

IACC IMAGINE PRESENTS

perseverance

JULY 2020 ISSUE
YOUTH MAGAZINE



A Note From the Youth Magazine Team

Assalamalaikum!

Whew! This issue has gone through some serious trials before it could get here! But it's finally here, alhamdulillah! Welcome to the July 2020 Issue on Perseverance.

We appreciate your patience (which is what this issue is all about) and hope you enjoy it just as much as we did putting it together!

Jazakallah Khair!

*Thank
you!*

Editor-in-chief: Nabeela Iqbal

Social Media Manager: Adeena Sheraz

Design & Layout: Nabeeha Qazi, Areeba Qazi

A Note From Imam Azhar

Salam Alaikum Youth

This is your Imam, Azhar.

We live in a world that continues to remind us that the waves of uncertainty are part and parcel of this journey, known as life. When the waves of problems pick up, beyond its forceful impact on our lives, it carries with it the roar of the ocean, the pounding wind, and the drenching punch of its waters.

Not only do we get wet, but we also become fearful. Fear takes us to the crossroads of either continuing, turning back, giving in, or giving up.

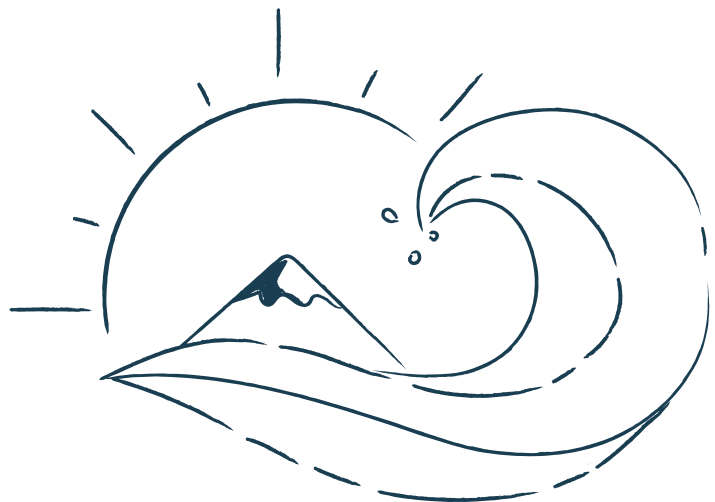
It is at this moment in time that we need to ask ourselves, Why am I here? How did I get here? Where am I going? And how important is the destination I intended to get to?

In order to see the complete picture of your efforts and to accomplish your goal in life, we need to lock in our emotions, channel our fear and uncertainty, and continue forward with perseverance.

Storms will pass as fast as they came in. The sun will shine once the clouds of uncertainty are broken. And you will venture further and deeper towards your destination, a wholesome and meaningful life.

Perseverance is a strength. Hold firm.

iAS



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BEACONS OF LIGHT

Inspiring role models who persevered and left great examples for us to follow.

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TAKE ACTION

Learn more about what is happening around the world and how you can help.

Artwork by Aisha Sunez Age: 13





Jannah Sultana Age: 7

Climbing Mountains

Unwavering Hope

Faaizah Yousuf Age: 16

I moved.

From a desert to a green land.

From no seasons to four.

Feeling uneasy and unsettled.

Me and my friends inseparable,
yet separated.

My comfort zones
invaded.

New cultures and beliefs
being thrown at me.

Everyone extroverted yet reserved
at first impression.

Outward appearances should not be
judged,
but throwing me off.
Routines and traditions
different from my own.

Not knowing
how to adapt
in a world where no one
understands.

Scared of a strange beginning.

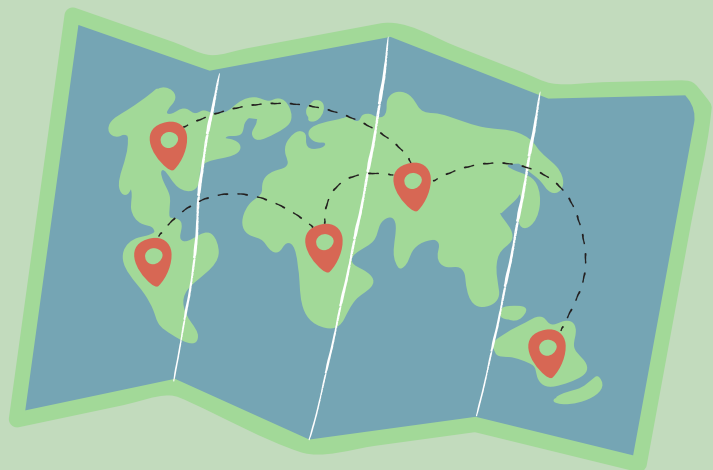
Anxious of the

present and future to come.

