Auntie Arwa's Palestinian Mini Cookbook

Volume 1

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Foreword

All the recipes mentioned here were written by my aunt, Arwa Ghannam, who I am extremely proud of.

In this mini cookbook, you will find the translated recipe and a scan of her notebook/ her Arabic handwriting, side by side.

note: "sahtein w afye" is the Arabic phrase for bon appetit.

-Tamara

Baked Potatoes with Chicken and Lemon (Seniyyet batata bil dajaj w el-laymoun)

Considered one of the traditional recipes of the region, it is enjoyed by Arabs but also specifically Palestinians. It is so popular because of its simplicity but also its affordability.

Ingredients: 1 kg potatoes 1 chicken 3 onions – sliced 6 garlic cloves – diced 2 tablespoons of olive oil 1 tablespoon of salt 2 lemons – juiced 2 cups of water Spice mix: 1 teaspoon of black pepper 1 teaspoon of sweet paprika 1 teaspoon of powdered cardamom 1 teaspoon of powdered coriander



Directions:

Chop the chicken and marinate with half of the spice mix. Chop the potatoes in half-circle shapes then add to the baking pan, with the onions, the garlic, and the rest of the spice mix.

Move the chicken into the pan. Pour the lemon juice, salt, olive oil, and water into the pan. Cover with aluminum foil and put it into the oven at 180°C (bottom heating) for 75 minutes. Uncover the pan and roast (top heating) for a few minutes until golden.

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Musakhan

Being one of dishes that Palestine is most known for, Musakhan is made out of ingredients that are readily available in the countryside. Jenin and Tulkarm are known for their delicious Musakhan.

Ingredients:

A chicken divided into quarters 1 kg diced onion 1 cup olive oil 2 taboon (Palestinian flatbread- or any flatbread available) 1/2 cup of sumac 1 tablespoon of salt 1 teaspoon of black pepper and mixed spice 2 lemons 250 g of roasted almonds and/or pine nuts 1 liter of water



Directions:

Drizzle some olive oil in a pot on medium heat then add 1 diced onion and stir a little. Put the chicken pieces in the pot with the spices and salt. Stir for 5 minutes. Pour a liter of water into the pot and let it cook for 45 minutes. After the chicken is cooked, move it into a baking tray. Squeeze a lemon on it then add the sumac. Put in the oven on 180°C top heat for 15 minutes until red/golden. Add the rest of the diced onions in another pot and submerge them with olive oil. Stir until golden, then squeeze the second lemon on them.

Dip each flat bread in the first pot (which contains the broth) then put it on a tray and add a layer of onions from the second pot on top of it. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes. Repeat with as many layers as you want then put the pieces of flatbread on top of each other. Move the chicken to the top of the flatbread layers and garnish with toasted almonds and/or pine nuts.

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The Hebron Qedreh (Al-Qidra Al-Khaliliyya)

One of the traditional Palestinian dishes passed down from our ancestors, originating from Hebron and is a popular dish in Ramadan.

Ingredients:

500 g basmati rice
2 kg lamb meat with bones
250 g of boiled chickpeas
4 spoons of ghee
2 bay leaves
2 spoons of salt
2 spoons of cinnamon
1 onion
1 garlic



Directions:

Add the meat to a pot with 2 spoons of ghee, bay leaves, cinnamon, and chopped onion. Place on high heat and stir continuously for 7 minutes. Add 2 liters of boiling water and leave it on the fire for an hour and a half to two hours until it is fully cooked.

In another pot, add 2 spoons of ghee, chopped garlic, and chopped onion and stir until golden. Move the cooked meat to this second pot. Add the rice and a liter of the meat stock so that the rice is submerged.

When boiling, add salt as desired, then close the pot and leave it on very low heat for 25 to 35 minutes or until the rice is cooked. Garnish with toasted almonds and pine nuts.

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Palestinian Homemade Pasta with Lentils (Raqaq w A'adas)

One of the older Palestinian dishes, mostly made in Tulkarm. It's one of the winter dishes thanks to the warmth it gives whoever eats it.

<u>Ingredients for the pasta:</u> 3 cups of flour 1.25 cups of water 1/2 teaspoon of salt 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil

<u>Ingredients for the lentils:</u> 1.5 cups of Lentils 0.5 cup of olive oil 4 onions - sliced 1 pomegranate 2 teaspoons of sumac

Directions:

Put the flour, salt, and water in a pot and knead for 10 minutes until the dough forms. Brush it with some vegetable oil, cover it, and let it rest for half an hour.

Add the lentils in a pot on medium heat and submerge them with 2 liters of water. Boil for 15 minutes until cooked. Cut the dough into more manageable pieces then spread them on a surface with flour sprinkled on (to avoid it getting too sticky). After they're thin enough, cut them into long slices.

Move the sliced dough to the lentils pot, stir a little. Add salt and let it cook for 15 minutes or until the dough is fully cooked. Scoop into plates then garnish with caramelized onions, pomegranate, sumac, and some toasted bread cubes.

