Mona and The Knight

After accepting the kind invitation of Sheikha Mona Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, I had the great honor of attending the UNESCO ceremony in which Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, May God have mercy on him, had been chosen as a global figure in the field of culture and education. This grinning knight is a true son of Kuwait and the founder of its first institutions; from the orphanage to the Kuwaiti municipality, and from the courts and the Ministry of Education in its earliest form. A large record of achievements for one man that even governments now are unable to accomplish with all their departments, budgets and armies of employees.

This Knight of Kuwait had an unprecedented ability to choose his men, each in his proper place. His rapid implementation and exercising power was impelled by a keen insight into the future of his country and a firm resolve which was as sharp as the blade he carried in defense of Kuwait in the battles of Al-Regeai, Hamdh and Jahra. As much as I am proud of UNESCO honoring a Kuwaiti personality, I am also disappointed that the West outran us in honoring great figures of Kuwait on a global level. It seems, meanwhile, we Kuwaitis leave our heritage to be lost as the days pass by, just as most of Kuwait's monuments are demolished at the hands of the Municipality of Kuwait.

Our only solace is that the memory of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber is still alive in the heart of every citizen, at least those from our generation when we were children in primary school. Back then, education was perfect by all means. Caring for the students was not just about providing meals, clothing, and a high level of education, but extended from this Knight's fatherly love towards the children of Kuwait. For instance, his personal decision to close school at times of bad weather like dust reflected his love and care for his students as though they were his own children. So it is our duty as Kuwaitis to honor him and commemorate his solemn work so it can be at the students' fingertips; a beacon