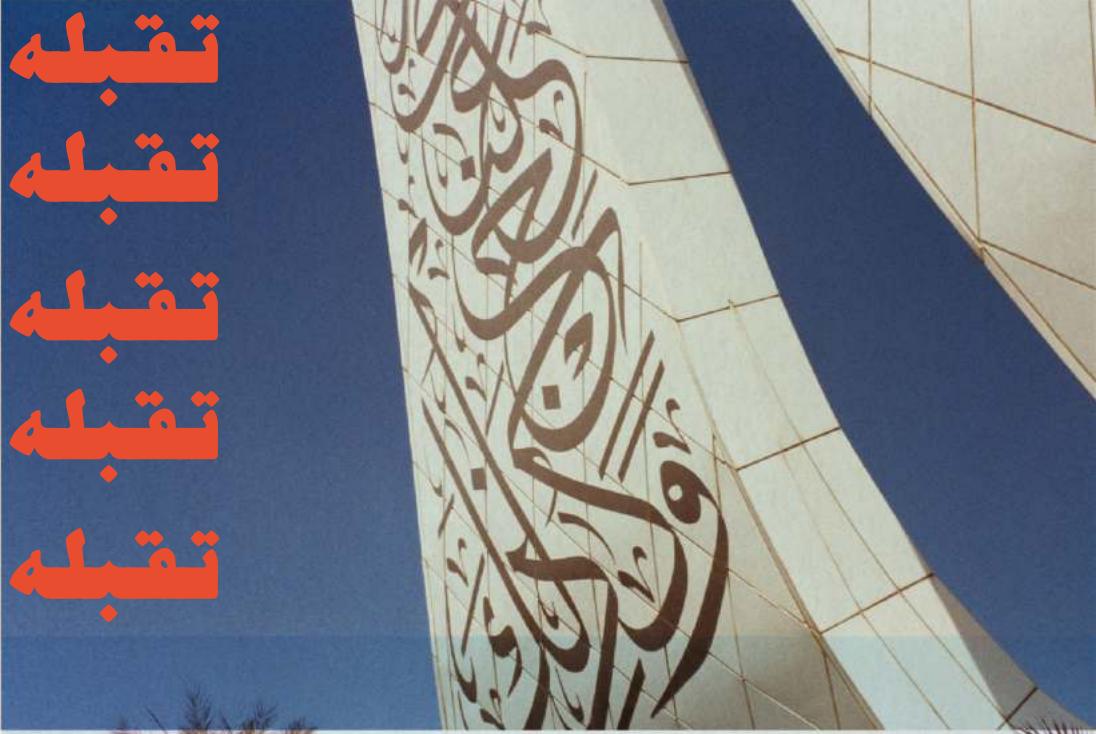


# Lam̄a

# **ISSUE 3: OCTOBER**





# *Editor's Note*

LAMĞA /Lamha/, or a glimpse. A glimpse into our student life, and we keep these gorgeous and whimsical days.

We are all here in Carnegie Mellon Qatar at a time in life where our identity remains disconnected fragments, yet to develop a coherent form. We have many questions, many aspects of ourselves we seek to know more about, and are uncertain of. At this time, it's sometimes hard to accept who you are - susceptible to changes and full of flaws. Sometimes, taking time to figure out your own way feels disorienting, with other people seemingly moving too fast and certainly. Sometimes, you don't feel enough, a feeling of insignificance and weightlessness.

The community here, like any other community, is large, but people blend in and create a unique communal identity. Such collectivism is not compromised by one's quirks and contrasts, but rather enriched as people embrace themselves and willingly communicate who they are, instead of trying to fit in and hush down the less perfect facets of themselves.

In this October issue, we center the theme around Self Acceptance - embracing and being at peace with your entire beings, flaws or successes, failures or accomplishments, with no conditions. With finals week coming up, it's easy to succumb to the peer pressure of over analyzing our failures and insecurities. By bringing together stories and perspectives of students beyond their academic life, LAMĞA serves as a kind reminder that everyone is a multifaceted, integral component of the community. Our sincere hope is that we've motivated you to embrace the eclectic aspects of yourself, and to know more about others than just via tokens of grades and achievements.

LAMĞA is for the students by the students. We are more proud than ever to continue being an anchor for your monthly conversations, and an archive for your university experience.

Sincerely,  
LAMĞA Editor Board

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IT'S ALL  
PART OF  
THE PROCESS!



