



ELITE

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A special interview
with Dr Nevin
Mossaad



AN INTERVIEW WITH DR NEVIN MOSSAAD: MEMORIES OF COLLEGE LIFE AND A TALK ABOUT OUR PROMINENT AND LONG-ESTABLISHED FACULTY

TALKED TO HER : CAROLIN SHERIF , NADINE NAGY AND MARY SAMER

Dr Nevin Mossaad is considered one of the pillars of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science with her abundant and unlimited knowledge in a plethora of fields. She is specialized in the field of Arab political systems which constitutes her main research interest. In addition to teaching at our faculty, Dr Nevin Mossaad is an active member of many prestigious institutions and bodies such as the National Council for Human Rights, in which her membership was recently renewed in 2021. In fact, Elite magazine has previously had the honour to publish both literary and political articles by Dr Nevin Mossaad. This month, Elite magazine’s team has had the privilege of conducting an interview with Dr Nevin Mossaad in which she reminisced with us on her memories as a college student and provided us with her vision for the future of our faculty’s graduates.

I) How Did Your Relationship with the Faculty of Economics and Political Science Begin, and Why Did You Choose It?

In fact, I was not planning to join the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, but I was planning to study Journalism at the Faculty of Mass Communication. However, the circumstances at the time led me to change my path. Several factors led me to choose this faculty. Firstly, this great aura and reputation that was (and still is) surrounding our beloved faculty as the most distinguished in the field of social sciences. Secondly, I was top of my class in high school in 1974. Thirdly, studying with my friends who chose to join the Economics department. In fact, after a few months of joining the faculty, I found myself immensely absorbed in this enchanting world...the world of FEPS and FEPSians.

II) Why Did You Choose the Political Science Department, and How Can This Major Contribute to Personality-Shaping?

The Political Science major was the closest to my interests and predilections, contrary to the Economics and Statistics majors. That is because I am not good with numbers, nor do I like dealing with them. Moreover, whoever takes the study of Political Science seriously is provided with an extremely rich outcome of knowledge. This field opens up wide horizons, and that is simply because politics is involved in everything.

III) How Was Your Relationship with the Professors, and Which Memories do You Remember Most from College Days?

Our affiliation with the faculty is primarily thanks to our professors. Given the fact that we are still a faculty whose number of students is limited, the professors know us by name and their door is always open to us. We have conversations that go beyond the classroom. In other words, we always get to learn from our professors’ experience. They are always available to make time for us and provide us support, not only academically but also psychologically. On a personal level, I owe my professors a lot: Dr Ahmed Youssef, the compass which guides you and helps you find direction. He mentored and taught me in college, and I had the chance to work with him at the Institute of Arab Research and Studies for at least 17 years.



During which, I learned from him how to be a professor with a scientific and humanitarian message, and how to remain faithful to your cause. Dr Ali El Din Hilal, who supervised me in the doctoral stage which was the most flourishing period of my scientific contribution. He is the director of the Center for Political Research and Studies and was the Dean of our faculty. Dr Farouk Yousef, may God have mercy on him, who visited me at home after my graduation and advised me not to give up on my rights. My professors whom I was extremely fortunate to have studied at their time, which was the golden era of our faculty: Dr Boutros Ghali, Dr Hamed Rabie, Dr Refaat Al-Mahgoub and Dr Nadia Makary. Dr Nadia is dear to my heart. With her, I broke the rule which is you love the subject because you love its professor. I loved her but didn't love Statistics which she taught. Finally, my relationship with Dr Nazli Moawad includes mentorship, friendship, motherhood, and lifetime companionship. I owe my professors a lot. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't be sitting with you now.

IV) Dr Nevin, You Were Top of Your Class in High School, Which Means You Were Studious, Tell Us About the Behaviour of the Studious.

The fruit of such behaviour is enjoyable, but it is a tiring process. Looking back, I find that there are



several hobbies that I could have practised had it not been for the intense focus on my studies. I loved fiction writing, yet only practised it as an adult. I also loved cycling and swimming yet never got the chance to master them. Aiming for academic excellence even denied me simple moments of happiness, such as taking walks with my father, may God have mercy on him. I used to ask him to quickly return me home to continue studying because all the lighted windows indicated that there were students studying while I was having a break and taking a walk.

V) Congratulations on the Renewal of Your Membership in the National Council for Human Rights. Tell Us About Your Experience as a Member of the Council.

My interest in the field of human rights can be traced much earlier than my membership of the Council since 2013. I have worked on several projects aiming to develop basic education curricula to become more inclusive of human rights values; such as, participation, freedom of expression, non-discrimination, and tolerance etc. Some of these projects were carried out within the framework of our faculty with Dr Kamal Al-Menoufy, and some with the UNDP organization with Dr Mustafa Kamel Al-Sayed. After that, I worked for the Arab Organization for Human Rights, and I used to issue a periodical called Human Rights Issues. Then, in 2013, I was honoured to be chosen to be a member of the National Council for Human Rights. Its president at the time was Professor Mohamed Fayek, who is the pioneer of the human rights movement in the Arab world. It was a difficult period during which the violence exerted by the Muslim Brotherhood left no place untargeted and no group unreached. Nevertheless, the Council was able to continue working and even maintain its international classification in "Category A" among the National Councils for Human Rights in the world.





This was thanks to professor's Fayek's able presidency and the distinguished expertise of its members. With Dr Moushira Khattab's current presidency, a new phase of the Council's work begins, benefiting from what was previously done and building on it. Finally, how wonderful it is for a woman to assume the position of chairperson for the first time.

VI) Regarding Egypt, How Would You Evaluate Egypt's Ties with the Arab World, and What are its Main Opportunities and Challenges?

If we were to describe Egypt's foreign policy under President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, the most accurate thing that would apply would be that it has restored balance to Egypt's foreign relations in general and with it's the Arab world in particular.

Internationally, there is an openness to Asia and Africa and a clear activity in the Eastern Mediterranean, in addition to strategic relations with Western powers. In the Arab world, there is a clear involvement of Egypt in the most pressing crises the region is facing in several countries; such as, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, and Sudan. Egypt's stance in all these crises is the preservation of the entity of the national State and its institutions. In addition, we witness the development of an economic partnership with political dimensions with Iraq and Jordan in what is described as the affiliation of the Levant. Moreover, there is a strengthening of the relations with Tunisia and Algeria. In fact, a few weeks ago, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune visited Egypt, his second country. This is in addition to Egypt's historical role towards the Palestinian cause and the latest manifestation of this role was during the Israeli aggression on Gaza last summer. Furthermore, its commitment to Gulf security was manifested in Egypt's role within the framework of the coalition to support legitimacy in Yemen.

