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Gaza's Resilience

Patience is accepting or tolerating delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset. Patience emphasizes the strength of a human being through hardship. Patience is the reliance on Allah (SWT) knowing that He will make everything better, and that everything happens for a reason. Patience is key. Like the keys of those who left Gaza and aren't allowed to return. The keys that they hold onto hoping that one day they will return to their homes. Homes that may not even exist anymore. Homes that have been flattened by missiles or taken over, not just those forced to escape from their homes, but those in the middle of the conflict. Those whose families are being massacred every day in front of their eyes. Those who no matter how hard times get don't give up. They stand their ground. They look up to the sky and say "All thanks be to Allah". Patience is shown best in the people of Gaza.

The people of Gaza have been persevering, relying on Allah (SWT), and making duaa that those who are afflicting harm upon them disappear. They have been spending every day in fear of losing someone they love and that is mainly what is affecting their peace and tranquility. And I would like to address that this conflict was caused because Allah (SWT) is testing the people of Gaza. When these men, women, and children see their family members dying in front of them they don't get angry or sorrowful. instead, they say Alhamdulillah, la illaha illa, and Allahu akbar. Considering these actions, they know that Allah (SWT) is testing them. Despite all these horrible things happening to them they are always patient and always have the belief that Allah (SWT) will grant them victory. In the Quran, it says in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:153): "O you who have believed, seek help through patience and prayer. Indeed, Allah is with the patient." The people of Gaza know this, and although times are tough they know that Allah is with them.

Oct 7, 2023 a day that many people believe started the war. The day that the Palestinian struggle began. The day their patience was tested. In reality, their patience has been tested since way before. Over 75 years of struggle, patience, and reliance on Allah (SWT). Years of their homes being stolen, their men, women, and children being imprisoned. Years of randomized bombings and unjustified shootings. Years of siege, lack of water, electricity, and medical equipment. Years of suffering with no country fighting by their side. And although they are a minority fighting against one of the strongest armies they are yet to fall against their clutches. That is because Allah (SWT) is by their side. And Allah (SWT) surely will not let them down because He is the all-mighty and the all-powerful. The people of Gaza are patient, they are strong, and they are resilient.

The sense of community in Gaza has also played a huge role in their patience. In the face of dangers and hardships, the people of Gaza have all come together to support one another emotionally, financially, and spiritually. This strength that they have created by coming together has helped them stand against the face of difficulties. They have reinforced the teachings of Allah (SWT) that those who remain patient and united will win. In Surah Al-Imran Allah (SWT) says, “And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided. And remember the favor of Allah upon you - when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you became, by His favor, brothers.” They have stood by each other and have not let the other down. They have all lost family members, friends, and neighbors, and yet they console each other and protect one another. They place the other before themselves. They remain patient and undivided, and with them stands Allah (SWT).

The people of Gaza through their years of suffering and pain have shown incredible patience and resilience. They have shown remarkable strength in the face of trials upon trials and

losses upon losses. Their unwavering faith in Allah (SWT) allows them to overcome immense challenges. Their patience and resilience have given them the blessing of Allah (SWT) and to this day Gaza still stands. They were able to rebuild their lives over and over, every time coming back stronger than before. The story of the people of Gaza is a great example of the blessing of those who patiently persevere.