



The **Epitome** */i'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Capturing Life Lessons and Moments

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Copyright Page

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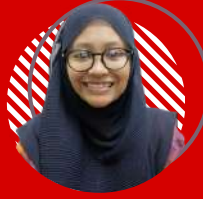


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Synopsis



The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the fourth edition of its e-magazine, *The Epitome*. This publication represents our steady dedication to cultivating creativity in language and literature.

The primary objective of *THE EPITOME* is to offer a platform for writers, educators, scholars, poets, and researchers can come together to exchange their ideas, discoveries, expertise, and narratives. Our special focus revolves around an array of creative writing genres, encompassing playwriting, short stories, songs, speeches, memoirs, literary journalism, humour writing, lyric essays, innovative essays, and personal essays, with a goal to embrace diverse linguistic expressions, with content available in four languages: English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic.





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Preface

Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman
Head of Faculty
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Welcome to the fourth issue of *Epitome*, where creativity and imagination shine brightly. Within these pages, you will discover a rich tapestry of voices and visions—each piece a celebration of the limitless potential of words.

This issue of *Epitome* is more than a mere publication; it is a tribute to the art of storytelling in all its forms. Whether you are captivated by evocative poetry, enthralled by engaging short stories, or intrigued by insightful essays, we aim to present something that resonates with every reader.

We are passionate about the transformative power of literature, and we hope that this collection will inspire, challenge, and delight you. As you explore these pages, may you uncover new perspectives and experiences that enrich your own creative journey.

Thank you for embarking on this literary adventure with us.

Happy reading!



Editor InChief

Dear gentle readers,

Let me welcome you to our fourth edition of e-magazine, where we explore the beauty of life's journey. Our theme, "Capturing Life Lessons and Moments," encourages you to pause, reflect, and celebrate the wisdom that arises from everyday experiences.

Life is a mosaic of moments, each with the potential to teach us something profound, inspire change, or remind us of the surrounding beauty. Within these pages, we have unfolded stories, reflections, and insights that illuminate the lessons woven into the fabric of our lives. From the quiet wisdom found in fleeting moments to the power of life-changing events, this edition pays tribute to the learning that occurs beyond the classroom, in the heart of our daily lives.

Our contributors have poured their hearts into capturing these moments, sharing personal stories that resonate with authenticity and depth. You will find essays exploring the significance of small acts of kindness, articles reflecting on the lessons learned from adversity, and creative pieces celebrating the joy found in simple leisure. Each piece serves as a reminder that life's greatest lessons often emerge from the most unexpected places.

As you flip through this edition, we hope you find inspiration in the shared stories and perhaps discover a mirror to your own experiences. May these pages encourage you to appreciate the moments that shape you, learn from the challenges that test you, and embrace the wisdom that life offers at every step of your journey.

Thank you for joining us in exploring life's lessons and moments. We invite you to take your time, savour each piece, and maybe even gain a new perspective on the experiences that have shaped your own life.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,