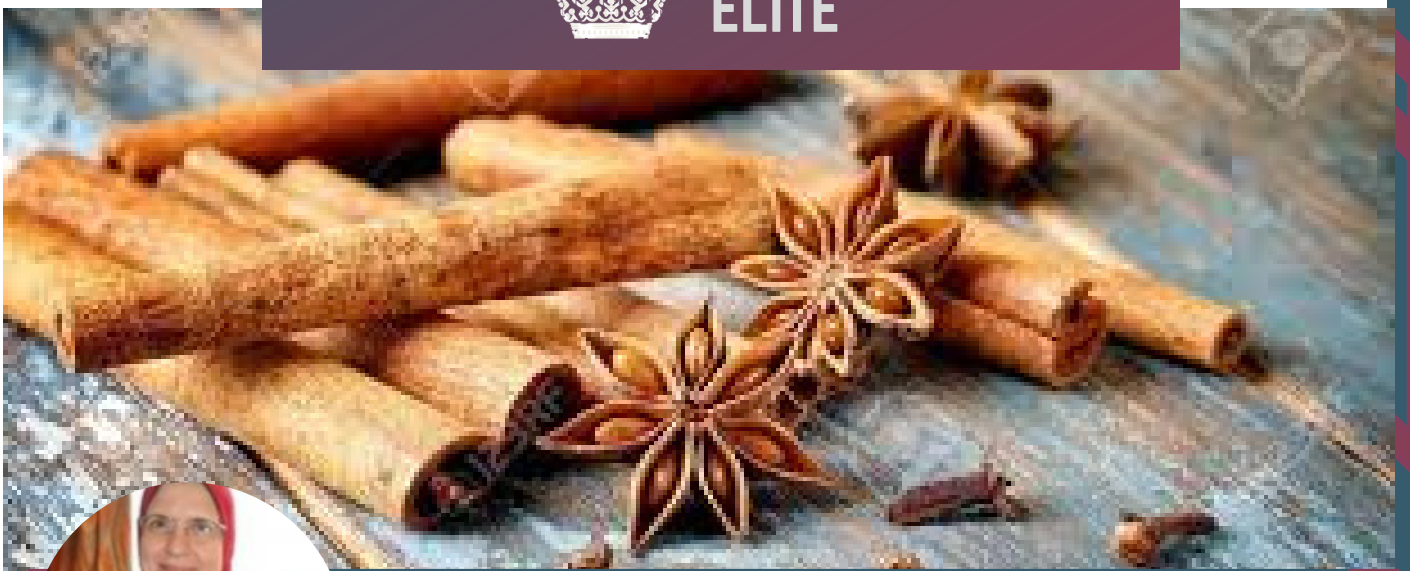
Moving to opportunities and challenges faced by Egypt's foreign policy. As for opportunities, Egypt is a country that has no interest in any country's lands or wealth, and this lends credibility to its foreign role. Moreover, its stance is the refusal to interfere in the internal affairs of countries, and this preserves the confidence of the various parties. Above all, Egypt has its undeniable regional and international weight. These are all power cards and opportunities available to Egyptian foreign policy.

As for the challenges, they are represented by the external penetration into the region; whether from regional powers such as Turkey and Iran or major powers such as the United States and Russia. This massive penetration is one of the most important causes of political instability in the Arab world. Then there is the challenge of terrorism. A few weeks ago, we witnessed the renewal of the activity of the terrorist organization ISIS in Syria and Iraq. Despite its decline, terrorism has not ended because it is primarily related to convictions and thus tackling the roots of terrorism comes with a change of thought. Hence, President Sisi's emphasis on the need to renew religious thought. Terrorism is also tackled through the achievement of equitable development. This is also an important path that our political leadership is taking in parallel with the ideological path. A manifestation of that is the ongoing interest in the development of Upper Egypt, which we are all witnessing.

Despite these challenges, I am optimistic. The past few years have witnessed great success for Egypt in managing its foreign files. The Nile water file remains. It is a file related to one of the primary human rights, from which all other rights stem, which is the right to life. Therefore, Egypt places the defence of its legitimate and just right to the Nile waters at the top of its priorities and makes it the focus of its foreign policy movement at all levels.

VII) Finally, What Is Your Message to the Students of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science?

Our faculty provides a wonderful opportunity to students for education, training, and character development. Whoever does not take advantage of that is wasting a golden opportunity on both a professional and a personal level. Several factors distinguish one graduate from another. One of which is benefiting from the rich knowledge provided by the faculty and its excellent professors. Another is the engagement in student activities such as various simulation models that have developed amazingly throughout the years. Finally, reading and developing research skills beyond simple copying and pasting. Our young dean, Dr Mahmoud Al-Saeed, spares no effort to advance the faculty. However, in the end, the student alone gets to decide whether to be part of these advancements or not. Reading, active attendance, and student activities are important.



An interview with the scent of cinnamon

PROF. HANAN M. ALY, VICE DEAN FOR EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

She worked hard and persevered; she challenged the odds and passed the obstacles...

What days, she attended theoretical lectures, understood practical lessons and participated in various extracurricular activities...

She gained a lot of experiences, attended workshops and conferences, participated in organizing Seminars...

She studied, memorized and answered. There it was; the final result, she got high grades and now her hopes became even higher...

Said goodbye to her mighty faculty, her colleagues and received her graduation certificate ...

The Theoretical education ended and the practical life had just begun, and she was ready...

Now it was time to reap what she had been sowing and achieve what she had been dreaming of...

She started looking for an appropriate job, which contributes to the house's budget and is capable of supporting her expenses over time...

A job that is for her, a boat sailing in a sea full of waves, a camel walking in the mazes of the wilderness and a star shining in the middle of the sky...

She wandered, left her curriculum vitae here, filled an application there, attended an interview here and performed an assessment there...

She remained that way days and even weeks, until her dreams seemed far, however, her determination didn't weaken, it only became stronger...

On one of the cold winter days, she went to a promising company, welcomed by a tough looking woman. She refused to take her curriculum vitae in paper form, and told her to send it by email. Adding that this is her way and said harshly "The interviews today have ended, after an hour we will look through the files and eliminate those with missing paper"....

She was astonished by this; the tears fell down her cheek which she quickly wiped off...

Like this, the acceptance seemed impossible, she was unhappy, unable to think. She remembered a nearby huge mall, everyone goes to...

With fast steps she went, consecutive breathes, watery eyes she had. The wind blowing through her face, the rain wetting her clothes and multiple flashes of her dreams passed by...

There she arrives... not finding any other place...to a huge restaurant that has internet but smelt like cinnamon...she can't stand it... neither in her drinks nor in her food and doesn't eat it in any event...

Hesitant to enter, but she convinced herself to endure for a few minutes...



She sat shyly, ordered a bottle of water after which the waiter looked at her arrogantly...

Pointed to the wall, where there was a paper indicating that there was a minimum charge for orders, starting with at least beverages...

She looked through her bag, found only a small amount of money, barely enough to go home...

Meanwhile... a group of men and women sitting, with papers and folders in front of them, eating and drinking cinnamon scented food and beverages...

One of them looked at her... in a hurry she approached her, spoke with curiosity to the waiter, then with pleasure, she invited her to sit with them...

Politely she apologized and began to leave... with the lady insisting not to, she sat with the intention of not sitting for too long...although the weather was ice freezing, her beautiful face was sweating..

Curious they were, she answered their questions, her faculty and professors she praised and about her experiences she talked...

Reassurance they gave her, about her graciousness they commended her...

Days passed by... while she was waiting for a call, to offer her a job, give her money, achieve her dreams and remove her sorrows away...

Her telephone rang; she saw her number, immediately she remembered that lady...

It's the lady she met at the mall... inviting her to meet them...

he lady described the place, gave her the address and determined the time of meeting...

She was hesitant at first, but later on she was determined to go see the reason for this meeting...

There, they introduced themselves, the nature of their work and their desire for her to work with them...

She thought for a long time and quickly she replied: But I'm not specialized in this nor am I an expert in this field...

The lady who called her, replied: you have great experience, amazing skills and appropriate appearance...

Another lady said: we met you by coincidence, informally, away from all the fake complications and without asking the traditional questions...

Another one added: We interviewed a lot of people, gone through a lot of information, had various questions to many young applicants and their answers didn't convince us...

Another man added: We wondered if the applicant can work under pressure, work from office and not remotely, to be creative and determined...

