

back to 1965. It was from one of the righteous men of Kuwait, the late Mohammed Qabazurd, in which he pointed out the necessity of aiding people of Eastern Pakistan—now Bangladesh—who were suffering the devastation of a hurricane. That letter embodies Kuwait's common spirit of philanthropy based on humanitarian principles and shows how matters of religious doctrine, political, or national affiliation did not stop people from meeting the call for charity. I fear for this soul which is rooted in my country's land. I fear it is wearing out because of hateful fanatics and their followers who seek to transform Kuwaiti charitable work into a system of finance for political and sectarian goals. Therefore, in order to preserve Kuwait as a beacon of humanity, we must fortify its pillars of love and mercy firmly in philanthropy, and in my opinion this cannot be achieved except by two things. The first is that the government should exercise its full observational control over the donation system in Kuwait in order to protect the donations that have been given by good people responding to the cry for help that it might ease the pain of others, and to ensure they do not find out later that their money has been misused to create pain. Second, we should wholly return to reading the commandments of our ancestors regarding charity and to summon the same feelings of love and mercy which were the lights of their journey. The exploits of many charitable Kuwaiti men have been lost and slipped away from our memory and their true number exceeds the recorded number of giving hands usually mentioned in charity services. In this spirit, I invite every Kuwaiti family to take hold of the pen and record our history of charity for our children that it might not be lost. For myself, I will do that, not only towards my father, but also towards every good man of Kuwait. I will do this in light of my belief that the time has come to revive the commandments of our ancestors so they stay alive in us and in our children. I pray this spirit will never die until that day at the end of time when God inherits the earth and all the beings thereon.