

so tense. I explained that the news of His Highness being honored as a humanitarian leader only begins to express how deeply the charitable work of our Emir and the Kuwaiti people is rooted in our heritage. Unfortunately, this history is about to be lost just like when my father's records were almost lost. It is the responsibility of the citizens to be care takers of their family legacies and to take pride in Kuwait's charitable heritage. So he said, "Why don't you write an article about it, and send it to me?" I told him I had never published anything in a newspaper before, but he simply said, "Just write the article and send it to me. If it's appropriate, the newspaper will publish it. If it isn't, then you can forget about being a writer." So, that's exactly what I did. My first article was entitled "Immortal Commandments," and since then I have become a regular columnist. More than one hundred articles followed in which I've shared with the reader fragments and memories of my journey in life; some happy ones, and some sad. Just like any other human on this earth, each has his or her own experience that differs one from another, the way each fingerprint is distinct from all others.

Let me tell you a bit about myself. I was born in January 1957 in Al-Niqra in my father's house, which has now become a national museum bearing his name. My mother was third among the four wives who were in the care of my father when he died in 1965. I'm often asked how many wives my father had, and my answer is that he had six wives who gave birth to his children. According to my limited knowledge, he also had one wife who had died without giving birth to any children; and he had another wife from Lebanon, but their marriage only lasted for a few months. Perhaps he had other wives of whom I have no knowledge. I don't know exactly where I fall among my 36 brothers and sisters, but according to my age, I