Here, a third man entered the conversation, saying: we saw you for who you are... you spoke without being nervous or afraid... You talked about yourself without exaggeration and answered our questions without philosophizing...

The fourth man told her: You think that college is the end, however, it is just the beginning... The university only gives you the foundation, the rest of the building is built by you... it gives you the letters and forming the words is on you...

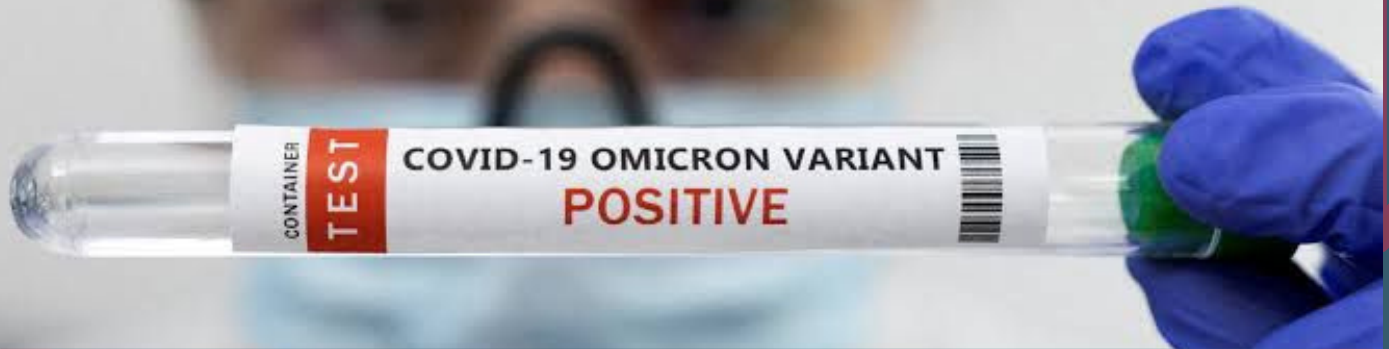
He continued: It was obvious that you didn't like cinnamon and can't stand its smell... He added laughing: Is there any type of pressure that requires making effort... they all laughed including her. She inquired about the job details and looked at her prosperous future...

She started working hard, with great perseverance, facing this new challenge and adventure, to at least have had the honor of trying...

She studied from the beginning, entered a new field and gained different experiences...

She became a pioneer in her field, knew a lot of its secrets and created many achievements...

She now has her own business, held her own interviews there... with the scent of cinnamon... that she became obsessed with...



COVID-19: Where Do We Stand Now?

REEM OMRAN, ZEINA MAREI, NOUR ALAA, ADHAM NASRELDIN

With globalization connecting the world and making it smaller, the dreaded Covid-19 virus emerged and diffused into our society in a blink of an eye, and as it wandered around every corner, government's interventions were already too late in containing the situation despite all the precautionary measures that were forced into place. After 2 years of an ongoing pandemic, with no end yet to be foreseen, we, Elite editors, were eager to listen to the views of Cairo University's students regarding the whole situation of handling the virus, especially after the huge peak in the of cases and emergence of the new variance "Omicron".

The interview went as followed, with an opening question of how you see or evaluate the today's status of the Covid-19 pandemic? The answers to that question revolved around one main view, which is the severity of the pandemic, and how it's threatening the whole world. Despite the facts that it has been two years, the existence of progressed vaccines and the enforcement of strong precautionary measures, the virus is still causing terror all around.

Secondly, the students were asked: Are the international governments, the Egyptian government included, still handling the pandemic situation the same way they did in early 2020? The answers varied, whereas some argued that dealing with the crisis has not changed, but the lockdown measures generally got loosened up, due the difficulty of citizens and economies bearing them, whether over the domestic and the international level; There's not a country that can handle 2 whole years of total lockdowns as, for instance, the administrative sector of a state cannot afford the salaries of its employees while reducing their working days through dividing the employees over the week days in order to enforce social distancing. On the contrast, others believe that the situation handling has greatly differed, because the pandemic is extremely out of control, to the extent where governments are just forced to normally live with the virus, whilst trying their best with raising the sufficient awareness and enforcing safety measures.



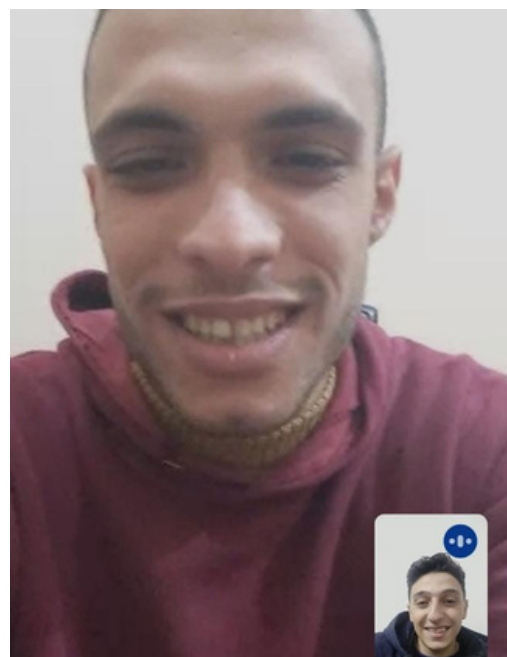
The next question was what has changed, from their point of view, that has made countries and peoples less concerned and afraid of the pandemic now, than they were in early 2020 during the beginning of the pandemic? The interviewees had plenty of reasons, on top of them was the fact that we are now more aware of the virus, its dimensions, what triggers it and what doesn't; The findings and recommendations of governments and international organizations, such as the World Health Organization, played a huge role in raising the awareness. Adding up, the pandemic lasting for as long as 2 years, with no end to be expected anytime soon, has made people bored, and their desires to continue the lockdowns and implementing the severe safety measures have declined. The high recovery rates of infected patients have also really contributed in making people a lot more reassured. And most importantly, the availability of the vaccines have become available, apart from the false belief that they prevent infections, have really aided in containing the situation and making people feel safe.

Following up, the students were asked how do you evaluate how the Egyptian government is dealing with the pandemic right now in Egypt, after the virus has gotten out of control once again? And what can they do in order to ameliorate the situation? There was a clear division of views over this matter, as some students believe that the pandemic is a huge challenge, and the government is trying its very best; there's just any more that they could do at this point, and the country cannot afford any other economic implications resulting from another lockdown. On the other hand, others expressed their opposition of the strategy followed by the Egyptian government, as they believe that they should control the situation a lot more, especially with the boom of the new variance "Omicron"; In other words, they expressed that the government is basically "lazy" of protecting its citizens, as they should take far more stricter measures to contain the situation, including enforcing another lockdown, holding online exams for both school and college students and impose stronger laws regarding gatherings.



The students were also asked whether or not the media has overexaggerated the situation in early 2020, in order to terrorize the citizens into following harsh safety measures? Everyone strongly agreed that media has in fact created huge terrors during the beginning of the pandemic; The virus is deadly and it deserved all the attention and awareness it got. However, they started to seriously question why aren't they not giving it the same attention and magnitude today, despite the situation being as serious as it were before. Moving on, the next question was How has the way people dealt with the pandemic differed from its beginning and what's happening today? They all saw a clear difference, where people have eased up, and frankly, stopped caring; people all around the world has enough with the precautionary measures and they want to practice their lives normally again. Some students also believe that with everyone becoming a lot more of the virus, they know how they could safely live with it and avoid it. The students were asked what's the reason behind the inability of vaccines developed to contain the virus and the spread of the new variances, such as Omicron? The responses revolved around the fact that the virus is tricky, and because it has the ability of evolving into different variants, like Omicron and Delta, it will be so hard to fight. They also emphasized on the fact that vaccines were never designed to stop the spread of the virus, they only ease the symptoms.