# Humans of CMUQ: Kharaz,

By Mariam Hamad

I interviewed Piadora El-Chanti, a Lebanese-Palestinian BA sophomore. She is the proud owner of Kharaz, a handmade jewelry business, and we delved into the origins of her business and the challenges she faced. This is what she had to say:



I started Kharaz when I was 15, in the summer of 2019, before the chaos of COVID. Seashell jewelry was trending , and I really wanted to buy some, but I couldn't find any that I liked in the stores. I decided I would just make my own jewelry instead, and I really enjoyed the process and received many compliments. Once I started, I decided to create a whole collection, and sell it on Instagram. I was really worried that it might fail, or that it wouldn't be taken seriously, so I kept my identity a secret. But once I started getting more requests, my business grew, and I was really proud of what I built, and wanted people to know that Kharaz was mine.

It's been about 3 years since I started out, and I still mainly operate on Instagram, but I do try to showcase my products through pop-ups. I've been able to have my jewelry presented in Torba, as well as other notable places, so the name is generally known. There were good and bad days while I was at Torba. Beaded jewelry has become

more popular recently, so my time at Torba wasn't as successful as I wanted it to be on certain days. It's really hard after a day with bad sales; it makes you question whether it's worth it to keep going. But I persevered and kept trying, I've learnt from my mistakes, and if it wasn't for those failures, I truly believe I wouldn't be where I am. I don't think people should be afraid of rejection or failure, because I wouldn't have excelled with Kharaz without it. I like to think that rejection is redirection.

I faced a lot of ridicule and judgements from people interviewing me, when I was trying to set up pop ups because of my age. I remember walking into meetings and people being shocked that I was so young. I was a 15-year-old girl, so no one took me seriously at first, until we started a conversation, and they saw that I was confident and knew what I was talking about. Confidence is key in situations like these.

I think the reason I was successful was because beaded jewelry wasn't a very large or popular market in Qatar at the time. In fact, Kharaz was the first beaded jewelry business in Doha.



Authenticity is really important to me, I want to create jewelry that I would wear so when it comes to my brand, I don't base my designs around trends. When chunky jewelry was trending, I didn't create any designs catering to this because it wasn't my style and it wouldn't have been authentic to my overall brand. Something I want to have in the future is my own store. I would love to have people come in and even have the option to customize their own jewelry.

My favorite thing about Kharaz is that it's something that I envisioned and created at 15. Through it, I was able to create amazing networks and friends. It taught me how to be independent in so many ways and inspired me to become better. I think through Kharaz, I was able to discover my true potential, as I wasn't someone that performed well academically. For some people, academic validation is everything, but I don't focus on what my scores are because I don't believe your academic performance should define you; extracurriculars and student life are just, if not more important.



My advice for someone who wants to start a business is to make sure it's something you love. Don't have it be a chore, make it something that you know you'll enjoy doing every day even if it's something very common. I think you shouldn't pursue something just because you know it will sell well or have a good payout, you need to make sure you love it and that it's something you'll continue to love. Kharaz is something I enjoy doing. It's also important to have a good support

system. My parents helped me out so much, and I was surrounded by people that supported me and my business. Having people that weigh you down isn't something that will help you in the long run. It's important to work in silence, don't be flashy or show off, as sometimes that can attract negative attention.



# *Humans of CMUQ: Imposter Syndrome*

**By Mariam Hamad**

Aisha Al-Hajri is a Qatari BA senior. She spoke with us about her experience with Imposter Syndrome, how it affected her throughout her years at CMU-Q, and how she was able to overcome it.

"I definitely experienced imposter syndrome at CMU-Q, especially in my first year. At my high school, I was used to always being one of the top students, so I was confident when I started at CMU-Q, because I didn't think that would change or be any different. But I realized every other student here was also used to being a top student. I remember the specific moment I started to think that maybe I didn't belong here was during calculus, and even though the concepts were similar to what I had already learned, the teaching style and the atmosphere made it feel like a completely new thing. It was difficult for me to transition from being a high school student to a CMU-Q student. I think the reason it was so difficult was because of the shock of realizing I'm not the top student anymore and how different university culture is from high school. I was so scared of being seen as not "smart" enough for CMU-Q, that I had a really hard time asking for help or answering a question in class.

