

When the virus came to Sidon

-written by students of Sidon-

Once upon a time I walked the streets of Saida. It was filled with optimistic people who love life working hard. They shop at the market, they eat, they are fun people. Suddenly, we hear about a pandemic called a corona, a virus that transforms the life of Sidon from a happy life into a lonely and gloomy life, fearing the spread of this epidemic.

We heard the shouts and the fight of two old men sitting on the sidewalk playing cards fulfilled my ears, although these old men were never fighting out of hate. These two men passed through a lot together. These two men were fighting during war together. These two men wake up in the morning to open their stores, to sit together and drink some Lebanese coffee. They did not care whether someone come and buy from their store, all they cared about was meeting each other because it became their daily routine, they only had each other because their kids immigrated. They woke up one morning to know about the corona virus, they knew that this morning will be their last morning to get here, but they also knew that they will pass through this challenge just like how they passed wars and other diseases. They were full of hope and they are still full of hope.

These are the Lebanese people, people full of hope, kindness and love. People who want a change and can change. Together we can change by spreading enough awareness. A day before the terrible fear spread, we were living a good life. We were trying to achieve what we were dreaming about, but a day later we woke up to the news of the spread of a virus that was not considered. We did not take it seriously, the virus spread quickly in all countries of the world with many deaths. The world is terrified and afraid.

After this virus spread quickly and the number of cases become more than 200, there was emergency. We stay at home with no school no welfare. We miss the days when we go to school and say we don't want to go. We started online session but there is a big difference between online and studying in class according to understanding the lesson.

Before the virus I woke up early every morning to attend school. I listened to teachers explain interesting topics in class where we learned a lot. After school, I attended music and arts class and then met with friends at the park. The lives of people were normal. They lived in a stable country from today. Each of us was committed to his daily duties, some go to work and the other to his school. Saida is a tourist centre in summer and winter, we have beautiful tourist places, where tourists were referring to Sidon. Life was filled with passion and life with some problems, but there were no problems with the human being. I did not realize back then that this routine would completely change into our current everyday life.

Before the virus, demonstrations had occurred in the whole country of Lebanon. On 17th October a revolution started, first in the Beirut area. Then Tripoli, Baalbek, Saida, Byblos, day by day all over Lebanon. The revolution had happened due to the social, political, economic, health, environmental, educational situation. Difficulties and hazardous problems. People all over the countries started planning and gathering at the main roads of every city; they were all together hand by hand to achieve their needs, wishes, hopes, & goals. Car wheels were burnt. Shops, banks, universities had to close.

But these activities also had an impact on students, because of time used in the streets and pressure from school systems.

The revolution broke down the wall of bullying, & all kinds of discrimination, racial discrimination, religious discrimination, materiality, discrimination and more.

And this all had happened due to the Lebanese revolution 2020 which will totally be written in the Lebanese history books to show other people and the new generation how the Lebanese people didn't give up and show strongness to the whole world.

In the end, we hope that God will remove this epidemic from us so that we can return to our normal life that we are used to every day. I wish I could see my city full of love and giving. Because my city is a city that loves to live and live.