Finally, the students were asked to suggest how can we make individuals responsible and have them follow precautionary measures once again? There were manifold suggestions put in place, including publishing the accurate statistics of the number of injuries more frequently, in order to show people, the real magnitude of the situation. They also suggested that the government should enforce stricter laws and regulations, and impose penalties on those who ignore the implementations of precautionary measures. Lastly, a student has proposed to have hotline created to report places with huge gatherings. Finally, Elite would like to thank everyone who kindly participated in this report, and we are wholeheartedly praying for a speedy recovery for all our infected mates and virtuous professors, as well as our editors who were infected with the damned virus recently; We are praying to God for this pandemic to end this grief, and to have Egypt as a home of security, peace, prosperity and stability.





A woman who aspires to create change: An interview with May Yassin from Vodafone Egypt

ZEINA MAREI, REEM OMRAN

May Yassin is yet another successful FEPS graduate that we look up to, passion-driven, perseverant, who believes in women empowerment. Taking you through her journey's highlights, two of our Elite editors had the honor of interviewing May and getting to know more about her education and inspiring career path, up until her current position as the Secretary General of Vodafone Egypt Foundation and the leader behind Sustainable Business function at Vodafone Egypt. Only at the age of 36, May has become a recognized figure in the field of sustainable and social development in Egypt with a record in corporate communications across different countries and industries, while being a mother of two daughters.

Starting off, we asked about her **education and studies at FEPS**. At a young age, May has always been passionate about empowering the communities around her. Therefore, she joined FEPS hoping to build a career that utilizes her studies for the betterment of Egypt. During her first year, she decided to pursue a focus in Economics, little did she know how life-changing that decision would be. As later,

she discovered how informative and fundamental economics is as a major. Her university years could be pretty much described as the foundation for her career path, as stated by her, where she got the opportunity to be taught and inspired by several leaders in the field, especially Dr. Mahmoud MohiEldin; the current Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund.

Moving on, we asked May about her **career path — the build up towards her current position**. May started her career in marketing and corporate communications, where she enjoyed working in a creative environment that developed her storytelling and stakeholder's management skills to drive loyalty to the brands she managed.

As further progression to her career aspirations and her sense of purpose, she later pursued a career in sustainability and development.

We were eager, however, to know **whether studying in FEPS in particular has contributed in advancing her career**. May believes that her educational background has helped her tremendously



with acquiring analytical skills and business acumen that were top key skills leading to her career's development. She also took extracurricular training courses on leadership, digital marketing and advanced integrated communications, which further added to her expertise.

Given May's years of experience across different fields, we were curious to know **what appeals to her most in the field of sustainable business.** She told us that she always wanted an opportunity to take a new perspective on the world and to live the value of giving back to the community creating a bigger and sustainable impact rather than short term impact.

Over the past few years, sustainability, as a job field, has changed from being a competitive advantage to being an essential factor in any organisation's future, and she is excited to witness and take part in that change.

When we asked about the **highlights of her career,** May undoubtedly mentioned leading diversified teams across continents (including Europe, Africa and Asia), different countries and ethnicities, all at the same time. Another highlight would be utilizing technology to give more children access to quality education and support communities with the tools they need to be more sustainable, during unprecedented times, leaving no one behind.

Also worth mentioning that May's accomplishments in sustainable and social development were highly recognized more than once and awarded by The League of Arab States and other prestigious entities.

Wrapping up our meet-up with May, she offered **heartfelt pieces of advice** to FEPS students:

First and foremost, as she would put it, is to find your purpose and follow your



passion; things go much differently when you love what you do.

Second, get yourself a mentor who can guide you through your journey.

Third, always be curious to learn and intrigued to expand your knowledge beyond what you study in textbooks, as one can never know everything.

Last but not least, be confident that anyone can be part of change and make a difference. As a very relentless generation, our impatience tends to blind us, and we rush into things. So she advises that we take it easy and slow, and always remember that people on top of the ladder aren't always the only source of change.



WAS GLEOPATRA BLACK?



IF I WEREN'T EGYPTIAN...

ROSANNE EL FAYED, SOPHOMORE , POLITICAL SCIENCE

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“If I weren’t Egyptian, I would’ve wanted to be Egyptian.” It comes to a great surprise that this old saying deeply engraved in our patriotic spirit since forever is not only being taken too literally by non-Egyptians but also accompanied by the confiscation of your Egyptian-ism license.

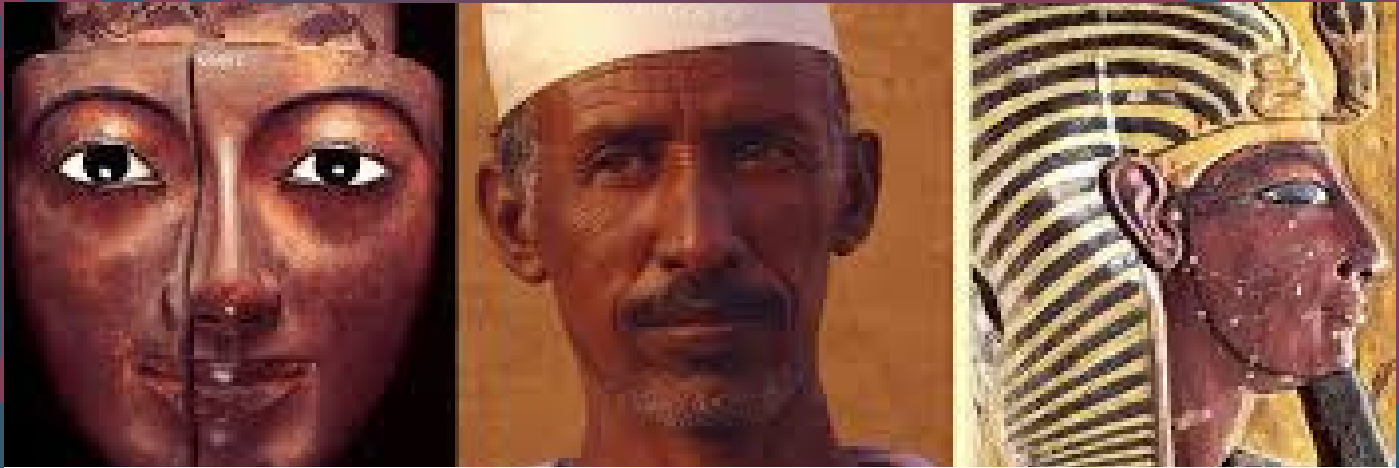
Today, dear readers, we are talking about a movement that began in the 20th century and is rising to a threatened and controversial position in our 21st century. It’s the “Afrocentrism”.

This movement, which was developed by African Americans since the 1920s and 1930s, to try to justify all kinds of racism against them since the inception of America and the civil war that took place between the North and the South in opposition to the exploitation of these Africans to work in America’s mines and fields. A war that ended with the separation of the African Americans to an “isolated” society started the spark of the ongoing struggle between black and white people.

This movement, dear reader, aims also to attribute all the ancient and rich civilizations of the world to African black people. Afrocentrism argues that Western society disrespects African civilizations, and participates - on a commercial or unconscious basis - in a conspiracy to obliterate Africa as a source of all civilizations. It is especially concentrated in the United States of America among African-Americans, and has become widespread among sub-Saharan African communities in Europe, among Negro minorities in North Africa and the Middle East.

