

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain

**Biography
&
Cultural Achievements**

The General Secretariat of the Foundation

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation

Tel : + 965 22415172

Fax: + 965 22455039

E-mail: info@albabtaincf.org

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Introduction

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain is a prominent poetic figure who entered the history of Arab and international cultures from its widest doors. His ambition and perseverance helped him overcome many obstacles and challenges. He worked hard to educate himself and to develop his futuristic cultural views. He now stands as a great historic figure not only in the Arabic culture, but also globally.

This booklet will present the poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain to the reader through enumerating the key intellectual and philanthropist contributions of this prominent figure. The booklet will also shed light on his humanitarian and cultural achievements which helped promote Kuwaiti culture, poetry and literature, and strengthen Kuwait in the Arab world as well as internationally. One specific example is when he planted a tree in front of the Middle East Centre of the University of Oxford, dedicated from the people of Kuwait as a message of love and peace to the whole world. The planting ceremony, held on





June 2, 2016, was attended by a number of eminent Arab and international figures.

Abdulaziz Al-Babtain has spent most of his life to disseminate the Arabic language, to make it present alongside other international languages. He introduced the Arabic culture and history to the world by shedding light on its civilized aspects. Moreover, he used all of the above to promote coexistence, tolerance and to build bridges of love and peace between peoples from all over the world.

May God bless Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain with much happiness, a long life and a good health.

Abdulrahman Khalid Al Babtain



1 - Short Biography

When young, Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain was a passionate reader of Arab poetry and was greatly inspired by great Arab poets.

He worked at the Ministry of Education in Kuwait from 1955 until 1962, when he resigned to pursue an entrepreneurial career path and eventually became one of the most prominent businessmen in the country.

His poems have been published in several Kuwaiti newspapers and magazines as well as in other Arab and foreign countries.

His first book *Baah Al-Bawadi* (Intimations of the Desert) was published in 1995, with a second collection, *Musafir fi Al-Qifar* (Wastefarer), in 2004. His third collection of poems, *Oghniat Al-Feyefi* (The Songs of the Deserts), was published in 2018. The first two books were translated into English, French, Italian, Spanish and Polish.

In 2017 he published “Contemplations for Peace” which is a heartfelt cry for all of mankind to embrace peace as a value, a goal and a way of life. It was translated into English.

He holds the following positions:

- Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation
- President of the Scientific Board of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation in the European Union, based in Rome, Italy
- Honorary President of the World Poetry Academy, which is based in the Italian city of Verona
- Member of the Kuwait National Committee for Educational Support
- Member of the Kuwait Writers Association
- Member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Cultural Forum in Beirut
- Correspondent member of the Arabic Language Academy in Damascus
- Co-founder and member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Thought Foundation
- Member of the Board of Trustees of the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain
- Member of the Board of Trustees of the College of Arts at the University of Kuwait



- Honorary President of the Kuwait Library and Information Society
- Member of the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors of the University of Oxford, United Kingdom
- Member of the Chancellor's Fund, the University of Stirling, Scotland



2 - Honorary Certificates

An Honorary Doctorate is an academic degree awarded by public and private universities to individuals who make notable contributions to society. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain was awarded fourteen honorary certificates from prestigious universities and academic institutions in recognition to his efforts in the cultural field and humanitarian action as well as his support to culture of peace and intercultural dialogue.

- The University of Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 1995.
- The University of Baku, Azerbaijan in 2000.
- The Yarmouk University, Jordan in 2001.
- The University of GOI, Kyrgyzstan in 2002 in Humanities.
- The Kyrgyz-Kuwaiti University in 2002 in Humanities.
- The University of Algiers in 2005.



- The Sidi Mohamed bin Abdullah University in Fes in 2006 for his creative contributions and efforts in the fields of culture and the promotion of intercultural dialogue.
- The University of Khartoum, Sudan in 2007.
- The Al-Farabi National University in Kazakhstan in 2009.
- The University of Córdoba in 2013 in recognition of his scientific and cultural efforts in Andalusia and its universities. This is the first honorary doctorate to be offered by the University of Cordoba to an Arab figure.
- The University of Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2014 in recognition of his cultural efforts. He is the first Arab figure to receive this certificate.
- The University of Kuwait in 2015 in recognition of his scientific and cultural efforts for more than 25 years.
- The Academy of Arts in Egypt, in 2015 as an influential icon in the Arab cultural life.



- The University of Sterling, Scotland in 2017, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to creative writing and poetry, and his exceptional profile as a humanitarian and philanthropist in driving forward an agenda for peace and better intercultural relations and understanding.