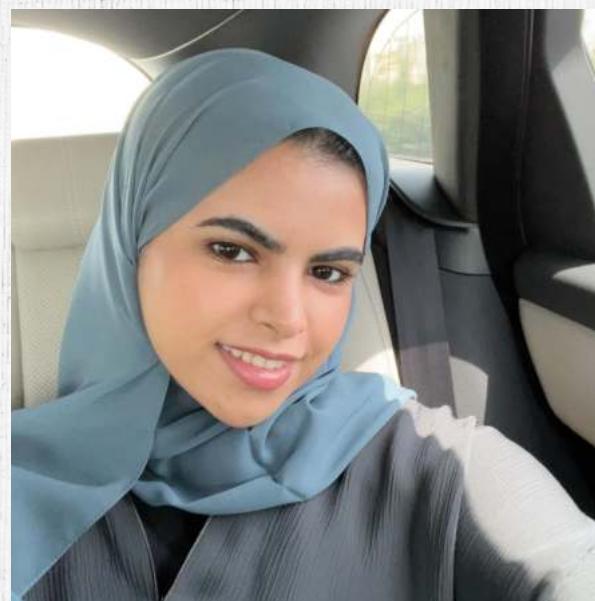
I think people need to remember you came to CMU-Q for a reason. You came here to learn and grow as a person within your classes and at university as a whole; you didn't come here to compete with others. You have to ask yourself; did you learn anything in class, or did you just approach it with the mindset of improving or maintaining your GPA. It's important to challenge yourself, but make sure there's a balance so you don't burn yourself out.

Extracurriculars are really important because they can help you develop as a person and it helps you meet people outside of your major. I know you might think it's not helpful and it just cuts into your studying time, but it helps you become

a well-rounded person. Doing extracurriculars helped me overcome my imposter syndrome. Meeting new people, and experiencing new things helped me realize that academic success isn't everything, and it helped figure out what I like and don't like.

There isn't one right path that all students must go through, we are all different and we all have different goals. It's important not to compare yourself to others academically, because everyone's classes and programs are different. One thing you should do is look back at your freshman self when you're a senior, you'll realize all of the ways you've grown and improved over the years. I think over these four years I've changed a lot. I used to be so reserved in front of professors and now I joke around with them regularly. I became more comfortable and confident at CMU-Q. I feel like I can start a conversation with anyone without feeling awkward or shy.

For anyone struggling with imposter syndrome, just know you're not alone. Everyone struggles in university, but CMU has a very welcoming community; you can always approach someone for help and they'd be happy to help out."



A photograph of a modern building's exterior. The most prominent feature is a large, illuminated sign that spans the width of the building. The sign consists of large, gold-colored letters spelling out "HENNAH YOUR RETURN". The letters are mounted on a black metal frame that is attached to the building's facade. The building itself has a light-colored, possibly white or cream, exterior. In the foreground, there is a dark, horizontal structure, likely a walkway or a series of steps, which provides a sense of depth to the image. The sky above is a uniform, pale grey, suggesting an overcast day or a setting where the sun is not clearly visible.

HENNAH YOUR RETURN

# Members Only!

On October 27, we as a community got an opportunity to witness the build-up from a whole month worth of preparation materialize - Tartans Got Talent. The community merged in together through amazing performances, the music, colors and euphoria. It's certainly not everyday that you see your fellow peers on stage, gleaming in their own lights and tune - what makes Tartans Got Talent our continued favorite tradition. Let's relive moments from our special showcase, to see that Tartans do got talents!



# When I Get My Braces Off, I'm Gonna Be A Rockstar

By Dana AlDisi

When I used to have braces, I would always quote a lyric from a song that said "When I get my braces off, I'm gonna be a rockstar." I got my braces off last summer, and because of Tartans Got Talent, I got to be a rockstar!

I never really felt like a rockstar despite the fact that I play electric guitar, and have performed before with electric guitar. However, this performance really instilled that feeling because I was playing with a drummer for the first time. That insanely talented drummer is Aadi. I had met Aadi during his orientation just the beginning of Fall 2022, where he'd told me he played drums after seeing me perform in Community Collage. When Tartans Got Talent was announced, I knew exactly who to go to for a lively performance.



A lively performance meant that we needed a lively song. We wanted to choose a song that was fun to play on both guitar and drums, so we chose "Happier Than Ever (Edit)" by Billie Eilish. Next step was to actually practice that song, which actually did only a few times before the final performance, and most of these times were during the soundchecks a few days/hours before Tartans Got Talent.

The soundchecks made me particularly nervous, since there seemed to be an issue with balancing the sound of the guitar, drums and vocals such that they were all clear to the audience. Thankfully, we found the perfect balance right before the event started and we were good to go. It was all thanks to the accommodating IT and facilities team who attended multiple soundchecks and tried all the different ways to help us get everything sounding right.



