

And here we bid farewell to this Holy Month and conclude it by performing the night prayer, asking God to accept our fasting and prayers and to have mercy on us with His kindness. And in *Eid* I say to the good people of Kuwait, may you be well this year. At the end of this Holy Month of Ramadan, I would like to share with the reader some wisdom I heard from a friend. We're all very active at the beginning of the holy month, visiting the diwaniyat to greet our friends, and at the same time we welcome those who greet us in our own diwaniyat—you visit them and they visit you. (Note that *diwan* and *diwaniya* are the same. The only difference is that *diwan* is the proper Arabic word, but *diwaniya* is more local and less formal. In Arabic the plural is *diwaniyat*.) Kuwait, thanks to Almighty God, is full of diwaniyat, but the diwan takes its color from its owner. For example, those who have power differ from the ones with money, and the diwan of a deputy is not like the minister's. Then there are those of the good and educated people who one visits for their personality and knowledge; not for their money, influence, or position. As for the latter type, their diwaniya has visitors all the time even if it is just a small number, and continues as long as its people are there. On the other hand, with the first three, the great momentum of its visitors depends on the engine of money, influence, and position. Allow me to give two examples while keeping the names anonymous.

In the seventies there was a powerful man whom the state relied on for many years, and on days he would receive guests the streets around his diwan would be crowded. However, after his retirement, his diwan became bare of visitors and our friend became so depressed that he eventually left the country and emigrated.