

day,” he said, “I decided that whenever I could, I would pay back that opportunity to others as gratitude to that anonymous person.” I didn’t really understand what he meant at the time, but he allowed me to retake the exam in multiple-choice, and I passed. That is how I was saved from that course; thanks to an anonymous person that I will probably never know, giving an opportunity to my teacher when he was in need.

In turn, whenever I find an opportunity to help others I don’t hesitate in giving a hand in any way I can. I applied this principle to my work in the banking sector. When it would come to clients defaulting on their debts, I would have to differentiate between fraudulent cases, and my clients who had fallen behind in their payments due to special circumstances. I would extend a helping hand to those who needed it, but I had to be firm with clients who only pretended they couldn’t afford their debt when in fact they were quite wealthy. I have shared my experience with these kinds of clients in a series of articles titled “Bu A’amer.” I never got around to having them published in *Al-Qabas* for several reasons. For one thing, the series consists of ten parts, which might bore the reader and discourage him from following up on each installment. Especially because at that time my articles were not published on a specific day, so my readers would’ve had to search the paper all week to find my article. I also didn’t think it fitting to summarize a whole era of Kuwait’s history in only ten articles since the size constraints for a weekly column would cause it to lose its essence with the need to cut so many pivotal details. Nevertheless, I have included the series “Bu A’amar” in this book in order to give the reader a glimpse into the shattering financial crisis which hit Kuwait in the late eighties, an experience from which I have gained much wisdom.