Photographs







Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the honorary doctorate from Dr Fayez Khasawneh, Rector of Yarmouk University (Jordan 2001)



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the honorary doctorate from Prof. Toufik El Ouazzani Chahdi, President of the Sidi Mohamed bin Abdullah University in Fes (15 December 2006)



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain with Bakhytzhon Zhmagulov, Kazakhstan's Minister of Education, after receiving the honorary doctorate from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan (25 September 2009)



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the honorary doctorate from Prof. José Manuel Roldán Noguerras, Rector of the University of Cordoba (7 November 2013)



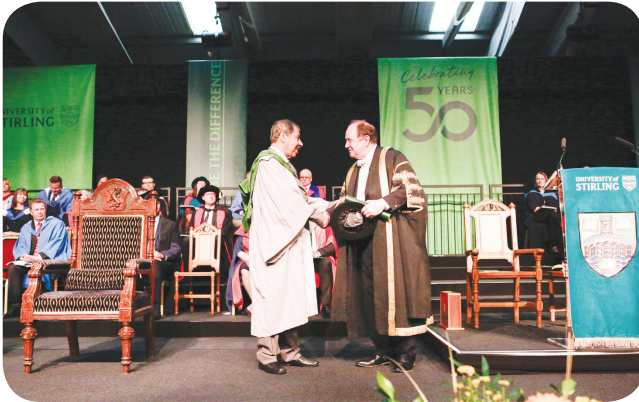
Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the honorary doctorate from Dr. Mohammad Hossein Omid, Chancellor of the University of Tehran (26 May 2014)



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the honorary doctorate from the Higher President of the University of Kuwait Dr. Badr Hamad Al-Essa and acting director of the University Dr. Hayat Hajji (27 May 2015)



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain during the graduation ceremony of the University of Stirling 2017, sitting on the chair of the honouree.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the honorary doctorate from the Chancellor of the University of Stirling Dr James Naughtie (29 June 2017)



Abdulaziz Al-Babrain with Academics and Staff of the University of Stirling after receiving the honorary doctorate.

3 - Awards and Accolades

He has received numerous prestigious awards, including:

- 1 - The Tunisian Order of Cultural Merit from the President of Tunisia, for his efforts in the cultural sphere, 1996.
- 2 - The Order of Independence of the first class from HM King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 2001.
- 3 - The State Award from the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters in Kuwait, 2002.
- 4 - The National Order of the Cedar (Officer Grade) from the President of the Republic of Lebanon, 2004.
- 5 - The Gold Medal of Excellence from the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), 2004, during the closing session of the 14th Conference of the Arab Cultural Ministers at the Republican Palace in Sana'a, (the capital of Yemen). He is the first Arab businessman to receive this honour.

- 6 - The Kuwait Order of the Sash (First Degree) from HH the Amir of Kuwait, in recognition of his outstanding efforts in literature and culture, which benefit Kuwait's reputation nationally, regionally and internationally, 2005.
- 7 - The Gold Medal of Science, Literature and Arts from the President of the Republic of Sudan, 2005
- 8 - The Knight Order from the President of Italy Giorgio Napolitano in appreciation of his efforts in the fields of culture and dialogue of civilizations, 2009.
- 9 - The high-level Order of Civil Merit from the King of Spain Juan Carlos in recognition of his cultural efforts in Andalusia, 2009.
- 10 - The Thomas Aquinas Cultural Award, which is awarded by the University of Cordoba to international prominent figures, in recognition of his academic contributions to the University and the Andalusian civilization, 2010.
- 11 - A prestigious order from the Ruler of Ajman in recognition of his community outreach efforts in the fields of education, culture and poetic creativity, 2010.

- 12 - The “University of Sarajevo Golden Badge”, 2010, in recognition of his efforts in the inter-civilizations dialogue. He is the third to receive this badge after Mahathir bin Mohamad –former Prime Minister of Malaysia- and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan – President of Turkey.
- 13 - Honorary Commando Badge from the President of the Republic of Comoros, Dr Ikililou Dhoinine, 2011.
- 14 - A badge of honor from the Speaker of the Maltese House of Representatives, Mr Michael Frendo, in appreciation to his efforts in the inter-cultural dialogue, 2011.
- 15 - The Medal of Excellence from the Waldenburg International College (UK), 2012.
- 16 - The Palestine Order of Merit for Culture, Sciences and Arts” (level of creativity)” from President Mahmoud Abbas, 2014, in appreciation for his contributions to support the Palestinian people; and their cause.
- 17 - The “Totem for Peace 2015” from the “Fondazione Mediterraneo”, based in Naples, Italy. It is considered one of the world’s most prestigious



awards and ranks second after the Nobel Prize and was awarded to a number of eminent figures.

