

We were wandering in the old market with our Yemeni host and our brothers from *Bayt Zakat*, laughing and talking as Kuwaitis are used to do. Then we met an elder about 80 years old. “You are from Kuwait? Welcome to Happy Yemen,” he said with his Yemeni accent, “And I ask you, by God, have you seen anything happy?! We, the people of Yemen, love Kuwait and her people, and we would never be happy if we didn’t keep our promises or failed to repay her kindness.” Then he left without asking for anything, as I thought he would. I asked our host about this and he clarified that the old man expressed a common sentiment among the people of Yemen towards the people of Kuwait. He added that all of them condemned their government’s opinion of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and those who supported the invasion were only a few, misled or bribed.

After hearing this elder’s gratitude, I faced no difficulty in convincing my brothers, who also run the funds of my late father, to build a charity center for the orphans and widows, a Yemeni style mosque, and a place to teach the Holy Quran. Praise be to God, the project was completed and opened in 2010 in the presence of the Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and Kuwait’s ambassador. It became a famous Kuwaiti landmark, looking after 1,000 orphans, training 500 widows and youth, as well as being a center for fighting illiteracy and khat addiction. After the war is over, I hope all efforts are gathered to help this kind people and bring back a happy Yemen.