother will disappear, with the words written below it "Pray for my father". Because the bodies are on the side roads and you may not find anyone to bury them. No one will like the pictures of delicious meals, or dare to put a single picture on Facebook. Everyone is running after flour, and many people have not eaten for days and their dream is to get a loaf. Even if you open Facebook or press your finger on it out of habit, you will pass by unnoticed or even to the point that you will not write to most of your friends may they Rest In Peace, for their obituary posts, because most of the posts are either about death or injuries, or thank God how they escaped a certain death.

As for Tik Tok, it disappeared from Gaza as if it were a crime punishable by law, along with everything that contained nonsense and not nonsense, which were very, very few.

Imagine, in Gaza, gossip, envy, and obsession with others, which were one of the pleasures of many people, disappeared.

Everyone runs from morning to evening to provide his family with food for the day.

Compliments, hypocrisy, and pretenses have fallen. Everyone feels that he might die at any moment, and therefore has no energy for compliments, lying, or pretense.

You will realize the value of the things that were in your hands or that you practiced unconsciously, and you will discover that your simple actions were the height of pleasure, and you will remember them and dream of their return, such as standing in front of the stove in the morning, turning it on, and drinking your coffee quietly with a piece of chocolate next to it. Yes, the price of one kilo of coffee has become \$70, or 240 shekels if available, and chocolate disappeared from Gaza weeks ago, along with chips, biscuits, Indomie, nuts and the rest of the family of delicious things. There are only some cleaning powders left in the stores.

You will suddenly discover that your family has forgotten the word "bahebush" I don't like it. For example, if you were able to save some money to cook a casserole of cabbage or "qamouta" according to some people, everyone would devour it as if it were the most delicious food in the world. It goes without saying that this meal previously cost 50 shekels, but today it costs 150 shekels. As for Maqluba and Musakhan, no one dares to remember them.

The thing you will miss most is your pillow and your bed. You will still dream of returning to them and sleeping one night without the noise of missiles, cannons, and non-stop shooting.

You will miss seeing the cars and the traffic that have disappeared and been replaced by the donkeys, which as soon as you get on the car and jump to sit on it, specifically on the mattresses that the driver places for the passengers, and often puts a piece of burlap or an old blanket, one of the two things will stick to your pants from the back, either dust or water, and a rag or a stain will fall on your pants, the size of a sunflower disk, and the strange thing is that you will not care at all to shake yourself off because everyone is walking carrying the same circle on the back.

You will remember television, movies, series, talk shows, and plays as if they were a distant dream and a high level of luxury. You will greatly miss the dining room, the bathtub, the window of your house, your good neighbors, and your morning walk, whether to work, the market, or wherever. You will realize what it means to have a closet, clothes, shoes and a refrigerator. A refrigerator filled with fruits.

You will learn how to bake in a clay oven and the taste of new bread. On the way, you will learn how to make this oven from clay and straw and get creative with its various designs, types, and sizes. There is an oven for baking and a small oven for cooking.

You will learn how to make firewood, the types of firewood, the difference between olive wood and orange wood, the importance of palm leaves in burning, and the difference between cooking firewood and bread firewood.

Lentils will return to the forefront of the scene, accompanied by beans.

You will dream of chicken, meat and fish.

You will pass over the most important things unnoticed and without emotion, like talking about martyrs. You will talk to your family about the martyrdom of your cousins as if you were telling your wife that you are out shopping without emotions.

An explosion is shaking the house, I will hug the children. . .

11/8/2023

Ali Abu Yassin