Another group I should probably thank is my friends. I texted them around a week before the event telling them I might back out from Tartans Got Talent because I felt so nervous and unmotivated, but they hyped me up and convinced me not to. And, boy, I'm so grateful they did. Despite my nerves, I was so excited before performing, and during/after the performance, I was on top of the world. As soon as I actually got on the stage, my anxiety disappeared, and I felt pure joy. It was because I was genuinely enjoying myself that I did well and gave it my all. The audience seemed to enjoy it too, which really drove that "rockstar" feeling home.

Aadi and I both had so much fun performing, and we can't wait to rock the stage again!

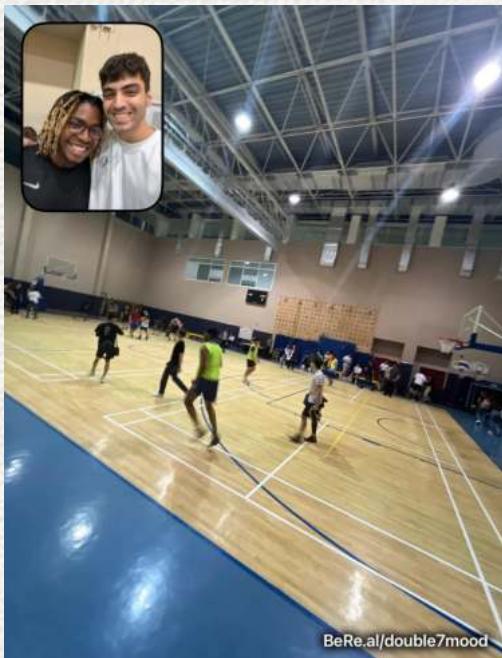
# *EC Sports Tournament, A Recap*

**By Thuc Ngo**

The very first sports tournament of academic year 22-23 has wrapped up, with CMU winning the first runner-up of cricket, volleyball and football. Mixed with the ambiance of regrets, the tournament left us with a refreshed sense of community, new companions and lessons to learn from. To reflect on this season, I interviewed Ahmad Mohamad - an avid fan of CMU teams who was present in virtually every match and Weon Gyu Jeon - a core player of both the men's basketball and volleyball teams, and also the incumbent Student Majlis' Head of Sports.

**I believe you are among the most engaged people in this year's league. So how do you feel about the performance of CMU in the league overall?**

Ahmad: I think they have great potential, but the results weren't up to our expectations mainly because there is not enough chemistry among team members yet. The flame was not maintained throughout the game and sometimes it felt like they were avoiding the intensity of the game. In retrospect, though, the teams were young, with not much time getting to know each other yet, so we still have a lot of room for improvement.



BeRe.al/double7mood

Weon Gyu: It was a hassle most of the time, mostly because the league was informed at the last minute so most of the teams weren't prepared. But as the tournament unfolded, most of the clubs progressed with their performances - well for basketball we only won one game, but it was an epic win in my opinion. Overall, the teams worked very hard and I'm sure they all learnt something from the league.

**Ahmad, what makes you keep coming back to the games as a fan?**

I think it has to be the spirit in every game. Moments like screaming your team's name and boo-ing other team's players, also when the game ends and everyone streams onto the court and merge into one pool of people - those are very amazing feelings when you get to do it with your peers.

I also genuinely enjoyed some games, those were the score was close and the atmosphere heightened. The fans would tear their voice cheering - and in games where we were losing and got some unexpected rebounds, the spirit was amazing.

**Weon Gyu, I'm also curious to know, how did it feel on the court amid the waves of support from the audience?**

Weon Gyu: When someone's supporting you, it means they are actually watching you play, so it feels like you cannot be irresponsible with the ball in your hand. The pressure sometimes gets real, but most of the time the cheers make me more focused in the game. And my favorite moment was when our cheers overwhelmed the opponent's audience, I would feel energized and desire to win for the crowd more than ever.



