

Resistance

Faith empowers people to be resilient and manage difficult situations. It allows a person to deal with challenges and stay firm in the face of opposition. Being religious is not characterized by defensiveness, passivity, or denial. Research has shown that religiousness can be a source of strength, helping people adjust in the midst of crisis.

The Quran says;

وَكَأَيِّن مِّن نَّبِيٍّ قَاتَلَ مَعَهُ رِيشُونَ كَثِيرٌ فَمَا وَهَنُوا لِمَا أَصَابَهُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَمَا ضَعُفُوا وَمَا اسْتَكَانُوا ۗ وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الصَّابِرِينَ

How many a Prophet there has been with whom a multitude of godly men fought. They did not falter for what befell them in the way of Allah, neither did they weaken, nor did they abase themselves; and Allah loves the steadfast.

Sura Aale Imran, no.3, verse 146

Imam Ali (a) says; (In the Battle of Jamal when he gave the standard to his son Muhammad ibn al-Hanafiyah)

Mountains may move from their position, but you should not move from yours. Grit your teeth. Lend to Allah your head. Plant your feet firmly on the ground. Have your eye on the furthest foe and close your eyes. And know that help is only from Allah, the Glorified.

Khutba no.11, Nahjul Balgha

Examples of Resistance in recent history

1) Muslim Slaves in America

The global slave trade transported 10–12 million enslaved Africans to the Americas from the 16th to the 19th century. Up to 40 percent of those who were captured and sent to the Americas came from predominantly Muslim parts of West Africa. The enslaved Muslims used their faith and bilingual literacy to build community, resist slavery and pursue freedom. There are records of slaves praying and observing the month of Ramadan, as well as giving alms to poorer slaves to offer relief and sometimes freeing each other.

Some quotes

It is extremely difficult to imagine this situation – in which in order to take classes, in order to learn Quran . . . you would have to finish all your days' work, escape from your plantation, get to the teacher who is also likely enslaved and may not have finished his duties, then you might have a lesson between those very few hours that you had to sleep.

Source: How Muslim slaves rose up against slavery in the 19th century

In 1835, a young Muslim slave participated in a revolt in the Brazilian city of Bahia. Their group was led by Ahuna, an elderly religious leader who organised the rebellion hoping to free them from bondage. The young man, a devout follower of Ahuna, didn't survive the rebellion, but his

body was found with a folio around his neck. It contained an inscription and prayer from the Quran which said;

رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمِينَ لَكَ وَمِن ذُرِّيَّتِنَا أُمَّةً مُّسْلِمَةً لَّكَ

Our Lord, make us submissive to You, and [raise] from our progeny a nation submissive to You
Sura Baqarah, no.2, verses 128

Source: How Muslim slaves rose up against slavery in the 19th century

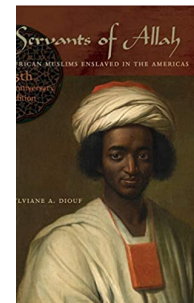
Despite significant obstacles, enslaved Muslims used their faith and bilingual literacy to build community, resist slavery and pursue freedom. They left numerous written accounts of their experiences in America in the form of letters, diaries and autobiographies, most of them in Arabic. And they strategically used Arabic to communicate with one another and to undermine slavery . . . They also wrote pages of Arabic for their slaveholders and their friends. But instead of writing what the recipients believed was a Bible verse or the Lord's Prayer, they wrote Quranic verses that condemned slavery, made genealogical lists, and even pleaded to return home to Africa.

Source: African Muslims in Early America

Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas

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A history of African Muslims brought to the Americas. Islam flourished during slavery on a large scale. Many Muslims managed to follow most of the rules of their religion. Literate, urban, and well-traveled, they drew on their organization, solidarity and the strength of their beliefs to play a major part in the most well-known slave uprisings



Resources on this topic:

a) African Muslims in Early America

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/collection/african-muslims-early-america>

b) How Muslim slaves rose up against slavery in the 19th century

<https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/how-muslim-slaves-rose-up-against-slavery-in-the-19th-century-16704>

2) Hijab and Resistance

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/03/15/hijab-becomes-symbol-resistance-feminism-age-trump/98475212/>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/hands-off-my-hijab-young-muslim-women-protest-proposed-french-ban-2021-05-04/>

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/opinion/119513/beyond-the>