- 18 - The Presidential Medal of Merit of the first class for Social Responsibility from the Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, 2015.
- 19 - The higher rank of the “Cultural Order of Merit”, from His Excellency Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi, in recognition of his cultural efforts around the world to consolidate the culture of love and peace, in 2016.
- 20 - Legion of Honor given by President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa President of the Republic of Portugal, in appreciation for his role in spreading the culture of peace around the world, and for his efforts to achieve communication between peoples of the world for the year 2018.





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Photographs







HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait awards poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain the Kuwaiti Order of the Sash (First Degree), granted to him by HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (God bless his soul) in 2005.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the Gold Medal of Science, Literature and Arts from HE the President of Sudan (31 December 2005)



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the Knight Order from HE the Italian Ambassador in Kuwait, on behalf of the President of Italy Giorgio Napolitano, in appreciation of his efforts in the fields of culture and dialogue of civilizations, 2009



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the Honorary Commando Order of the Green Crescent from Presidency Advisor, Colonel Hassan Haroun, on behalf of President Ikililou Dhoinine of the Republic of Comoros (19 October 2011)



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the Presidential Medal of Merit of the first class for Social Responsibility from Sudanese Vice-President Mr Hasabo Abdul Rahman, on behalf of the President (27 December 2015)



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the higher rank of the “Cultural Order of Merit” from HE Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi (27 January 2016)



Portuguese President Marcelo Ribalo with the honorees, including Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al - Babtain - Lisbon - 5 April 2018

4 - Other Tributes

In recognition to his efforts in promoting and supporting the fields of culture, poetry, literature and intercultural dialogue, Poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain has been honoured in various forms and by different institutions, including:

- 1 - The Monday meeting (Ithnainia) of Sheikh Abdul Maqsoud Khoja in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia celebrated him on 21/02/2000.
- 2 - The Mass communication Department - Kuwait University has chosen him in 2000, “Personality of the year “.
- 3-Received an honorary diploma from the Progressive Social Union for Women in Kyrgyzstan for his efforts in supporting friendship between peoples on 26/04/2002.
- 4 - The Monday meeting (Ithnainia) of Sheikh Mohammad Bin Saleh Al-Naeem in Al-Ahsa, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia celebrated him on 29/12/2003.

- 5 - He was honoured by Al-Arabi magazine at its annual seminar in Kuwait, for his cultural endeavors, 2003.
- 6 - He was celebrated by the 36th Cairo International Book Fair, 27/01/2004.
- 7 - He was celebrated in Beirut, by Al-Hariri Charitable Foundation and the Arab Cultural Club, on 21/02/2004.
- 8 - He was honoured by Sheikh Mohammad bin Ali bin Eid Al-Khater, in an honorary celebration held in the town of Jubail, Saudia Arabia, on 16/03/2004.
- 9 - The University of Kuwait honoured him on “Kuwait’s Writers Day” in recognition of his cultural and humanitarian contributions, April 2004.
- 10 - Journalist Mohammad Reda Nasrallah held an honorary ceremony to him in Qatif, Saudi Arabia on 18/11/2004.
- 11 - The Centre for Studies and Research in Sana’a (the capital of Yemen) awarded him its shield on 02/12/2004, in the presence of then Yemeni Minister of Higher Education, Dr Abdulwahab

Raweh and the President of the Centre, Dr Abdulaziz Al- Maqaleh.

- 12 - The Yemeni Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mr. Khaled Al-Ruwaishan, awarded him the “Commemoration of Sana’a, the Capital of Arab Culture,” in 2004.
- 13 - Makassed Islamic Charitable Association of Sidon, South Lebanon, granted him an honorary shield on 15/06/2005.
- 14 - He was a Guest of Honour at the 22nd International Writers’ Reunion in Lahti, Finland (18-21 June 2005) which held a poetry reading evening and published selections from his poetry translated into Finnish and English.
- 15 - He was honoured by the University of Molise in Campobasso in southern Italy, on 28/07/2005.
- 16 - He was honoured at a cultural festival hosted by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Abdulmohsen Al-Madi in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 10/12/2005.
- 17 - On 30/06/2006 the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr. Fouad Siniora, honoured Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, in the presence of then the Minister of Culture, Dr Tareq Mitri, for

donating 10,000 books in favor of the project of rehabilitating the Lebanese National Library and for all his efforts towards culture, poetry and creativity in the Arab world.