The most recent and significant development for us has been the attempt to attribute ancient Egyptian civilization to “them”. The supporters of this movement claim that the kings of our ancient pharaonic civilization were black – skinned. In ancient Egyptian civilization, Afrocentrism holds that the Egyptian pharaoh is native to the Sudan, and that the present Egyptian has nothing to do with the ancient Egyptian: According to which the traditional Egyptian died or emigrated to the south. While those in northern Egypt (yes, us) have nothing with the ancient Egyptian. They even claimed that one of the queens of Egypt (Queen Tieni) who was the wife of Amenhotep III in bares African features and a black skin, hence confirming that the ancient Egyptian was a black African.





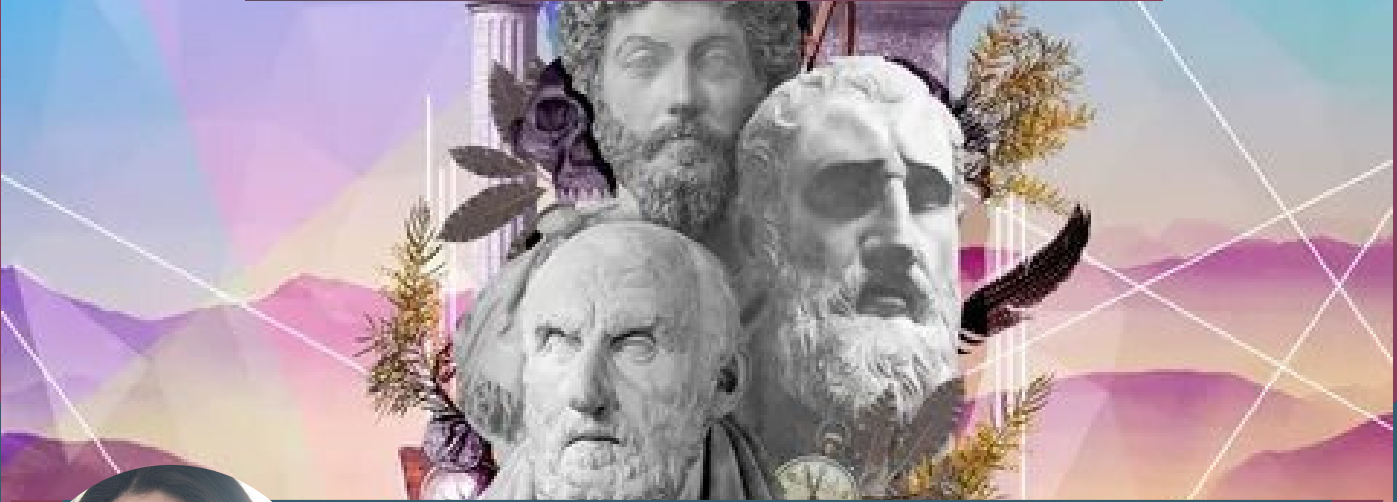
The claims go even further with Afro centrists accusing Egyptologists of painting tombs in white to falsify history, as well as breaking the noses of pharaonic figurines in order to conceal the features of their **“true African nose”**. (*Setting your facts straight my dear reader: the ancient Egyptians actually had a habit of breaking the statues' noses out of religious beliefs in the afterlife*).

Adding to all of their previous shocking conceptions, when Gamal Abdel Nasser came and called for Arab unity, so Egypt became the Arab Republic of Egypt in a desire for a national Arab unit based on religion and language, they thought that the word Arabic was intended for race, not language, which, for them, confirmed their claims that the current Egyptians were Arabs and had nothing to do with the ancient Egyptian.

And very recently, the threat of this movement is exacerbated by their announcement of holding a conference in Egypt, in February the 25th. The conference called **"One Africa Returning to the Source"** will be live on all websites to be viewed by millions of people. As a counter bounce, these days, we are witnessing an active movement on social media by the Egyptian people, demanding that this conference be cancelled and prevented from taking place on Egypt's precious soil.



In conclusion, we wonder why the Egyptian authorities have yet not acted to prevent the Conference from taking place on our territory and the stressing absence of any reaction of their part. In this way, my dear Egyptian, you'll be jeopardized if you sing Nancy Ajram's hit song (**Ana masry w abouya masry w samary w loni masry**) or if the song **"Luxor baladna balad sowah"** (our land Luxor is one of tourists) is criminalized since the insinuation of "our" and "tourists" guarantees our possession of our Egyptian identity in both cases.



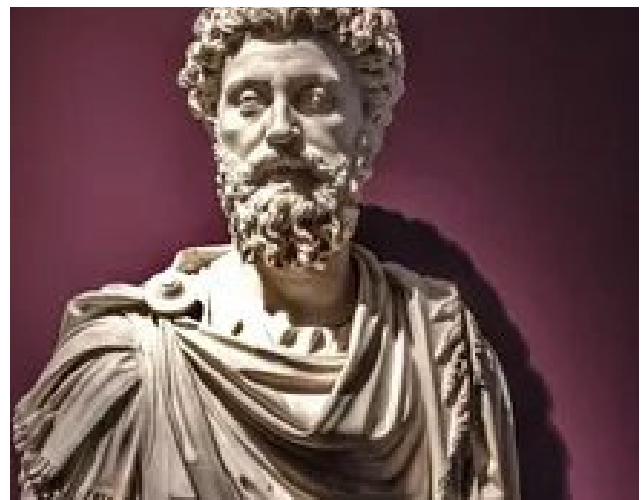
Stoicism, have you heard about it?

MARIAM ELSAFTY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, , SOPHOMORE

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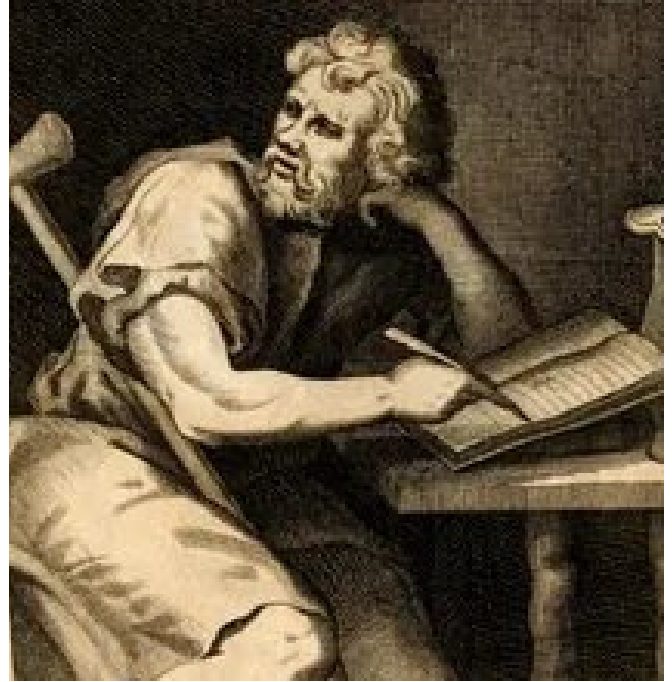
“No person has the power to have everything they want, but it is in their power not to want what they do not have, and to cheerfully put to good use what they do have” –Seneca. Stoicism is a Greek philosophy found by Zeno of Citium, in a time when Athens was so indulged in the serious belief of political participation of its citizens, and literally, politics was everything, and in a period of time when Plato and Aristotle tried to introduce their idea of the most ideal and perfect state that could ever exist, the Stoics were more concerned with living life as an experience in a place where there are no worries nor fears. Stoicism was designed to help people live their best possible lives, to maximize positive emotions and reduce their negative ones, and it helps individuals to have their virtues of character. It produces a framework of living well. Stoicism also provides answers to anxiety, stress, fear, and troubling questions. It provides an operating system that deals with the trials of the human condition. In recent history, Stoicism has found huge appeal. It was used and encouraged by Washington, Nelson, and more. The principles of Stoicism help us find calmness, presence, and resilience in a world of increasingly chaos, anxiety, and unstable desire for more. In Stoicism, we exist in a reality that does not care about our personal opinion of it. We cannot ask it to remove chaos, poverty, or hardships.