### **What do you think have been the most significant values this league brought to people?**

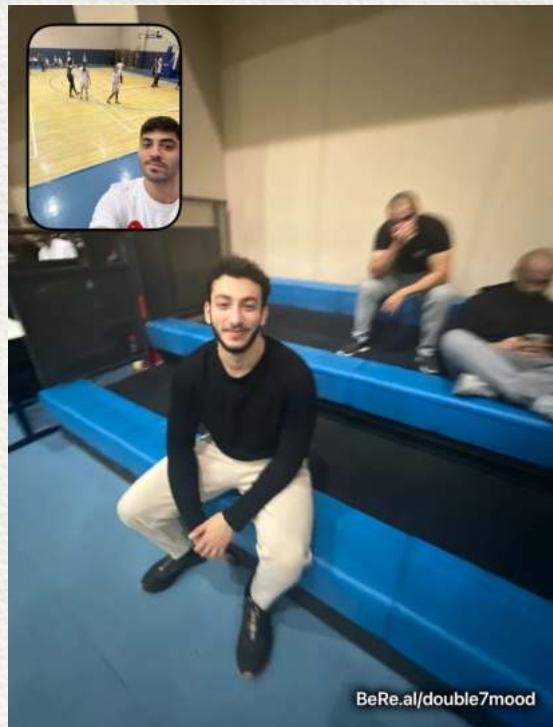
Ahmad: The relationships you can develop from simply going to the matches. I made a lot of friends with other fans and players from other universities. After the game, you can just come up to players from any team to strike a conversation, and next time we would say hi - there begins a friendship.

Weon Gyu: Definitely the unique socializing space sports matches provided. It's very different from the one we have in a university setting. As soon as you go inside the campus, it feels like you're obliged to work for at least a few hours, and socializing feels a bit restrictive because you don't have much besides schoolwork to spark a conversation. During a sports game, the vibe is very dynamic and relaxed, you're completely inside the space. The only obligation is that you have to blend in with the crowd and cheer or play for only one goal: to win. Because people are so hyped, it's much easier to approach and start a conversation with someone you see everyday on campus when they are screaming for CMU teams than when they're plugged in their laptop at school.

### **Do you feel a difference in your relationship with people within CMU before and after the league?**

Weon Gyu: I feel it very clearly. For example, I knew everyone in the junior batch but didn't really

"know" them, there was sort of an atmosphere of distance. When I saw them cheering my name and for our teams, also coming to us and complimenting our performance after every game, the distance was really narrowed. Being able to play along with the freshmen in the basketball team also gave me time to get to know them as well. I think the league has brought me closer and more comfortable to people I already knew.



BeRe.al/double7mood



# CMBA's Halloween Game Night

Carnegie Mellon Business Association hosted the unique Halloween game night on October 31. We were dazzled by the creative costumes that were showcased, as well as the most fun, spooky-themed games organized by CMBA. This gathering occasion also noted the departure of CMU-Q's beloved - professor Cecile Le Roux. As a community, we wished her the best of luck, and expressed how much CMUnity will miss her irreplaceable active and energetic presence.





# Social Synergy

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## Fall 2022 Takawâys

By Yahya Elkhatib

With finals being around the corner, all I can think about is, why did I choose bio? I then remembered that bio students sound "cool" to others. We say things such as "I have cancer at 2:30" to throw everyone off or "I have to go to the lab" as a response when someone asks us to do something or convince everyone that "organic chem is hard" even though all we do is just draw hexagons and arrows.

This fall semester has passed by so quickly, and so far, it has been a roller coaster, with lots of ups and downs. This fall, I realized a few things I'd like to share with you all:

- 1** It's normal to come to university with a grumpy face; you don't have to act like everything is perfect, because there's a high chance that students are struggling too, and everyone understands.
- 2** Think twice before you go to the ARC on Tuesday evenings and if you need to go, then try to get out of there ASAP.
- 3** The third floor is a great studying place, so if you're distracted often, you may want to study there.
- 4** Darwish's Spotify playlist is darwiish with a double "l" so if you don't follow him, you're doing yourself a favor so great job.
- 5** The senior's table is the best place to observe EVERYTHING that's happening in the food court, so I can't wait for the current seniors to free up this table (Jk, we will miss you- just a bit).
- 6** The bio professors have a lot of candy and chocolates in their offices, so whenever you need a snack, pass by their offices.
- 7** Most importantly, I realized how lucky I am to be working with a great majlis team- they're all hardworking superstars and they always inspire me to be resilient.

On a more serious note, the fall semester has been a blast and let's all spend some time during the winter break to reflect on who supported us. Whether it's our parents, our friends, or even our faculty, let's show them some gratitude and remind them of how grateful we are for what they've done.

Oh, I almost forgot, class of 2026, congratulations for completing your first semester at CMU-Q! It only gets easier from here.