18 - He was invited and honoured through a cultural evening held at the Opera House in Cairo on 16/05/2007.

19 - He was honoured by the Tunisian Writers Union for being a prominent figure in contemporary Arabic poetry and for his substantial efforts to promote Arabic poetry, 23/06/2007.

20 - Honoured by Al-Sharq Newspaper, in January, 2008, at the Kuwaiti Creativity Festival for 2007.

21- Honoured by The “Lisan Al-Arab Association” at the 14th International Arab League Conference in November 2007.

22- Honoured by “Arabian Business Magazine”, on 16/12/2007, he also was awarded its prize in (Social Responsibility), in recognition of his initiatives in this field. The magazine is published by the ITP Group for Publishing & Information Technology.

23- Received on 24/12/2007, the ‘Golden Key’, an honorary award from the University of Yazd in

Iran, in recognition of his role in holding courses for Arabic-language skills and the appreciation of poetry in many Iranian universities.

- 24- The Monday meeting (Ithnainia) of Sheikh Othman Al-Saleh, celebrated him in Riyadh, Saudia Arabia.
- 25- Received a shield from the University of Alexandria (Egypt) in recognition of his contributions in Arabic poetry in general and the University of Alexandria in particular, 17/04/2008.
- 26- He has been granted a premium membership at Al-Washm Club in Shaqraa, Saudi Arabia, 2008.
- 27- The Minister of Information in Kuwait awarded him a commemorative shield on 15/04/2009.
- 28- Honoured by the Suez Canal University for his leading role in serving the Arabic language, culture and poetry, April 2009.
- 29- Honored by “Al-Ahsa Literary Club” on 25/11/2009, in the presence of a group of regional poets and intellectuals.
- 30- The Medical Association of Kuwait has chosen him its Emeritus President on 14/02/2010.

- 31- Selected “The Emeritus President” of the Arabic Literature Club of the American University of Kuwait on 23/02/2010.
- 32- Honoured with the media creativity prize known as “The Cultural Media Adaptation Award” by The Arab Media Forum on 25/04/2010, under the patronage of HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, at the time the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait.
- 33- Granted the citizenship of the Republic of the Comoros in a ceremony attended by His Excellency the President of the Republic; Ahmed Abdullah Sambi, and His Excellency the President of the Parliament; Burhan Hamed, in recognition of his role in the Arabization and the dissemination of the Arabic language in the Republic of the Comoros, on 12/9/2010.
- 34- On 21/2/2011 he was granted the Cap of Tatarstan from Ms. Zelaya Valieva; Culture Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tatarstan.
- 35- The center of Arrawdah of Sudair in Saudi Arabia, honoured him on the occasion of the Center’s Annual Award in 12/5/2011.



- 36- Named Honorary President and member of the Supreme Council of the Governing Body of the World Poetry Academy, which is based in the Italian city of Verona, succeeding the world renowned poet Leopold Senghor (11 June 2011).
- 37- He also received the honorary citizenship of Verona (Italy).
- 38- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) awarded him its Honourary Medal for his role in protecting the environment in the area of Shait in 11/6/2011.
- 39- The longest main street in the Province of Mbeni north of the Comoros is named after Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain.
- 40- Honoured by the European Parliament in Brussels (Belgium) for his efforts to promote the dialogue of civilizations, 20 December 2011
- 41- Honoured by Kuwait Blind Association for his role in the service of social and cultural life (20/12/2011).
- 42- Honored by the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (USA) in appreciation of his efforts in the dialogue of civilizations and intercultural



understanding, within a big celebration held by its Department of Near Eastern Studies for this occasion, 16 April 2012.

43- He received the “Poetry Cloak (Burda)” and the “shield of the Country of Million Poets”, from the Foundation of Chinguetti for Culture and Development on 28/4/2012.