Walking blind into a horizon
with greater challenges and
unpredictable outcomes.

But at the end of the day,
I am me, myself, and I
acknowledging patience,
implementing perseverance,
seeking help from Allah
to help me embrace
who I am.

Discovering someone greater than
myself
in power, perfection, and peace.
Relieved that I am not
alone.



The Long Journey of my Art

Alisha Hasan Age: 16

I have always loved to do art. I've been doing it ever since I can remember. I've loved to doodle since I was young. I took art class in elementary, middle, and high school and even on my own. I have entered art contests where some of my best work has got me to the semifinals or was recognized. It only became award winning through my patience with drawing. As I look back on all the artwork I have done, I see my growth as an artist.

Art may be a hobby for me but it is also something that I consider myself good at. But, it took years of classes and practice to get to where I am today. It's taken years of practice and patience to build up my skills. If you don't have patience then you will never achieve anything. You will just think you're not good enough and give up. You can't become good at something overnight. Another thing you need to have is the mindset of perseverance. I faced a lot of obstacles like getting the pencil smudged or running out of paint or even worse, having a creative block or having to keep doing do-overs because I wasn't good enough. Most of the time, if it is something reasonably achievable for my level, I keep going even if I have to take a break from it for a little while.

Patience is really important to me because it shows how much self control you have. People want to be around patient people, because it shows the respect they have for others. Patience is something that we should implement in our daily lives. It may not be easy and yes even I struggle with it, but it's the way us Muslims should act. So, be patient when an obstacle comes your way because with the help of our Creator, you can overcome any problem. Without perseverance and sabr we lose and rush to solutions that may not be wise in the long run. Without sabr I would not be able to create my art, below. Let this be a lesson to us all, may Allah give us all patience and perseverance. Ameen.

Here is some of my artwork made with perseverance and sabr!



Patience

Zahraa Yousuf Age: 9

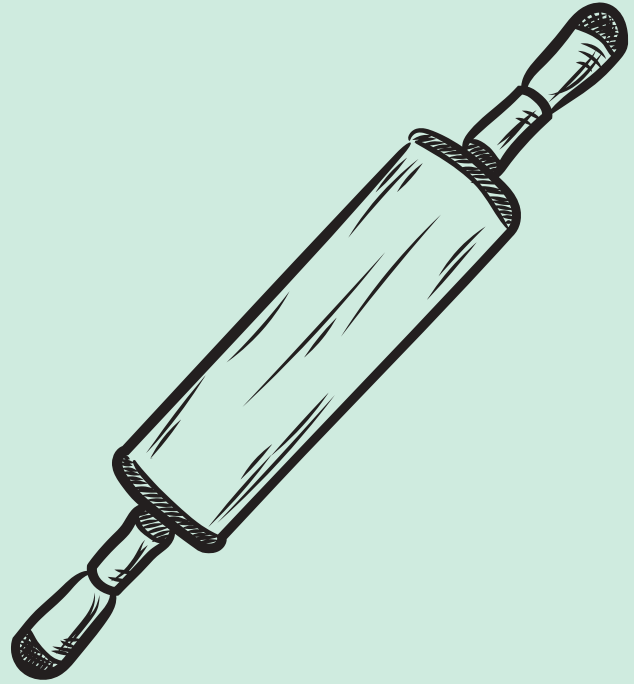
Patience Patience,
beautiful but not always fun.
It's like waiting in
line to get a bread bun.

It's not that easy.
You might even just get dizzy.
That's why you have to try, try, and
try if you want to fly high
in order to succeed.
You have to learn.
You might even spin and turn.
You have the strength within you,
so keep it close to you.

You will need patience throughout your life.
Even when you have a wife.
You have to believe in yourself.
Even if you're an elf.