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Stuffed Red Carrots

A Palestinian dish that has different ways of execution, depending on the city it's made in (Hebron, Gaza, Jerusalem, etc..).

Ingredients:

2 kg of medium sized red carrots
500 g of rice
2 tablespoon of salt
1/2 teaspoon of black pepper
1/2 teaspoon of paprika
1/2 teaspoon of coriander
1/2 teaspoon of mixed spice or curry spice
4 tablespoons of olive oil
4 tablespoons of tomato paste
1/2 cup of tamarind sauce
500 minced beef
2 liters of water



Directions:

Submerge the rice in lukewarm water for 15 minutes. Peel the carrots and carve until it becomes thinner.

Drain the rice and add the minced beef, spices, salt, and olive oil and mix well. Stuff the carrots until they're half-full.

Place them in a pot on medium heat and add the tomato paste, tamarind sauce, 2 liters of water, and 1 tablespoon of salt. Let them cook for 45 minutes or until fully cooked.

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Stuffed Cannonballs of Heaven (Madafe'e El-Janneh)

A dish originating from Hebron and one of the summer dishes as that would be the season of the round zucchini (cannons) used in this recipe.

Ingredients

2 kg of round zucchini
500 g rice
1 tablespoon of salt
8 tablespoons of tomato paste
3 tablespoons of olive oil
500g minced beef
2 liters of water

Spice mix:

1/2 teaspoon of black pepper
1/2 teaspoon of sweet paprika
1/2 teaspoon of coriander
1/2 teaspoon of store-bought assorted spices (or curry powder)



Directions:

Submerge the rice in lukewarm water for a minimum of 15 minutes. Peel off each zucchini then carve out the insides until it becomes thinner. Drain the water from the rice. Add the minced beef, spice mix, salt, olive oil and mix them together.

Stuff the zucchini with the rice filling until they're half full. Stack them in a pot then add the tomato paste and water. Cook on medium heat for 45 minutes after boiling.

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Rice Pudding (Riz b Haleeb)

<u>Ingredients:</u> 1 cup of rice 1 liter of water 1 liter of milk 1 tablespoon of starch 1/2 cup of sugar 1 tablespoon of blossom water 50 g of butter



Instructions:

Add the rice to a pot. Submerge in water on low heat for 20 minutes until the rice is cooked. Stir the starch into the milk then add them to the rice.

Let them boil for 10 minutes on medium heat. Add sugar, butter, and blossom water.

Lift the pot off the heat and pour into small bowls.

Allow to cool then garnish with cinnamon, crushed pistachios, and coconut.

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Palestinian Harissa

<u>Ingredients:</u> 2 cups of coarse semolina 1 cup of yogurt 1/2 cup of sugar 1 tablespoon of baking powder 1/2 cup of ghee A handful of peeled and sliced almonds



Directions:

Mix the semolina with the ghee, then add the yogurt and baking powder and knead. Add some ghee on the baking tray (1 tablespoon) then spread the dough on it and cut as preferred. Add sliced almonds for decoration. Heat up the oven to 180°C and put the Harissa in for 20 minutes or until it browns.

Syrup:

<u>Ingredients:</u> 2 cups of sugar 1.5 cups of water 1 teaspoon of lemon juice

Directions:

In a saucepan, add the ingredients and cook until the water starts boiling, then leave on low heat for 10 minutes. Let it cool and then drizzle over the Harissa while it is still hot so it would absorb the syrup.

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Palestinian Strawberry Crumble (Mabroosheh)

Ingredients: 3 eggs 1 cup plant oil 1/4 cup milk 1 cup sugar 3 teaspoons vanilla 3 teaspoons baking powder 1 cup strawberry jam Zest of 1 lemon 1/4 cup coconut 4 cups flour



Directions:

Whip the eggs with sugar, oil, vanilla, lemon zest using an electric hand mixer, then add milk and continue whipping for 5 minutes.

Add 3.5 cups of flour and baking powder to the mix and knead with your hands until the dough becomes soft. Split the dough into 3/4 and 1/4.

Put the 3/4 dough on a baking tray and spread it properly then add the jam and coconut.

As for the remaining1/4 dough, add 0.5 cup of flour to it and knead until it becomes more firm. Shred it using a shredder then cover the jam with it.

Put the tray into the middle compartment of the oven and turn on top & bottom heat on 180 $^\circ \rm C$ for 25 minutes.

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Karawiye

This dessert is a cultural one, connected to events like the celebration of having a new baby in the family. It is known for its health benefits for nursing moms and it's also often made in winter to keep you warm.

Ingredients:

1 cup of ground rice
 1 cup of sugar
 3 tablespoons of ground caraway seeds
 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
 7 cups of water



Directions:

Mix the ground caraway seeds, sugar, rice, and cinnamon in a pot and add 7 cups of water.

Cook on high heat in the beginning while constantly stirring. When the mixture starts boiling, lower the heat and continue stirring for 10 minutes.

Pour the mixture into bowls, let it cool and garnish with coconut, almonds, raisins, pistachios, cashews (your own preference).

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