44- Named Ambassador of Goodwill and Personality of the Year 2012 by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) in the USA, in recognition of his global cultural initiatives and efforts to foster creative arts, as well as his significant contributions in the field of education and leading role in forging dialogue between the world’s civilizations. A celebration was held on this occasion on 22 February 2013, he was awarded certificates of recognition from:

- The Congressman; John D. Dingell.
- Gary Woronchak; the Chairman of Wayne County Commission.
- George T. Darany; Michigan State Representative (the Fifteenth District), Morris W. Hood; State Senator (The Third District) and Rick Snyder (Governor).
- John Conyers, Jr.; Member of Congress (13th District of Michigan)

- US Senator; Carl Levin.
- Robert A. Ficano; Wayne County Executive.
- Mayor of Dearborn; John B. O'Reilly, Jr.
- US. Senator; Debbie Stabenow

- 45- Honoured by the Mohamed V University in Rabat (Morocco) which held a literary seminar to discuss his poetry in his two collections of poems: “*Baah Al-Bawadi*” (Intimations of the deserts) and “*Musafir fi Al-Qifar*” (Wastefarer) (30-31 May 2013). The University also decided to set 30 May as an annual ceremony to honour Kuwaiti poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain for his efforts in the fields of poetry and dialogue of civilizations.
- 46- The Foundation of the “Arab house”, in Madrid (Spain), celebrated him on 8/11/2013.
- 47- Honoured by the University of Chinguetti in Mauritania on 13/11/2013 and was awarded the University shield in recognition of his efforts to save the poetry in Chinguetti through the Al-Babtain Encyclopedias and other outstanding work to preserve the heritage of the great figures of Chinguetti.
- 48- Honoured by the House of Wisdom in Iraq at a cultural symposium held on 24/11/2013 at Al-Babtain Central Library for his leading role in serving Arab culture and Arabic language.

- 49- He received the award of the Arab federation of libraries and information in Medina, Saudi Arabia, for the year 2013, awarded for personalities supporting libraries and cultural activity, on 26/11/2013.
- 50- Honoured by the Kuwait Writers Association for his intensive and ongoing efforts to promote Arab culture and the Arabic language at the Arab and global levels, 23 December 2013 and 5 October 2016.
- 51- The Governor of Farawaniya, His Excellency, Sheikh Faisal Malek Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah, honoured him with the Al-Sabah Family tree, on 21/10/2014, during the opening ceremony of Abu-Tammam Al-Ta'î's Session, held in Marrakech, Morocco, 21-23 October, 2014.
- 52- Named the "Literary and Cultural personality of the year 2014" in the annual Festival for Creativity in Kuwait, 2 December 2014.
- 53- He was honoured by AL-Babtain family in Rawdat Sudair, Saudi Arabia, on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity, 5 December 2014.



- 54- On 27/1/2015, the president of Beirut Bar Association visited Al-Babtain Central Library for Arabic Poetry in Kuwait, to honour him with the Association's Shield in recognition of his cultural achievements.
- 55- He was selected by the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science (ALECSO) and Al-Ahram Newspaper in Cairo, guest of honour of the "Arabic Poetry Day" festival, held on 21-22 March, 2015.
- 56- He was honoured by the Egyptian magazine "Nisf Al-dunia", published by the prestigious Foundation "Al-Ahram", on the occasion of the first Arabic Poetry Day, held in Cairo on 21-22 March, 2015. He received an honorary shield for his leading role and contributions in preserving Arabic poetry and enriching the Arab culture across the world.
- 57- Honoured by the PAAT Training Faculty Association of Applied Colleges in the state of Kuwait, in recognition of his efforts and achievements in supporting culture, poetry, literature and dialogue of civilizations, on 28/4/2015.



- 58- The “Poetry Forum” in the Lebanese city of Ba’qaleen, Mount Lebanon, honoured him on May 2nd, 2015, in recognition of his cultural role and his contributions in the fields of poetry and literature. They also planted a cedar tree bearing his name.
- 59- The Timeless Cedar Forest Company in Lebanon has chosen him an honorary member, on 02/05/2015.
- 60- Honoured by Egypt Judges Club “as one of the most important Arab personalities that preserved and enriched the cultural movement in the Arab world”, on 15/01/2015, during the Club celebration of “Egyptian Judiciary Day”, attended by the Minister of Justice Counsel Ahmed Al-Zend and the Egypt Judges Club members .
- 61- Selected Goodwill Ambassador for Culture, by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), in the launch of the Organization Goodwill Ambassadors’ programme. The Ceremony was held on 01/03/2015, in Tunisia with the presence of His Excellency President Beji Caid Essebsi, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Dr Nabil

El-Araby and the Director General of ALECSO,
Dr Abdullah Mohareb.