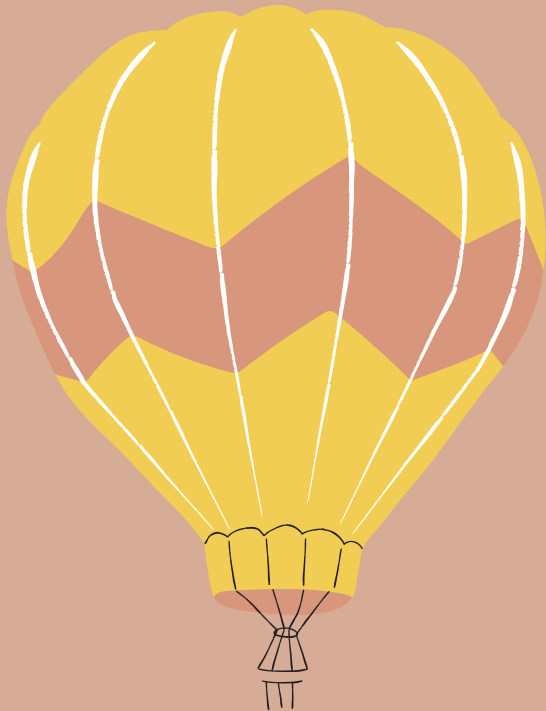
Plants need patience to grow
They need air to blow.
Patience is something we all need.
We should try to embrace it when
we're facing Allah's decree.

You have to give it a shot.
Even if you forgot.



The Power of Perseverance

Amani Ahmed Age: 13



Perseverance is a particular word
That many times in our life we have heard
We all say it is the key to success
But often times we forget the rest

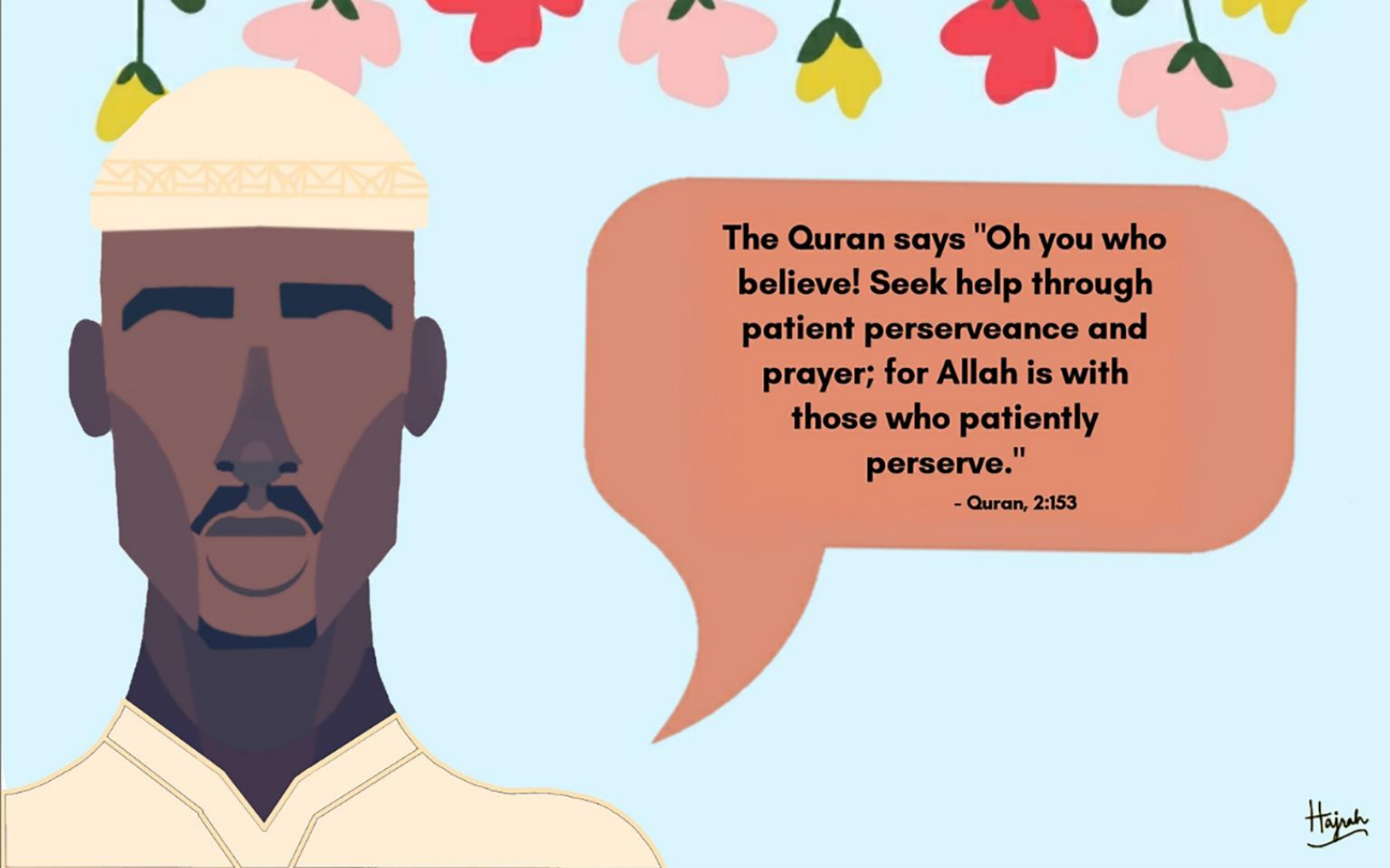
Perseverance is falling seven times and
standing up eight