However, Stoicism does not mean that we are subject to be helpless victims of the world. Rather, Stoicism proclaims that there are two domains of life; our external, the things outside our mind, which we cannot control, and the internal, our interpretations and reactions of the external, which we can control. When we believe in the idea that everything outside of us or in the future is only responsible for our own happiness, we exchange every moment of our life with a moment that does not exist. We really then tend to depend on things completely not under our control, and we endlessly run on a treadmill of needing more. In Stoicism, and unlike the philosophy of Plato, there is nothing wrong about working towards and achieving wealth, fame, or power, but in the Stoics mind, these things are merely to be enjoyed if they do work out, but not to be dependent on for one’s happiness.





For if one's dependent on them, their happiness and peace in life are susceptible to being inconsistent, taken, or never achieved at all. In letters from a Stoic, Seneca discusses of how to properly handle one's time and achieve meaningful experiences. When referring to time, Seneca writes, "I advise you to keep what is really yours, and you cannot begin too early. For as our ancestors believed, it is too late to spare when you reach the dregs of the cask of which remains at the bottom, the amount is slight, and the quality is vile". Stoic philosophy changed over time shifting focus from logic and physics to more psychological concerns like tranquility and well-being. "Waste no more time arguing what a good man should be. Be one"-Marcus Aurelius. One of the other Stoicism pioneers is Epictetus, who said: "The chief task in life is simply this: to identify and separate matters so that I can say clearly to myself which are externals are not under my control. Where then do I look for good and evil? Not to uncontrollable externals, but within myself to the choices that are my own". And so, we must define our happiness not by what we own or achieve, not by how others see us, not by some bigger picture of life, but by how we think and see our self and live our own life through what we deem virtuous and relevant. Stoicism tells us that we can at last, if we wish, calmly accept the conditions of our indifferent reality, and one up it with our own indifferent attitude, in return. Stoicism is a philosophy as many other philosophies, and we can always learn something from them.



Choose your philosophy that you want to make it your reference in life. It is great how we have the ability of understanding and studying others' thoughts and it is greater that we try to implement it in our daily life. I believe that we need the philosophy of the Stoics these days, as we barely enjoy the experience of living a GOOD life, we might just be focusing on power, having more, fame, or wealth as I mentioned above, and as I believe that the time we are found to be present in asks you to search for those things, but I see that our mere goal in life is to experience it, and see the outcomes that will be produced, which we have no control over, and deal with it with a modern mindset that keeps us pushing more and widening our perspectives. It is great how can a single thought of a human being affect the thoughts of many more other human beings and in different generations with different contexts. Humans are the same but just it is the place and time that gives us brand new challenges.



Cotonou

MOSTAFA MAHER L2 ECONOMICS

Today, I am going to introduce you to one of the most fundamental bases of Afro-European relations. initiated on April 15, 2021. it has become the framework for present and future cooperation based on the following principles:

Peace and security: in order to begin to develop the economy of a country and improve its state, it must have an adequate environment, which is why peace and security must be prioritized. It will be essential to have security and therefore size within the countries by the institutions for economic prosperity and the attraction of investors from outside. In addition, there must be peace between countries and at least a fundamental diplomatic basis between countries keeping a coherent communication between countries.

Growth and sustainable economic development: the Cotonou agreements focus on exchange which guarantees interdependence between countries. Therefore, the establishment of a system that aims to increase their Human Development Index and their Gross Domestic Product, which leads to a more enriched country and capable of sustainable development. Thanks to the Cotonou Agreement, this can be achieved after the foundation of an economic base which will lead to the growth of a continental free trade area such as the African Continental Free Trade Area.





Cotonou

MOSTAFA MAHER L2 ECONOMICS

Social and human development: one of the most important pillars which will lead to the mobility of the factors of production, mainly the skilled labor which is of paramount importance as we will see in the section on migration and mobility. But first it is necessary to develop the intellectual capital of individuals so that the exchange between the two is viable or the two countries will exchange and disseminate their own knowledge and know-how.



Democracy and human rights: these two conditions must be guaranteed so that we can have growth. In addition, effective cooperation between so many countries must be democratic and cooperative for it to be viable and concrete. Or we see that the agreements contain a council made up of members of the Council of the EU, a member of the commission, a member of the government of each ACP state.

Migration and mobility: one of the conditions of a market of pure and perfect competition is the free circulation and mobility of the factors of production which derive the benefits from innovation, the fall in prices (benefit from competition) and the diffusion industrial know-how. On the other hand, in a context of globalization, we see the Cotonou agreements which aim to improve the conditions of migration between countries and the integration of workers from foreign countries into the international labor market.

therefore, we can conclude that it is the economic aspect that will be essential for the genesis of this relationship between these two will be possible only thanks to the sustainable development of the two countries which with a joint effort will be able to build societies independent of one of them. other but who meets to serve the mutual interest of both.



WORDLE

A DAILY WORD GAME



WHAT'S THE WORD EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR TODAY?

Mariam Ismail, L2, Political Science

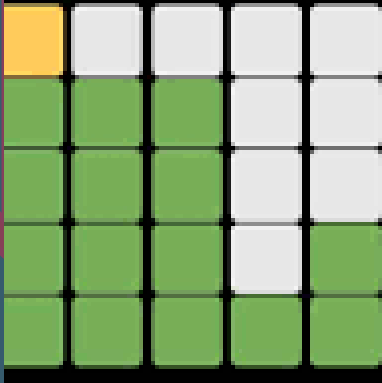
While scrolling through social media, I have stumbled upon tweets containing nothing but a title and cubes emoji in grey, yellow and green. First, I used to just ignore it but soon enough my curiosity got the best of me to find out what does it mean. That is when I found out about 'WORDLE' a daily word game, not just that but I also got hooked and started waiting for midnight each day to find out what is the word we're looking for today. That is not just me, it's actually the case of more than 3 million people around the world.

So what's Wordle exactly? Initially created by programmer Josh Wardle to play with his partner during the pandemic and quarantine time, the game website was released on the 31st of October 2021. It consist of a new word of 5 letters dropping every day at midnight, each player has 6 guesses to find the word. When each guess is entered letters start flipping; if they're grey it means this letter isn't in the word, if it's yellow then it means the letter is in the word but in the wrong placement and if it's green then it's in the word and the right placement. Out of 12000 5 letters word in English, Wardle chose only 2500 to include in the game which means it could last for 7 years; the chosen words makes the game more fair due to the fact that he omitted the words that requires high knowledge in special domains and only left general ones.