- 62- Named Honorary President of the Kuwaiti cultural salon in Cairo, on 10/05/2015, in appreciation of his leading role in promoting Arabic poetry and literature.
- 63- Honoured by Kuwait Aircraft Engineers & Pilots Association (KAEPA) on 10/07/2016 in recognition of his support to the Association.
- 64- On 15/09/2016, the University of Oxford renamed the oldest and best known chair in Arabic in the English-speaking world, the Laudian Chair in Arabic, established in 1636 by William Laud, who at the time was Chancellor of the University of Oxford and Archbishop of Canterbury, the Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Laudian Chair in Arabic, in appreciation to his generous support to the Chair and the University.
- 65- Received, on 21/09/2016 in a ceremony held at Al-Babtain Central Library for Arabic Poetry, an honorary gold medal from the Ambassador of Kazakhstan in Kuwait, for his personal efforts in promoting Arabic culture and literature, his instrumental role to the betterment of Kuwait's

ties with Kazakhstan, and for his contributions in the education of Kazakh students in a number of academic institutions in the Arab countries.

66-Honoured by Kuwait Public Relations Association with the “Shield of Role Model Initiative”, in appreciation for his role in supporting the cultural movement in Kuwait, 18/10/2016.

67- Honoured by Laayoune International Poetry Festival (Morocco), in recognition of his role in enriching the Arabic culture and his contributions to the Arabic language and Poetry. The Laayoune festival is organised by Al-Sakia Al-Hamra of Laayoune in collaboration with Sidi Mohamed ben Abdellah University in Fez, under the auspices of Morocco’s King Mohammed VI, on 4-5 November 2016.

68- Honoured by Isa Cultural Centre in Bahrain, for his pioneering role in the dissemination of the Arabic culture, poetry and literature in the international forums, 08/11/2016.

69- Awarded the Golden Prize of Oman International Conference on Social Responsibility in collaboration with the United Nations and named “UN commissioner to preach the goals of



the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development” for his role in the programmes of community service and social responsibility regionally and globally, 20/12/2016.

70- A special seminar was held to honour him at Al Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Centre on the occasion of the Centre opening, 08/01/2017.

71- Honoured by His Excellency the Governor of Hawalli Governoate, Kuwait during the ceremony of the Governorate Award for Excellence 2017, 15/02/2017.

72- Received the Distinguished Global Leadership and Humanitarian Award from the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, in recognition of his contributions to global wellbeing and his tireless support of educational and cultural initiatives as well as Arabic poetry, 07/09/2017.

73 - The “Key to the City of Fez in Morocco” was awarded at a great ceremony on January 27, 2018 in recognition of all the efforts and contributions for the enrichment of cultural life in the Kingdom of Morocco. The Key of the City was received from the mayor of the city of Fez Idris Azmi, in presence of the Ambassador of Kuwait to Morocco, Moroccan



officials as well as a number of academics, writers, intellectuals, poets and journalists.

74- Honored by the Moroccan Ministry of Culture on January, 27, 2018 and awarded a commemorative shield, which he received from Mr Hamid Zakaria, Inspector General of the Ministry of Culture on behalf of the Minister of Culture, Mr. Mohammed Al-A'raj. This award was in recognition of his efforts to serve the Arab culture and spread the values of dialogue and coexistence among cultures.

75- Honored by “House of Palestine” by giving him a commemorative shield on April 23, 2018 in recognition of the great efforts in spreading culture. The award was also given on the occasion of the publication of “Al-Quds: A Collection of Poems (Diwan)” by the Foundation.

76- Awarded by the Secretary General of the Amiri Diwan to the royal family’s H.E Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah a commemorative shield at a ceremony honoring the symbols of charity work held at the House of Lords in London in March 2018. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain delivered a speech on behalf of the Honorable members of the Council.

5 - His Efforts in the Cultural, Educational and Humanitarian Fields

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain grew up in a family with passion for literature and poetry. His father was a poet who wrote Nabati poetry (which is known as Bedouin poetry). His paternal uncle was a judge whereas his maternal uncle was the great grandchild of the famous Arab poet Mohamed bin Laaboun. Therefore, Abdulaziz Al-Babtain had a great passion for poetry and literature since his early years. He was a passionate reader of eminent Arab poets in which he found his inspiration. Though he pursued an entrepreneurial career path and eventually became one of the most prominent businessmen in the country, literature and poetry remained on top of his priorities, poetry in particular, once considered “the register of the Arabs”.