There is no time to procrastinate
Giving up isn't an option or a thought
Put in 100 percent, give it all you got

Perseverance involves dedication
Between them is a correlation
Nothing will happen overnight
It takes time and effort to get something
just right

Patience also plays an important role
If you wish to achieve your goals
It may take weeks, or even months
Try, try, try again- do it more than once

It may be tough, it may take years
But always remember to persevere



Hajrah Iqbal Age: 12

Beacons of Light

I Can Breathe

Mahika Mazumder Age: 15

To the 7.8 billion people in this world,
The ocean of desperation simply calls our names.
But whether to sink or float,
It's up to us.

Those who float see the sun above the horizon.
Those who sink see nothing but the ocean floor.

But those who floated,
Triumphed through years of failure.
Months of unwanted outcomes.
Restless days and sleepless nights.

Like when a man missed more than 9,000 shots.
Lost 300 games.
Missed 26 chances to crown his team victorious.
Yet his silhouette is on your Jordans.

And when Gates failed to present his creation.
Dropped out of Harvard with near-perfect scores,
To one day get you the convenience of an online
office.

And that KFC on your table?
Took a motel to get burned.
Man got rejected by 1,009 restaurants.
So you could simply eat chicken that was
"Finger Lickin 'Good".

The things that go unrecognized in our lives,
On our shoes, dinner tables, and screens.
They took blood, sweat, and pools of tears to
ease our needs and desires.

Because those who persisted knew the air
was still there
That they could eventually take a breath
Above the endless ocean of no hope.
No hand could pull them down.
No monster called life could drag them to
drown.

Because one day...
Despite the adversities life threw at them.
The innumerable pitfalls they've
encountered.
They remained true to their ambitions.
And one day...
They swam to the surface of the water,
And finally said,

"I can breathe."



Perseverance Is The Key To Eventual Success

Fatima Shakeel Age: 12.5

True leaders recognize that patience enables them to analyze the situation, to understand what is required, and wait while they build the capacity to take appropriate and effective actions. Patience is a virtue that Allah (SWT) has stressed upon in the Quran. Whoever puts their trust in Allah will definitely find help from him.

A great example that we as Muslims should look up to in times of hardship, is the story of prophet Ayyub (RA). Prophet Ayyub's life was a picture-perfect scenario, he had immense wealth and beauty, along with his beautiful wife and children that he was raising. To provide us with a role model, Allah (SWT) tested him with a detrimental sickness to a point where his skin and body were rotting and had all different types of physical ailments. Not only was he dealing with disease and illness, but he was separated from his own family. It only gets worse from here:

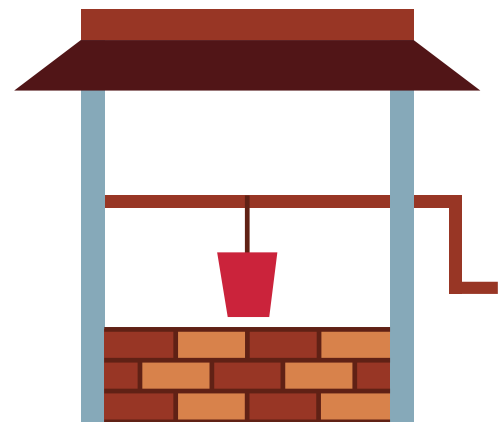
Prophet Ayyub (RA) was forced to leave his own home, and the business started to suffer. This was the unfolding of the ideal life that he lived.

The Prophet suffered these hardships for several years, and yet he used to say, "O my Lord, Surely, distress has touched me, and You are the most Merciful of the merciful ones."

