

While over here, with the exception of profitable organizations, being a consultant means you get a salary and a title without having to go to an office. I believe in seeking advice and consultation, and I take advice on my books and articles from my friend Abu Talal, a banker and board member at one of the local banks. He may also be the only man in Kuwait who does not listen to the radio while driving, but always listens to audio books instead. He also has a hidden talent as a literary critic and I wish he would record his banking experience. God has blessed him with unrivaled memory; he doesn't save any numbers in his old Nokia phone but has them all memorized by heart. He's very strict with his criticism and assessment of my writing in the same way he critiques poets, categorizing them into four groups:

A poet who does well, but nobody pays attention to.

A poet who writes on controversial subjects.

A poet whom you don't wish to hear.

A poet who you wouldn't be ashamed to slap.

I hope he doesn't include me in the last one!