

## His Majesty the Grand Imam

His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Dr. Ahmad El-Tayeb, has arrived as a dear guest of Kuwait and we say to him, welcome to your country. As for me, I have my own experience with His Eminence the Imam. A number of years ago I received a call from my friend Khaled Hosseini, in his capacity then as Deputy General Director of the Bayt Zakat, offering me to respond to the invitation of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar and visit him in Egypt. We had the honor of meeting him and at that time, before the revolution, he offered us the opportunity to finance the construction of a healthcare facility in Qurna in Luxor through the Al-Othman charitable fund. After the second revolution, I had the pleasure of meeting with him a second time when the cornerstone of the facility was laid. Our third meeting occurred after the second revolution at the opening ceremony of the project.

The revolutions of Egypt are none of my business, but what I was able to perceive from that man who is highly cultured, exceptionally ethical, and invariably resolved, encouraged me to use that invitation to ask him directly about several political and religious matters. That was because he, in his position, represents the religious benchmark for the Islamic world and is a symbol of moderation and tolerance. Sheikh El-Tayeb is one of the greatest scholars of discourse and logic. Fluent in both English and French, he has translated works from and to these languages, and he has inherited the knowledge and methods of his father and grandfathers. During our second meeting, I gave him a book about Al Othman School and a copy of my father's poems. Then he told me about his large collection of books, some of which he had inherited from his ancestors, and how he was worried they would suffer from loss and neglect after his death. We discussed the possibility of including a