Prophet Ayyub (RA) was never shaken in his belief in Allah (SWT) and never lost hope.

Another wonderful example is the patience of Prophet Yusuf (RA). His brothers plotted to kill him and then threw him in a well. Allah (SWT) changed the situation several years later and made Prophet Yusuf (RA) a king. When the same brothers came to him begging for food, he didn't take revenge, and instead, he forgave them.

Every person is faced with trials and tribulations at one point or another in their lives. It is patience that helps the believer cope. When calamity befalls a patient believer, it does not crush him. Instead, the believer endures, persists, and has hope in the mercy of Allah and looks forward to the rewards that are awaiting him on the Day of Judgment.



The Prophet (S) and Patience

The Prophet was a perfect model to his followers. His life was the shining example of a man of extraordinary endurance: His father died before his birth; his mother died when he was only 6 years old; and his grandfather who took up his guardianship also died soon. Then it was his uncle Abu Talib who protected him.

And when God appointed him His last Prophet, he was faced with the most brutal persecution and hostility from his own people. But these harsh experiences of life did not make him a cynic; on the contrary, they perfected his faith in God, making him all the more strongly committed to his God-given mission.

During the 13 years of his life in Makkah as the messenger of God, he faced all forms of abuse, boycott, expulsion and threats of physical violence. Yet he never budged an inch away from his mission. Rather he was gentle, considerate and sympathetic even to his enemies.



Artwork by Mariya Zaheer Age: 12

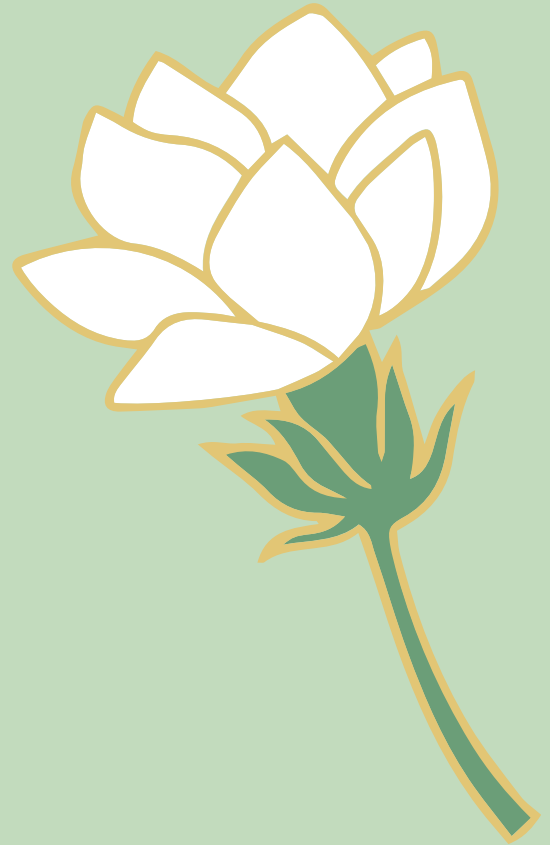
How Do You Apply Sabr in Your Daily Life?

Eshal Ahmed Age: 10

Assalamualaikum, everyone. My name is Eshal Ahmed. I am 10 years old. The topic I chose is: “How do you apply sabr in your daily life?”

Sabr is an Arabic word which means patience. The word of sabr (patience) appears in the Quran more than 100 times, this shows us the great importance that the Quran gives to patience. Islam teaches us to have patience in our daily lives. Surah 103 of The Qur'an, Al-Asr says, “By time. Indeed, man in loss, except for those who have faith and who do righteous deeds and enjoin one another to truth and enjoin one another with patience.” This surah teaches us that all human beings are in loss except those who have imaan (faith) and enjoin each other with truth and patience. This Surah sends a strong message to Muslims to practice patience. Patience is an antidote of anger.

Our Prophet Muhammed (S.A.W) is a great example of patience and forgiveness. The members of the Quraish hated him. They had many plans to kill him. They threw many stones at him making him bleed so bad that his slippers would be filled with blood. One time while he was praying his salah and in his sajdah they put animals' skin or organs on him. He did not take revenge from any of them. He just showed his immense patience and forgave all of them. Another example is when his sons passed away.



When Prophet Muhammed (S.A.W) saw his sons pass away right before his eyes, he was really sad to lose them. His eyes were filled with tears, but he did not cry; he had sabr. So Allah rewarded him, Prophet Muhammed (S.A.W) with the Kauther River in Jannah, where we all will go, insha'allah. Here are two examples out of many which can help us in applying patience in our daily lives.