Razanawati Nordin
Editor-in-Chief
THE EPITOME



Palestine, you changed my worldview

Nik Mastura binti Nik Ismail Azlan

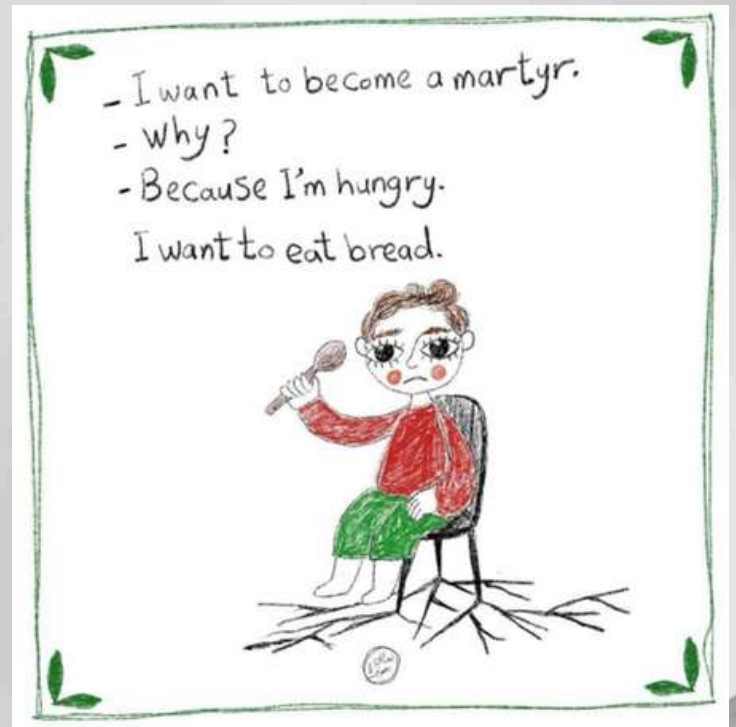
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When I was a child, my mother told me about a man who was fighting for the rights of his country. His name was Yasser Arafat. I saw pictures, in my father's books, of an elderly man who always donned the traditional Arab headdress. He had always stood out significantly to me in that garment as I did not remember seeing any other politician wearing that type of headdress in the 1990s. Little did I know that the headdress (known as the 'keffiyeh') would be the modern-day symbol of solidarity for Palestine and its people. And little did I know at the time, that the Palestinian cause would have a great impact on me in my adult life.

From my late teens to my adulthood, I have witnessed many wars taking place in different parts of the world but only through mainstream media news. The perspective had always been biased in favour of the Western powers. However, the popular use of social media applications has shown a different level of reporting by the citizens of the world who no longer allow themselves to be brainwashed by the one-sided journalism of the mainstream media. The latest information on Instagram, X, Facebook, Tik Tok and Telegram debunked many mainstream news articles which painted a biased narrative against Palestinians. While the mainstream media called it 'war,' those whose eyes and hearts were not blind saw it as a full-scale massacre, a genocide.

I have always been a supporter and a follower of the Palestinian cause, but nothing has impacted me more than the worst bloodshed I have witnessed in the past three months of the Gaza siege. At the beginning, all I could do was watch one atrocious video post after another. But liking these posts to help boost the pro-Palestinian algorithm wasn't enough. I was becoming mad; I went to sleep and woke up every day with a guilty conscience and a dark cloud of depression hanging over me because I knew I had to do something more. The whole world had to know the truth. It became my duty to share posts on my own social media about the true stories of the Palestine-Israeli conflict; from the history of attacks since 1948, to the apartheid system imposed on the people of West Bank and Gaza, to the brutality of deadly torture of the Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, to the current suffering of Palestinians losing all their family members and homes caused by Israel's phosphorus bombardment, up to the debunked lies that the Israeli media created to show Palestinians as the 'terrorists.' But when your own country has been attacked and your people have been killed continuously for 75 years, what would you do? The reality that people need to understand is that when there is occupation, there will always be resistance. When occupation ends, so will the resistance.

What has happened to Gaza, Palestine in 2023 has truly changed my life. Now, every time I get absorbed in worldly affairs, I will always think of how quickly life was taken away from the Palestinians. The cruelty inflicted upon them has been eye opening and their wails and cries will continue to haunt me regardless of how much time passes by. As a Muslim, I believe Palestinians are the chosen people. They suffered in this world as their test, and I pray that they are currently all blissful in Jannah for all of eternity. We are all mortals, there is an end for everyone. It is time to think deeply about what we are doing in this short lifetime and to reflect on what truly matters. Ultimately, everything we strive and thrive for in this temporary world will be useless on the Day of Judgement unless we do it with the remembrance of Allah S.W.T and the eternity of the Hereafter.



Credit to Sally Samir

At the moment of writing, three months have passed and more than 25,000 Palestinians have been murdered. Tens of thousands have been injured and will be disabled, both mentally and physically, for the rest of their lives. While we are safe and comfortable in our homes, the people of Gaza no longer have these securities and are struggling to survive in thin tents with very little basic necessities. As I type this, my eyes are brimming with tears that fall uncontrollably and my heart tightens in my chest. By the time this article is published, the numbers of deaths and injuries will have increased and regardless of the end result, it will have been the biggest live-recorded tragedy the world has ever witnessed before their eyes.



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