2022 Elections: The 3 Things I'm Expecting From the Upcoming President of the Lebanese Republic

In October of 2016, I was tricked into thinking everything was going to

change for the better. God, was I wrong. Remember when news went out that we were finally having a new head of state? Everyone was overcome with delight, trusting that the newly appointed president was going to make things better. However, six years later today, it's safe to say that things didn't exactly go as planned. I mean, it's obvious that people's expectations weren't met—at least mine weren't. If anything, things have gone even more south. After the demolition of our capital city in 2020, followed by the utter downfall of our economy...being Lebanese is no longer a matter of admired resilience, it's a matter of survival. So, I dedicate this essay to the upcoming president of Lebanon. If you ever see this, take notes. Here are the three things I'm expecting from you.

Honesty. Before anything else, I expect the new president to tell the

truth. After years of deceit, we—the Lebanese people—are tired of being lied to. When he becomes our country's leader, the president will have to prove himself to be an honest individual. Not only will it be his responsibility to tell the truth, but also to point out when other politicians aren't. Because the Lebanese people need to know that their president has their back. That someone out there can hear their cries, and that he'll do something about it. Honesty is the foundation upon which trust is built—and trust is necessary if we hope to build a better Lebanon.

Integrity. Leaders with integrity act in accordance with their words. They are

trustworthy and reliable, but most importantly, they own up to their mistakes instead of blaming others or making excuses. By acting responsibly and respectfully, the new president will foster much greater satisfaction from his people. Because a good leader doesn't sit on a throne and munch on grapes, he lends you his ear and offers you a shoulder to cry on. Integrity in our future president will unquestionably be the most crucial quality—without it, no real success is possible.

Justice. Nearly two years have passed since the devastating beirut

blast, yet no senior official has been held accountable. Why? Yes, justice can only be achieved through the specialized judicial branches, but any attempts to do so have been taken down. If the president doesn't step in and personally take charge of investigating this crime, nobody will. Being honest and working with integrity are great traits for a president to have. But, bringing justice to his people is beyond that—it's the president's duty.

A single person cannot bring down an entire country, nor can he save

it. So, we cannot blame the old president for a failed state, nor can we expect the new one to save the day with a snap of his fingers. In a time full of darkness, it is often difficult to find light. But, as always, seasons change. And even if winter seems to have no end, the sky will eventually brighten and spring will come. This is why I urge you, dear reader, to stay hopeful in spite of everything. Just because we're used to being let down, doesn't mean there is no hope.