# World Cup & A Changing Qatar

By Thuc Ngo

Courtesy of Abdurahman Al-Mana, Mubarak Al-Sulaiti, Mariam Ahmed and Khalifa Al-Thani

The first exposure I've had to the changing identity of Qatar was through the book "The Girl Who Fell to Earth" by Qatari-American artist Sophia Al-Maria. The book was a very sincere account of childhood, adolescence and adulthood as a mixed child jolting between the US and the Gulf. Sophia is a member of the Bedouin desert-dweller Al-Dafira, visiting her Middle Eastern home for the first time when borders, cities and politics started to solidify in the Gulf, entailing rapid modernization. I was deeply intrigued by her journey navigating the alienating boundaries between the traditional lifestyle of her tribe and the cosmopolitan life of a changing Qatar. The quirks and contrasts of these lifestyles are shown through her tribe's struggle to adapt a relaxed, communal and autonomous nomadic lifestyle to the compressed, stuffy indoor life of city apartments.



taken by Noof Al Mannai

I came to Qatar, probably when it looked completely different from what it was only a few years back. The World Cup preparation in the past 12 years undoubtedly has changed the country in a profound way, and I couldn't help but wonder about a Sophia-like story for the Qataris - a story of navigating the changing Qatar for those who have lived here and developed deep connections with the culture and the place

long before it is what it is today. Thus, this piece is an attempt to bring together said perspectives and stories about the World Cup, how it has, and will change, enrich and impact Qatar in various aspects. Though being narrated by me, it was produced from very interesting conversations that I've been pleased to have with other Qataris - a special tribute to Abdurahman Al-Mana, Mubarak Al-Sulaiti, Mariam Ahmed and Khalifa Al-Thani for sharing your unique stories and prospects.

For long run fans of football in Qatar, the World Cup probably still feels unreal. Khalifa, having played football since 8 years old, recalled that the best players in his teams would get sent to Aspire Academy with admiration from other kids, as they all aspire to represent their country in the World Cup one day - and now the World Cup is quite literally in his backyard. Even for Qataris who aren't avid football fans, this worldwide event is incredibly exciting, as Qatar has changed 180 degrees in preparation for the World Cup in the last 12 years, and the time is close when the world could witness the efforts and outcomes.

Growing up here his whole life, Abdurahman and Mubarak shared that changes have been very gradual, and thus hard to envision on a day-to-day basis; but looking back ten years ago, they could hardly believe the infrastructure transformations. Before winning the World Cup bid, the hyped places were only malls like Villaggio or City Center, now Qatar has state-of-the-art smart cities like Mushereib, commercial hubs like Lusail and advanced transportation systems that look like splendid architectures.

The country actively expanded its range of arts and cultural activities through museums, exhibitions and public events in collaboration with artists from around the world. Qatar has structurally diversified its economy, and this comes together with a deeper diversification of the society and ways of life.



*taken by Diana Gazizova*

The World Cup, besides showcasing the country's development, is also expected to bring various unique and rich aspects of the country's culture to the world view rather than jumbling it into one of "Dubai's neighbors". Mariam, having lived in other countries before returning to Qatar, emphasized the safety norms of life here - in very few places in the world you can leave your belongings unattended in public places without a worry. The close-knitted communal tradition, placing a high value on family, is deeply ingrained in the Qatari culture.

Khalifa and Abdurahman expressed their excitement in welcoming visitors to their Majlis, as they believe these gatherings represent an integral part of how Qatari communities bond. Qatari culture, as other Islamic cultures through the West lens, is often tokenized or reduced to certain practices and symbols, such as veiled women or homogeneous societies. As remarked by Mubarak, he was intrigued by the infusion of colors into abayas by women of the new generation in Qatar. The abayas appear in various different textures, colors and materials now than before, and the world will come to understand the individuality of members in Qatar society differently as they witness these nuances of cultural components.

With these amazing opportunities for understanding, there's also room for cultural clashes. As the first Middle Eastern country to host the World Cup, Qatar has had to navigate integration of the West's football culture and its own identity - one which is deeply intertwined with Islam. Some of the things that are norms in other places are not accepted in Islam; and

while opening itself to the world entails scrutiny to Qatar's human rights protection, as well as its cultural and religious practices, it also means informing people about the different ways of life that exist elsewhere in the world. Controversies and discomfort are necessary in these situations - as pointed out by Mubarak - as they don't weaken Qatar's identity, but rather, expose people around the world to its culture and people in Qatar to its problems alike. The bigger these conversations get, the more likely they will have a ripple effect on us.



*taken by Mohammed Almansouri*

Much of the change in Qatar in the last ten years did not just come from the external world, but also from the subtle push and pull between internal efforts to conserve traditions whilst developing into a world-class metropolitan hub. Overall, though, the process has introduced greater diversity into Qatar, and better reception of said diversity. The new generations will have a much more global background; and them as well as the generations that have witnessed both the old and new Qatar will have the momentum to accelerate the country through immersing in this one-in-a lifetime World Cup 2022.



