

him where I went after our breakfast. Of course, he was surprised and asked me, “why?” I explained to him, “Your company is pleasant and your gatherings are great, but I prefer to pray with the Salafi because they are more devout and the student who recites the Quran for them has a nicer voice. But after prayers, I wouldn’t feel like I belong there because I’m not strict enough for their standards, so then I go and spend the rest of the night with my other friends who enjoy listening to records of Umm Kulthum and Awad Al Dokhi.” He didn’t get upset with my honesty, in fact he just laughed and I still have a good relationship with him to this day. That was the policy I followed while studying abroad, and one which I maintain even to this day. I am friendly towards the Brotherhood, I have a profound respect for the Salafi, I am a brother of the Shi’a, and I like listening to Umm Kulthum and Awad Al Dokhi. This experience has taught me the wisdom of moderation and tolerance. Acceptance towards others will often inspire them to be accepting towards you, and the key lies simply in kind words and avoiding fruitless arguments. There is a room for us all, and between the differences in opinion among Muslim scholars there is found mercy.

For those who wish to learn more about Islam and the different interpretations according to the four schools of Islamic thought, I highly recommend *Fiqh Us-Sunnah* by Sayid Sabiq. It is simple to read, available in English, and presents the opinions of the four main Muslim Scholars on most of the rules within Islam.

I actually have a little story about that book. After graduation, I returned home and got my first job. I met an old friend from school who invited me to his *diwaniya* where I had the chance to meet many other classmates. I noticed a great majority