If you are at a playground and there are a lot of kids on the rides, you have to wait in a line. Fasting during Ramadan is another good example of showing and applying patience. We are starving and thirsty, we want to eat and drink at that very moment. But to get Allah's blessings we avoid eating and drinking anything by showing patience.

Anger is a major contributor which destroys someone's health. Showing patience in the time of anger helps someone to minimize the bad effect of anger. We can always use these tips for having patience in our daily life. Patience (Sabar) helps us in staying healthy. Showing patience at the time of frustration and stress helps us to think positively and come out of the bad situation quickly.



Artwork by Aisha Ahmed Age: 8

Perseverance is Key

Saniyah Mazumder Age: 10

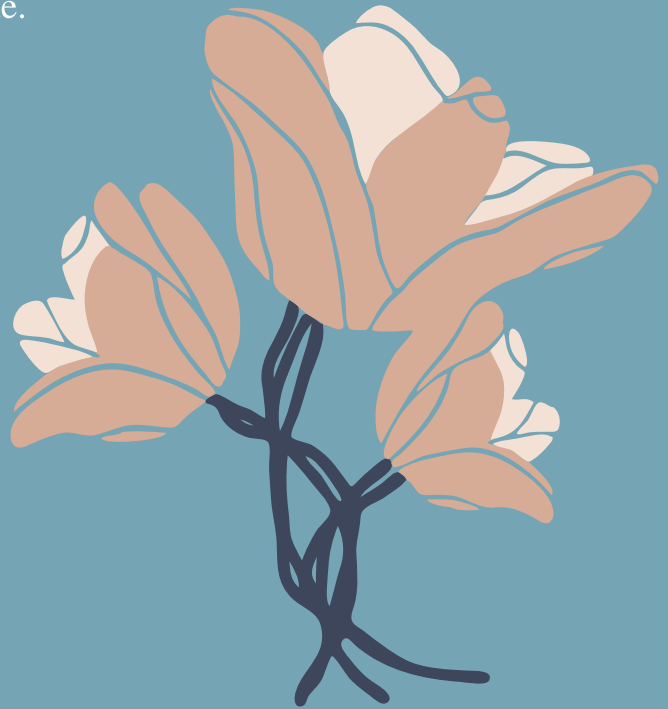
Even though things go wrong,
Don't give up and it won't take long.
There is no such thing as defeat.
You make mistakes and hop back to your feet.

Aspire to achieve your goals.
Jump over any holes.
Have dedication and try your best.
Don't care what people say because you want to pass Allah's test.

Follow examples like Queen Asiya bint Muzahim.
She showed that Allah's Nur is bright, but the Dunya's light is dim.
She believed in Allah even though no one was by her side.
Allah's power, she never denied.

Never giving up even though it doesn't go your way.
It will be hard but try your best every day!
Just as a flower in the sidewalk grew.
Hard work takes long so have sabr and don't be blue.

Don't think that you always get a physical prize.
It doesn't always have to be seen with your eyes.
Don't give up and be patient.
Try hard and have perseverance!





Take Action

Our Persistence Gives Hope to Oppressed Hearts

Hadia Khatri Age: 15

The Prophet (s.a.w.) said: “The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever.”

Yemen’s children starve amid rising fears of famine. More than 1.5 Uighur Muslims detained in concentration camps. Yet another school bombing in Syria kills 41 children. Day after day, these are the headlines we see in the newspapers, broadcasts, and media. Almost every Muslim majority country is within hardship: the Syrian civil war, Yemen crisis, Uighur detainment, the list goes on and on. It is incredibly easy in these circumstances to give up hope. People think, “hoping hasn’t gotten us anywhere; there hasn’t been much of a change.” But we don’t realize that giving up hope is exactly the oppressor’s desire, and that patience and perseverance in the face of difficulty defines the strong from the weak.

As Julius Caesar once said, “It is easier to find men who will volunteer to die. Then. to find those who are willing to endure pain with patience.” In the face of the world’s trials, we must keep our faith, hope, and patience strong.



However, many people in the Muslim Ummah mistakenly perceive patience as watching without action or support. They see these problems occurring around the world and believe that if they are only “patient,” the world’s problems will be solved.

