

Rummana

So many TV series are shown during the month of Ramadan that it's difficult to decide which ones to watch and which ones to leave alone. One show drew my attention, *Rummana*, by the capable artist, Hayat Al Fahad. Rummana means pomegranate, but it's also a very old Kuwaiti name. My daughter noticed me watching this show and she asked what about it caught my attention. "It's like 'The Longing Sea' slapping you." She laughed and asked me what I meant? I explained that "The Longing Sea" is the name of a character in the series. (The character's name is a bit of a joke. It refers to the lyrics of a song, *Bahar El Shouk*, which plays throughout the series.) "The Longing Sea" spends the series thinking up new and outrageous ways to defraud a family that had recently become rich. "So it's just a funny show?" She asked. "On the contrary," I said, "it is full of wisdom and deserves watching." The words of her father captured her attention and she knew I had a story behind it, so I decided to share our conversation with the reader.

From both my personal experiences and through my work in banking, I've come across many stories which featured characters like Rummana and "The Longing Sea." I'm not exaggerating when I say that I could fill multiple books with these stories. They would be sad books though, full of painful stories about the struggle of simple people against those who have no fear of God, and against "The Longing Sea" which exists in all our lives. It may be a close friend, a brother, a wife, or even a son. The conflicts always seem to center around money and, believe me, whoever has money has a problem. Without getting too philosophical, I'll give some examples from my own experiences. When I reached the age of adulthood, and after receiving my part of the inheritance from the Orphan's Department, one of the staff there told me that my money had been used for usury and that I had to get rid of the "unclean" interest it had earned. I