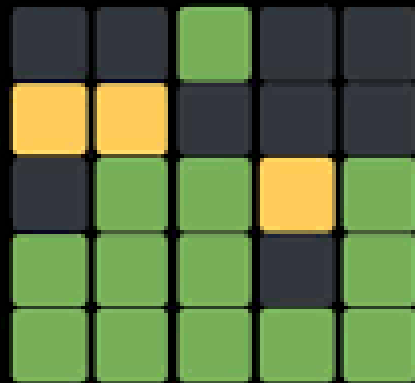
After it first dropped, the game was played by very few people but soon after it spread widely not only in the United States where it first started but in the whole world. This widespread was due to many factors. First, even though there are many free games out there, they always come with a baggage of advertisements, purchases and other restrictions pushing you to purchase a premium or a better version; yet in Wordle players didn't face the same restrictions which rendered the game more easy to handle and likeable. Second, the game managed to create a balance between being interesting and not consuming a lot of time; on one hand, as the game is made to drop only one word daily the players spend less than 30 minutes trying to find the solution and once it's over they have to wait for the next day as there is nothing more they can do. On the other hand, the scarcity and entropy on which the game is based has perked a lot of intellectual minds; finance speculators, mathematicians, linguists and programmers are the most interested in the game, their goal is to find the ultimate way of solving the daily mystery, many theories, studies and statistics have been made trying to decipher the key to win the game. While it might seem a bit exaggerated for a game, this has been one of the reasons why a lot of people started noticing the game in the first place.



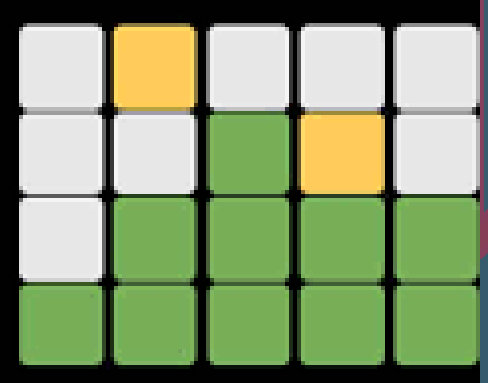
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Wordle 203 5/6



Wordle 203 4/6

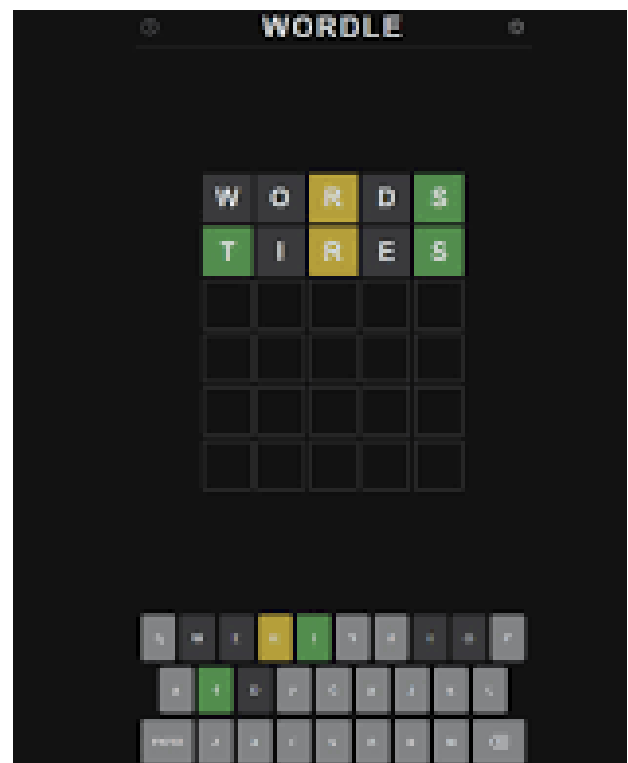


Finally, the game also create a viral sensation, knowing that in the same time you're sitting in your pajamas trying to guess the word another person are sitting in their desk at their job half way across the globe is trying to figure out the same word gives importance to such a simple task. Not to mention, that this generality makes it easy to form a sort of competition between families and friends and connects them in such hard times we're living with the pandemic situation.

Evidently, such popularity had some consequences. For starters, the creator admitted that he never expected or intended for the game to reach so many people, which is why he was so overwhelmed when people got hooked on it and even started sharing their results therefore he add the share your score on twitter option after people requested it. Unfortunately, as much as he was happy with this success Wardle knew he wasn't ready to handle the responsibility of the website with so many users, it needed constant checking and updates. This realization led the programmer to agree on the offer of the New York Times offer to sell his game. One might wonder why they would be interested in buying a game. As a news provider based on subscription, New York Times are creating new ways to attract more people to subscribe for their services, one of these methods is an app for games containing different word and mind games to which Wordle will be added. While this seems like a nice evolution for the game, players have been concerned that the free privilege that was an essential contributor for the game popularity would vanish, even if the news agency announced that the game will remain free of charge for the time being there's no guarantee this will continue forever aka for the next 7 years.

Also, another consequence for the game widespread is the creation of many spinoff games from Wordle. Most of them are mainly the exact same game but in different languages like Arabic, French, Urdu, Spanish, etc. but there's also some like 'Nerdlegame' which is the same idea but with numbers and equations.

At the end of the day, Wordle is nothing but another trend. While some trends are way more polemic or tragic, this one is more fun, not to mention that it's mind perking. So I guess it's nice to see some trends that actually stimulates our brains instead of just some useless fights or thrown opinions in the void of social media.





From inimitability to Action

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From the story of Omar Ibn Al-Khattab's conversion to Islam, may God be pleased with him, and the evidence of his clannishness and his deliverance from his ignorance: After the first migration of Abyssinia and in the sixth year of the noble Prophet's mission..at that time, Umar went out to the Prophet Muhammad to kill him, pbuh, describing him as the Sabian, the junction of the Quraysh command and their deity. On his way, he was told about the conversion of his sister Fatima and her husband (Saeed bin Amr), so he went to their house, So the two and Khabab bin Al-Arat were reading to them from The Holy Quran. When Omar entered, they all trembled, So Omar asked: What is this whisper that I heard? They said: You have heard nothing!.

He said: I have been told that you have followed Muhammad in his religion! So he struck Saeed, so Fatima stood up to stop him from her husband, so he slapped her, and her face bled,she said: Yes, we have embraced Islam, believed in God and His Messenger, so do what you want!

Umar regretted what he had done and took care of his misguidance, so he said to his sister, "Give me this scroll that I heard you read. Look what this Muhammad brought." Umar was one of the writers of the pre-Islamic era, His sister said to him: We fear you for her!

So he swore by his gods that he would turn it back if he recited it, and Fatimah had hoped for his conversion to Islam, so she said: O my brother, you are impure as you are atheist, and no one touches it except the

pure one. So Umar got up and took a bath, and she gave him the scroll with Surat Taha in it, so he recited it and opened his heart and said: How good and honorable these words are.

And when Khabbab heard that, he went out to him and said, O Omar, by God, I hope that God has singled you out for the call of his Prophet, pbuh, I heard him say: ((O God, support Islam with Abu Al-Hakam bin Hisham or Omar bin Al-Khattab..!

It was in the paper that Umar read, Aya 1-7 of Surat Taha: 1) Ta, Ha.(2) We have not sent down to you the Qur'an that you be distressed (3) But only as a reminder for those who fear [Allah] - (4) A revelation from He who created the earth and highest heavens, (5) The Most Merciful [who is] above the Throne established... Then He deprived himself and calmed his delusion. And when the Arabs were harsh and ruthless and involve the nature of mountains and deserts, they had eloquence good rhetoric, and the verses that Omar recited were not a Threat and conquest sharpening his stubbornness and arousing his fervor. Rather, verses that harmonize with him with the nature of rhetoric, the generosity of the message of



Islam, the clarification of expression and speech, and even above it and precede it by far lines. There is no match or competition between the eloquence of the Arabs and the eloquence of the holy Quran, like the one between the poets' successors in Okaz and Dhu al-Majaz. Either of the two teams will prevail, but their eloquence is dominated without a fight.