However, we must do everything to stop injustices; the Prophet (s.a.w.) said, “Whosoever of you sees an evil, let him change it with his hand; and if he is not able to do so, then with his tongue; and if he is not able to do so, then with his heart — and that is the weakest of faith” [Muslim]. After this, it is our duty to remain patient even when we don’t see an immediate fruit of our actions.

Solving these world problems such as the Yemen Crisis will not happen overnight; they require persistent steps and actions that combined produce change. Even small charity given to organizations such as Islamic Relief and Yemeni orphanages changes lives and brings hope to people everyday. While 5 dollars donated towards children’s education in Syria might not stop the civil war, you’ve brought light to a child’s future. For a starved orphan in Yemen, your 5 dollars of food mean the world.

No matter how big or small our contributions are, they do have a strong impact even if we can’t clearly see it. As Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel said, “Just as despair can come to one only from other human beings, hope, too, can be given to one only by other human beings.”

By being persistent in our support, we put hope and strength in the hearts of the oppressed, that in turn, puts hope and strength in our own hearts as we see the saddening headlines describing our Muslim Ummah.



IF YEMEN WAS 100 PEOPLE...

80 NEED AID TO
SURVIVE

60 BARELY HAVE
ANYTHING TO
EAT

58 HAVE NO
ACCESS TO
CLEAN WATER

11 ARE SEVERELY
MALNOURISHED

52 HAVE NO
ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE

**BUT YEMEN IS
NOT 100
PEOPLE...**

**IT'S 30.5
MILLION.**

FREE WAYS TO HELP:

- Download the FreeRice app and play the quiz:



IDEA

ORGANISE GAME NIGHTS WITH YOUR QUARANTINE BUDDIES AND QUIZ EACH OTHER ON WORDS OR SEE WHO CAN GET "X" RIGHT ANSWERS THE FASTEST

- Spread awareness: Even if only one person sees what you share on your social media, that's one more helping hand.

Or you can DONATE:

Either through:

The ShareTheMeal app
(Instagram: @sharethemeal)



GET

Or directly to the United Nation's
World Food Programme
(Instagram: @worldfoodprogramme)

♥ THANK YOU ♥

And the Fog Has Lifted

Zainab Choudry Age: 15

How much delight before this universe
Shriveled and crumpled before our eyes.
Stars dimmed and sunshine paled,
Society's destruction unveiled.

A particle stole our rhythm of life,
Ignorance played the melody.
Because we were consumed in life's trap,
Sins began to unfurl and unwrap.

We were deaf to the cries
of Yemen, Palestine, and the helpless.
Blind to the racism that swept the world,
As we went on with life, their voices unheard.

The believers fearfully watch
The world crumble, wondering
“Why Allah? Why has the light faded,
Every twinkling ray darkly tainted?”

We have played with Allah's mercy,
Immersed in the dunya and detached from deen.
Allah gave us multitudinous second-chances,
But we still cast sins, no second-glances.

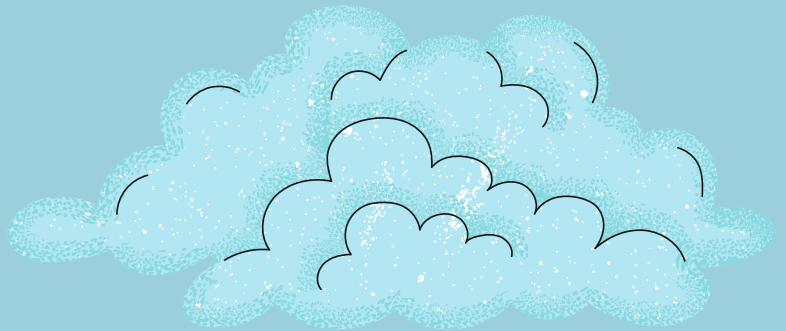
So we need sabr. Allah has instilled it
Into our fearful, longing hearts.
Like a boat unshaken in a ferocious wave,
A path of strength, we will pave.

Only the believing will stand tall,
Their faith glowing amidst the chaos.
These trying times are a test.
Who'll pass? Those who persevere best.

Despite the sickness that spreads like fire,
Injustice that corrupts the air,
And trials that push us to flight...
We must hold onto Allah's light.

Illusions display fog and rubble,
Fooling our eyes and daunting our hearts.
But with sabr comes Allah's light,
And the world has shifted, right?

If we brave these threatening scenes,
Unshaken by the crumbling grounds,
Sabr will lift the rubble from the land that has
wilted.
With Allah's light, the fog has lifted.