In the mid-seventies, he established Saud Al-Babtain Kuwaiti Scholarship for postgraduate studies as he was convinced that everything starts with a good education. Towards the end of the twentieth century, literature in the Arab world began to surge and its role and relevance started to diminish, particu-

larly in the field of poetic creativity. Therefore, the poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain focused on patronizing literature and honouring poets and intellectuals. He established the following:

A - In the fields of Literature and Culture:

■ Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation

The Foundation, established in 1989, in Cairo, Egypt, was named at the beginning; “The Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain’s Prize for Poetic Creativity”, within which, as a founder, he turned his dream into reality by founding an institution dedicated to poetry “The Register of Arabs”. Over the years, the Foundation has been awarding creative poets and critics and publishing various books related to poetry and criticism. It has developed successfully and opened regional offices in Tunisia, Amman and Kuwait, in addition to Cairo.

During a journey of about 30 years, the Foundation has expanded its activities to promoting the translation from and into Arabic Language, as well as advancing the intercultural dialogue. In 2015, the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain’s Prize

for Poetic Creativity was restructured and renamed “Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation”, then, it founded the EU branch in 2017, in Rome, Italy.

The following lines present a summary of the Foundation’s activities:

- Since its establishment, the Foundation has held fifteen Sessions in several Arab and foreign countries, with the presence of eminent elite of poets, intellectuals, statesmen, politicians, press and media. The Sessions celebrated great poets from different ages, including: Ibn Zaidoun, Abu Tamam Al-Ta’i, Abu Firas Al-Hamadani, ibn al Moqarrab al-Ayouni, Emir Abdelkader El Djezairi, Ahmed Shawqi, Mahmoud Sami Al-Baroudi, Aboul-Qasim Echebbi, Ahmed Mashari al-Adwani, Khalil Mutran, Ibrahim Touqan, Al-Akhtal Al-Sagheer, Mohammad Ali-Mak Dizdar from Sarajevo and Lamartine from France. In addition, the Foundation convened seminars dedicated to dialogue among civilization and intercultural and inter-religions coexistence in order to present a good image intellectually and culturally about Arabs and Muslims.

- The Foundation also held seven literary forums and an annual poetry festival, the “Spring of Arabic Poetry festival”, launched by poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain for the first time in 2008 to keep pace with the novelties in the poetry day celebrations all over the world, in particular the “World Poetry Day” designed by the UNESCO on March 21. This festival has been held for ten editions; each one celebrated two Arab poets and was attended by hundreds of poets from all over the Arab World.
- All the Sessions, forums and festivals included hundreds of published books in poetry, criticism, intercultural dialogue, which count to four hundreds publications.
- Al-Babtain Encyclopedias for poets are one of the most important achievements of the Foundation and poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain. These Encyclopedias, published in several volumes and editions, document the different stages of Arabic poetry by naming poets and their poetry. And if Arabic poetry was known as the “register of the Arabs”, these Encyclopedias are the register of poets and poetry in several centuries. The first



published one was “Al-Babtain’s Encyclopedia of Contemporary Arab Poets”, in three editions, the first edition published in 1995 with 1640 poets, and the third edition had 2514 poets. A fourth edition is being currently reviewed and will be published soon.

- The second Encyclopedia was “Al-Babtain’s Encyclopedia of Arabic Poets in the 19th and 20th Centuries”, published in 2008 in 25 volumes with (11,000 poets).
- The Foundation is currently working on the third encyclopedia which covers poets in five centuries “Al-Babtain’s Encyclopedia of Arabic Poets in the Era of States and Emirates: (656-1215AH/1258-1800CE)
- The Foundation has also contributed to activities in several fields and different cultural events, including: “Diwan Al-Arab contest”, an annual poetry contest in cooperation with Sawt-al-Arab radio station in Cairo, Egypt; the “Arab Epic Poem” which started with an initiative from the poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain when he wrote a poem about peace, renouncing violence and



sectarianism and invited poets from all over the Arab world to contribute with poems in the same subjects forming an epic. The “Arab Epic” was published in 2017 with 4 thousands verse written by 113 poets. It was translated into English and printed in October 2017.

- The Foundation is always attending and participating remarkably in the celebrations of the selected Arab and Islamic cultural capitals such as Kuwait Arabic Cultural Capital in 2001 and Islamic Cultural Capital in 2016.

■ **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain’s Prize for Imam Al-Bukhari’s Grandchildren**

Poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain gave special attention to Central Asia. He established the “Prize for Imam Al-Bukhari’s Grandchildren”, named after one of the most famous scholars of “*Hadith*” (record of the traditions or sayings of the Prophet Muhammad). The prize, (worth of USD 10,000) is dedicated to strengthen the cultural ties between Kuwait and the newly independent Islamic countries, and to encourage intellectual and cultural dialogue between Kuwait and other Islamic countries.

