

municipality itself. Of course, everyone knows that our friend has only one solution to this problem, but I didn't tell him to do that because it would have been a sin. It is simply this, jingle the coins in your pocket and everything will be fine. May God send an evil tree to grow in the belly of every man who accepts a bribe. (The word used here is *Zaqqum* which is a specific tree that grows only in Hell. The putrid fruits feed tortured souls and turn to boiling oil in their stomachs.) I swear, this is something bizarre which doesn't occur in other countries. I don't even mean developed ones or other Gulf countries. I'm talking about in countries where there's hardly any law to be found. The point is, trading in real estate is not as easy as some people think. Every buyer beware and don't pay any deposit before the description certificate is issued. Of course, many brokers might try to argue with you on this. Anyways, after the certificate is issued, the buyer has to take it to the municipality to make sure it is correct and free of tampering. He also has to assign an engineer to make sure that the registered plans are in line with reality, because cheating and manipulation have become a painful fact due to the lack of transparency and the municipality's negligence. On top of that, the current laws, and future ones which are still under review, perpetuate corruption in this poor country.

The bottom line is that citizens and financial institutions shouldn't assume real estate is free from all risks, diving head first into a bramble of feeble laws, greed, and loss of conscience. As we say in Kuwait when there's no use talking about something, "I have nothing to say because your uncle is deaf."