UYGHUR MUSLIMS



uyghurs are a turkic-speaking minority ethnic group originating from and culturally affiliated with the general region of Central and East Asia.

right now, more than 3 million uyghur muslims are put in concentration camps and are brainwashed to disown their religion to become "normal citizens". they are forced to eat pork, drink alcohol, and denounce themselves as muslims.

——how can we help?——

1. Sign petitions

- link: shorturl.at/cyEGK

2. Spread awareness

- constantly share posts, pages, links to petition about uyghur muslims
- use the hashtag #uyghurmuslims

3. Stay educated

- follow @uyghurprojectig and @uyghurmusliminfo
- watch documentaries (on slide 8)

4. Donate

- donate to uyghur refugee relief fund

“ I thought I would rather die than go through the torture and begged them to kill me. ”

- Concentration camp survivor, Mihrigul Tursun, in her testimony on how China detained her and murdered her child.

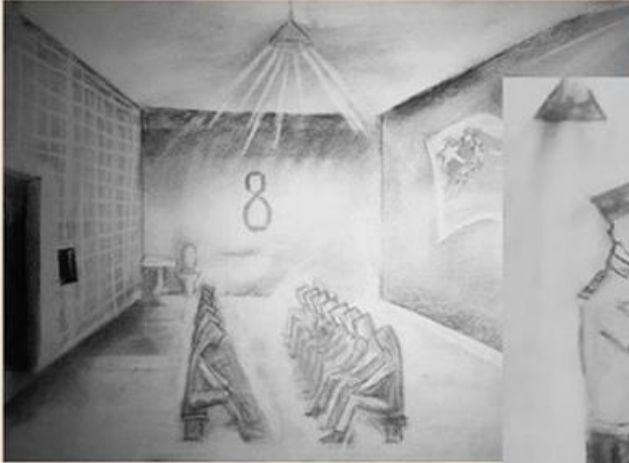
Concentration camps have since been used as a tool for the **ethnic cleansing and genocide** of Turkic speaking groups: Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Tatars, Kyrgyz living in East Turkestan, a region in Central Asia that has been **colonized** by China for decades

—
Although China has attempted to forcibly assimilate them, these groups are **culturally, religiously and linguistically different** from the main Han ethnic group

picturing the camps...

@freeuyghurnow

through illustrations by a camp survivor



Source: Aidana Nurlan, TWreporter

Since early 2017, Chinese authorities have intensified the crackdown on Uyghurs and other minorities in East Turkestan through the operation of hundreds of Nazi-style concentration camps, claimed to be “re-education” camps.

3,000,000 have been detained.*

465 estimated camps and prisons.

\$2.96 billion has been spent on these facilities.

*Between 1 million to 3 million have been estimated to be in the camps according to different sources.
Source: SaveUighur, Council on Foreign Relations, East Turkistan National Awakening Movement

Since the world started to learn about China's concentration camps, China has been transferring detainees in mass numbers to forced labor camps, where the same systems of repression and abuse are used.



Check out the @freeuyghurnow campaign for more info on forced labor and how the products you consume from known brands are made by the people facing the human rights abuses you read in this graphic.

@freeuyghurnow

mass disappearances

- Individuals **as young as 14 years old** are sent to the camps without reasonable cause, without a fair trial or any information about their release and without notifying their family members.
 - "Crimes" include: travelling abroad, having family living abroad, using WeChat, practicing Islam, speaking native language.
- **Families are broken apart** and many do not know the current whereabouts of family members.
 - Children are separated from their parents and sent to orphanages in mainland China. **Thousands have become refugees** and have not been able to return home or contact family in East Turkestan due to the fear of punishment from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).
- Under a government-mandated program, women are **forced into marriages** with Han men. For married women whose husbands have been detained, Han men are appointed to stay in their homes.
 - This program has directly contributed to the **systematic rape** of minority women.

Congratulations

TO ALL THE CHOSEN SUBMISSIONS

The process of choosing between wonderful and insightful submissions is a painful one, but we had to do it! Congratulations & jazakallah khair to all the youth writers and artists whose passion made this magazine a success!

We would like to give a special shout-out to everyone who decided to submit their pieces; we appreciate your hard work and your effort and would love to see your contributions in future issues!

We need you and your thoughts!

STAY CONNECTED !

follow us on instagram: @iaccmag

write to us with ideas and suggestions:

writersclub@planomasjid.org

Keep an eye out for next month's theme!

- Youth Magazine
Team