In most battles, it is an honor to be defeated by duel, not by submission! However, those who excelled in the Qur'an were not satisfied with their defeat, but it was added to it that their words are closer to a funny material that mocks itself rather than its opponent.

And Omar's defeat in front of the Qur'an is the Qur'an's victory for Omar! And here is Al-Waleed Ibn Al-Mughirah, the fiercest and most bitter enemy of Islam. He said about the Prophet Muhammad, pbuh: His saying is sweet, and it destroys what is beneath it, and it is above it and is not superior to it, and its branch is a sinner, And you are not saying anything of this except that it is known to be false. However, his defeat was a pure defeat, And he sought in his arrogance, his sword, and the baseness of his people false support and victory that would not resolve battle or war! He was followed by his saying: The closest thing to saying about him is that you say a sorcerer came to separate a person from his clan.

And on the mention of rhetoric and speech, poetry is known by halves, slits, rhymes, and systems. Prose is known for its rhyme, the durability of casting, the length of the phrase, and the breadth of thought, As for the Qur'an, it is not in

poetry or prose, nor is it in rhymed or rhymed speech. And if it is correct to say that it is a new kind that has no equal and no one in the worlds can simulate it.

His difference with his predecessors and his miracle is not surprising, which baffles the mind and leads it to submit without harmony and reassurance; For example, if we say that God created human beings from clay and one of them came to be represented by clay as human beings, would he be able to breathe into him a soul that he does not know how to settle and be deposited?! Rather, is he able to create this clay other than to compose its components that he cannot create as well?!

And look here for the points of agreement, for this Moses, pbuh, was sent with a unique magic to a people of magicians that none of them could do. And Jesus, pbuh, was sent with a unique medicine for a people that none of them could do. However, their two books, the Torah and the Injeel, contained a set of laws, commands and prohibitions, and their expressions are not miraculous in anything. As for the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, his eternal and lasting miracle was a noble Qur'an preserved by the command of God, whose words or meanings are not altered. He guides the people with it and relieves them of their burden and the shackles that were upon them. The mind is used in its contemplation, It is thus not like the magic of Moses or the anointing of Jesus, peace be upon them, by which they rendered the minds of their people incapable, and then they vanished.



React Love

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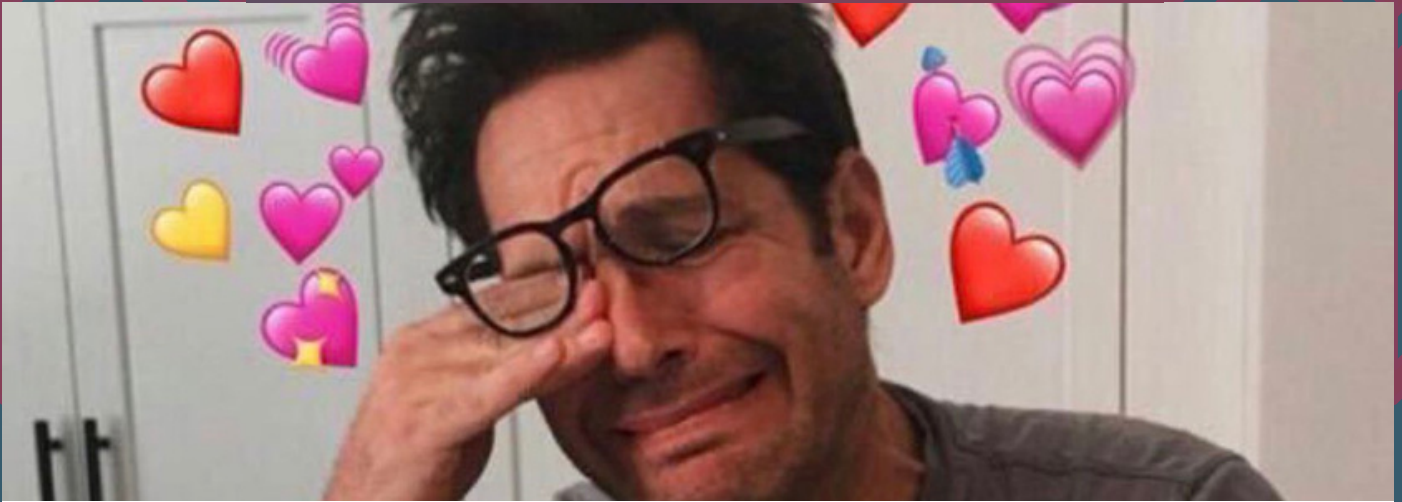
It's like yesterday when I first heard this able artist "Yousra" talking to love and asking him to go to people, so someone had to ask love for this wonderful request to come to us, how great is this artist really!.

Things change with the passage of time, they change quickly, followed by a more rapid change in the conduct of life, and between one's insistence on the necessity of change and the stubbornness of the other on the importance of adhering to the old, this eternal paradox arises.

This is the paradox that put the individual at a loss to choose between platonic love and true and complete love, between the love he saw in childhood films, where the rose smells of love and the anguish of longing, waiting, and remembrance that cannot be forgotten when meeting and between love in this modern reality Where there is no place for longing and no place for real roses, everything becomes available and everything is also not real. Communication at any time and roses can be submitted electronically, but without smell of course, and there is also no room for romantic answers. You can send a voice message.

Love has the meaning of the fact that it develops and grows like this world of ours, and this can be observed without the trouble of knowing, beginning with the opinion of the great Greek philosopher Plato, who brought out to the world the idea of platonic love, which is non-romantic love, love of friendship, or it can be said Friendship turns into love, according to Plato, that love is not limited to romance and is not always related to the body as it is rumored, but there is what is called spiritual love or emotional love where two bodies and one soul, and it is the purest type of love and the most capable of continuity because of the comfort and Reassurance between loved ones, and it is a kind of love that is not limited to men and women, as it can be between friends or





family members, and despite the questioning of this theory, it contains some truth in its essence, according to a recent study published by (the Social Psychological And Personality Science) Most estimates point to the conclusion that two-thirds of romantic relationships begin as friendships and that real couples can begin their romance as friends.

This Platonic theory is countered by a more modern theory called romantic love or "love at first sight," that love that embraces the soul when meeting with whom the heart loves, as if fate had linked this stream of love through a look, just a look, and it is as an idea or as a perspective to see love is Quite the opposite of Plato's views, love here is physical and material besides being spiritual, but it is linked primarily to the body and reality.

And love has also developed, even at the level of the simplest details. Who among us has not imagined this famous scene as he is coming to his beloved with roses, waiting to watch happiness flood her face, and who among us has not created that hidden desire to see the one he loves after a period of interruption and estrangement to heal in it? His soul as soon as he sees this beloved.

But the reality has changed now, there is no room for this bitter longing, you can always see the one you love and you can also give him that rose "online" and you can tell him I love you by simply sending a "red heart" or even calling him at any time and hearing his voice And also seeing it anywhere, love has changed now and has become immeasurable by how much you waited until you see the one you love, it can be measured now by the amount of your interaction on the pictures of the one you love on social networking sites or the amount of sending enough hearts to tell him I love you, these are all ways For love, we cannot say that one symbolizes love more than the other. Indeed, love changes and develops, and its details and tools always change as well, but despite all that it is still successful to this day in trapping millions daily in its damn fun trap.