*2021 Arab Cup in Al Bayt Stadium on Film,  
taken by Hala Al Darbashi*

# Tomorrow in Palestine

By Ahmad Hallaq

Last month, on September 30th, 2022, 7-year-old Palestinian child, Rayan Suliman, died from fear while being chased by occupation forces in his own home. On the same day, 22 years before him, on September 30th, 2000, 12-year-old Muhammad AlDurrah was killed in his father's lap while the latter was trying to protect his son as bullets rained down on them. For years and years, Palestinians have been living in violence, in chaos, under apartheid.

The question remains: When will it end? Will it ever end?

From the surface, things do not look promising. Day by day, the occupation grows more powerful, with stronger weapons, better technology, and greater western support. Today, they are arguably the strongest superpower in the world. How can such a superpower ever be defeated? Is it even possible? Practically, some would say it's extremely unlikely. We do not have any indication of how that could happen.

***There is, however, one thing that we Palestinians do have, one thing that we so dearly hold on to, one thing that gives us hope, and that is faith.***

In Palestine, people continue to resist every day, despite having no weapons or resources. Every day, we hear the news of another Palestinian who fell as a martyr while carrying out yet another resistance operation. Ever wondered where this bravery comes from? This bravery stems from faith, and the complete belief in what is our right. It is the very reason why Palestinians are not afraid of the occupier. It is the very reason why a Palestinian child is not afraid to stand in front of a soldier with a weapon from point-blank range. It is the very reason why a group of Palestinians with nothing, but rocks, bricks, and fireworks will choose to fight an army of soldiers with weapons and tanks. It is because there is no losing option, rather there is always one of two rewards, either victory or martyrdom. That is

exactly the difference between the occupation and Palestinians.

***Whilst their biggest goal is to live on the land, our greatest wish is to die for it.***

Outside of Palestine, resistance takes a different form. We resist by remembering Palestine, and we remember Palestine by reading about it, by talking about it, and by embracing it. For many of us, we do not have any official ties with Palestine. Many of us have never even stepped foot on Palestinian land.

***While we may not live in Palestine, Palestine lives inside each and every single one of us.***

It lives through our grandfather's stories, it lives through our books, through our poetry, through our culture. They said that the old will die and the young will forget. Yet from grandparents to grandchildren, Palestine is always remembered. The young are ever so aware, because the old have taught them well. They have taught them that Palestine is an occupied Arab Islamic state, that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Palestine, that Al-Aqsa Mosque is imprisoned, that the Zionist entity is an enemy, and that resistance is an honor.



Jerusalem, Palestine

It has been 74 years. 74 years and we did not give up. 74 years and we did not forget. 74 years, and we did not forgive. 74 years and the question remains: When will it end? We do not know. Will it ever end? Absolutely. It is a promise from Allah. It is a promise that will eventually be fulfilled as long as there is resistance inside and outside of Palestine. And there will always be resistance, as long as there is faith.



Jerusalem, Palestine

Take a moment to imagine what a free Palestine will look like tomorrow. Tomorrow in Palestine, we will walk between the shops in the old city of Jerusalem. Tomorrow in Palestine, we will go fishing in Gaza, we will go diving in Akka, and we will watch the sunset on the beach in Haifa. Tomorrow in Palestine, we will eat knafeh in Nablus, and we will eat oranges in Yaffa. Tomorrow in Palestine, we will plant our olive trees, and we will perform our dabke. Tomorrow in Palestine, we will pray together in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and tomorrow in Palestine, we will celebrate our freedom.

With the hope that someday our imagination will be reality.



Akka, Palestine



Yaffa, Palestine



Haifa, Palestine



Nablus, Palestine



# A letter from my cousin

By Ibrahim Abu

My dear cousin, it has been so long.

We always knew you'd become something. My father tells me you're getting a world-class education at a top university. I remember when you would spend nights reading by the lamps. You're learning so much and getting so much experience. I wish we could do math together, just like when we were younger, but there is no time nor money for university for us here.

Your mother told mine that you've found a beautiful woman there, and that you're getting married soon. Remember when we joked about who would get married first? I'm yet to find one, so I believe you're going to win that bet my friend. All of us here wish we could come and dance and laugh and whistle for you, but you know that your government gives us trouble with visas.

