

as if they were the last

BY SARA EL BOUKHARY

What do we mean by the concept of war? Maybe it is not a topic that we talk about every day, but it is important to know what it implies and what people suffer in that situation. Death, the term that generally describes war. No word can describe what the people endure, seeing their loved ones die in their arms or in front of their eyes knowing that they cannot do anything. Those people with the same rights as us have to stay and walk among unsafe streets full of pools of blood, corpses or even looking for the bodies of people that they consider dead. Undoubtedly through those ruined streets that convey loneliness, we can find young children playing and enjoying themselves as if they had become used to living among rubble, which gives us to understand that people continue with their lives no matter what happens, enjoying the moments with their children as if they were the last.

On June 26, during wartime, photographer Emad Nassar had the opportunity to go to Gaza City and capture such a tragic and exciting moment in one photo. In this image we can see a family made up of the father, the daughter, and the niece whose parents must be dead and who must have to live with their uncle and cousin. In the background, we can see various dwellings in debris. In the foreground, we can see the protagonists, the father giving a bath to his daughter and niece who are incredibly joyful and with a happy face despite their current situation. The three are in what should be the bathroom, which is devastated and the only thing in condition that we can find is the



bathtub. This family are in one of their happiest moments. Perhaps the girls could not be aware of this? Well, for sure, but because of this problem, their lives do not have to be sad and dull, they have to continue enjoying their life and what they have.

This is what there is, we cannot help it. I feel a knot in my heart when I see the basic things that these people are happy with and that I underestimate and the simple things that they live so passively and that bore me. Just seeing how their lives continue as if it were nothing and how children do not lose that magic of childhood makes me feel more hopeful. Let us see if instead of asking ourselves if we could endure that, we should ask ourselves if we really value what we have and make the most of the moments as if they were the last.