Remember the Imam of our Mosque? He always tells me how he still remembers when we would step on each other's toes in prayer and cause such annoyance to the older people. The Imam has passed now, old age has let him pass peacefully. He gave me a small copy of the Quran and requested I give it to you. "Make sure he gives it to his first-born; I hope that his child will carry the same love for the religion as his father". I attached the copy with this package, my friend.

The price of bread has increased again, but alhamdulillah my little brother has begun working in the mines with me now. I'm sure you remember Saeed, he's now 14, and he's grown a lot taller but he's still thin. We hope he can become stronger; he has these silly dreams of representing us at a World Cup. He keeps telling me "Who will represent us if it's not me?".

Send us some pictures of your new life. I wonder if you are driving a car now. Remember when we would flatten a plastic bottle to make fake engines for our bikes? I drive a motorcycle now, it gets the job done, but it gets hot in the summers. We only get internet between 8am and 11am, so I'm sorry if I don't respond quickly, but show me what blessings life holds for you now.

I must not lie to you, my friend. The situation here worsens.

We have no doctors, no dentists, no researchers, no scientists. Who will take care of us when our smartest minds go to the West to care for their sick? The needles will not stitch the wound shut itself, nor will the medicines discover themselves.

We have no engineers, no technology, no architects, no businessmen. Who will build and advance this country if our innovators never return? The buildings will not rebuild themselves, nor will the electricity turn itself on, nor will the bread bake itself.

We have no community. Our people continue to leave, in search of education and work. Who will come and sing with us when we're happy, and comfort us when we're sad? Who will whistle at my wedding? Who will hug me when my first child is born? Who will give gifts to the kids on Eid?

As the Imam used to say, "***The community will become great only if the men who plant trees know that they will never sit in its shade***".

**So, I ask you my dear cousin, who will come back if it is not you?**

- With love, your cousin



# Verified: Akhlaquna Award

**Doing a project that intertwines knowledge and morality? You might be the next AKHLAQUNA Award winner!**

## What is the AKHLAQUNA Award?

AKHLAQUNA is an award introduced by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF), at QF Convocation 2017, to endorse the idea that knowledge and morality are intertwined, guiding together the prosperity of societies.

The Award highlights Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) universal and inclusive moral values, such as mercy, tolerance, honesty, and generosity, in the minds of the younger generation, recognizing those who exemplify great moral character through initiating projects that serve their community and beyond.

## Submission Criteria

- Both individuals and groups can apply for the AKHLAQUNA Award.
- Submissions are accepted from nationals and residents of Qatar, between the age of 15-24 when applying individually
- Groups applying to the award should ensure that at least 50% of the group members are within the age range of 15-24.
- The scope of the project must embody universal and inclusive moral values, including but not limited to: mercy, honesty, tolerance and generosity.
- Projects must be based in Qatar.
- Projects must be running for at least three months.

## The CMUQ Ambassadors

We, Malak Alseaf (IS senior) and Osman Mohamed (BA Junior) are the ambassadors of the award, reach out to us if you have any questions or want support with your application.

**Ready to apply? Scan the code below:**





# *Artscape: Songs of the month*

By Abdulrahman Darwish

## **Warm in These Blue Jeans:**

Where do I even begin with this song? This song is just the definition of class, style, and is it too much to say, greatness? This song Warm in These Blue Jeans perfectly captures that R&B vibe people love to listen to. The vocals, mixed with the hint of electronic vibe makes it even better. Rashawn Powell is a great addition to the R&B scene and is definitely going to blow up soon. Every single person who I showed this song to added this to their playlist that very first listen. His discography is very similar to some of the works of Frank Ocean, Brent Faiyaz and Daniel Caesar. If you like good music you will like this. Trust me. Thank you OB.

## **First Love/Late Spring:**

Ok, you either hate or love Mitski. Mitski is not for everyone but trust me it should. She is definitely one of the most insane and talented artists in the music scene of this generation. This song was the first song I heard from her and ever since then I have been hooked. That subtle beat change with the drums and the guitar solo throughout the middle of the song is just pure talent. Her haunting and hypnotizing vocals further captures the beauty of the song. Also, in general, its meaning of just feeling naive and possibly lost in life, even as an adult, is a feeling a lot of people can relate to. This song came out in 2014 and she has had a couple of albums since. However, due to a few of her songs being popular on Tik-Tok in the last year, she is now being nominated for Best New Artist at the Grammys. **But is she really new or is she new to the white mainstream music critics that run the corruption of the Grammys itself?**



*Shima*

**By Maya Salameh**



*Sketch*

**By Hala Al Darbasti**

**A creative initiative brought  
to you by:**

**The Thought Club  
&  
All Around CMUQ**