■ **Al-Babtain Central Library for Arabic Poetry**

This library is a cultural edifice for the most important books and manuscripts of Arabic poetry and Islamic heritage. It contains hundreds of thousands of books, periodicals, manuscripts and more than 4685 academic theses in addition to the newest e-services.

It was founded as a gift from Abdulaziz Al-Babtain to the people of Kuwait and the Arab world on the occasion of selecting Kuwait “Capital of Arab Culture” in 2001. The first stone was laid during a ceremony on 06/01/2002 and it was inaugurated on 08/04/2006 under the patronage of HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. It is the first library in the world that is dedicated to Arabic poetry.

■ **Al-Babtain Center for Authenticating Poetic Manuscripts**

Poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain continued his dreams and ambitions concerning the Arabic Poetry by establishing this Center in 2007. It is dedicated to authenticate and publish collection of poems found as manuscripts or collected editions, and to publish books on poetic heritage in fully authenticated vol-

umes. The Center has published tens of books to writers and poets whose works were neglected or hidden for centuries.

■ **Al-Babtain Translation Center**

As Abdulaziz Al-Babtain is concerned not only with Arabic language and poetry but also with Arabic culture as a whole, he founded in 2005 Al-Babtain Translation Center, aiming to foster the translation movement, from other languages to Arabic and vice versa. The Center has published tens of books on scientific and academic culture.

■ **Al-Babtain Kuwaiti Library in Jerusalem**

In support of the people of Palestine, he founded “Al-Babtain Kuwaiti Library” at the campus of the Faculty of Arts, University of Jerusalem, to provide research facilities to the citizens of Jerusalem and Palestine and to be an open window for Palestinians to the culture of the world.

■ **Al-Babtain Kuwaiti Award for Arabic Poetry in Palestine**

This award was another support to the people of Palestine, especially the youth who are the future

of any country. Abdulaziz Al-Babtain launched this award dedicated to young Palestinian poets (under 35 years), from the occupied territories to encourage them to write poetry.

B - In the Field of Education:

Today's youth are the future leaders. Therefore, increasing investment in educating young people is a key to the success of every country. Being raised in an educated family with passion for Arabic language and poetry, Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain invested in the education. His contributions are as follows:

■ Saud Al-Babtain Kuwaiti Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies

It was established in 1974 to help poor students continue their education and postgraduate studies in foreign universities. It offers 400 scholarships annually to students from Central Asia, Africa, the Arab world, the Balkan countries and Europe.

Students continue to receive this scholarship. So far, eight thousands students have benefited from this Scholarship with more than 500 Kuwaitis.

■ **Training Courses for Prosody, Poetry appreciation and Arabic Language skills**

As a passionate reader of Arabic poetry, Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain wrote his first poem when he was 14 years old. Through his Foundation, he decided to offer free training courses in prosody, poetry appreciation, the Arabic language, as well as training radio and TV presenters. The duration of each course is four months.

These courses started in 2000 in many Arab countries and in collaboration with 57 Arab and foreign university and reached at the end of 2015, (580) courses in many countries all over the world, namely: Morocco, Tunisia, India, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, United States of America, Mali, Niger and Chad with a total of 24, 456 graduates. Other courses for teaching Arabic language for non-native speakers were convened in many European universities as per its request, such as in Malta, Sicily and Spain.

In Kuwait, the Foundation held several training courses including ones in cooperation with the Ministry of Information for new TV anchors to develop their Arabic language skills, and others in coopera-

tion with the Ministry of Education offered for teachers of Arabic language to develop their skills. Other courses were held at the Arab Open University in Kuwait to teach Arabic to non-native

The Foundation started also in May 1st, 2009 a programme for 15 years to revive and disseminate the Arabic Language in the Comoros and to Arabi-
cize the signs of the streets and the governmental buildings. Arabic Language courses were held for the Government officials, in addition to establishing “Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Department for preparing Arabic teachers” in the University of the Comoros.

■ **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Center for Intercultural Dialogue**

In 2001, Abdulaziz Al-Babtain launched an initiative for dialogue and convergence between civilizations and religions, as he thought of a new role for the Foundation in the intercultural and inter-civilizational dialogue together with its literary role. In 2005, he founded this center in Spain, aiming to promote cultural and religious dialogue and to consolidate values such as tolerance, open-mindedness and coexistence between peoples of the world as well as

explain the real Islam and what makes a Muslim to people from other faiths. This sought to communicate that Muslims are advocates of peace and love.

The Center is cooperating with foreign Universities to supervise the Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chairs for Arabic Culture, established in many prestigious universities in the five continents.

The Center is currently supervising the following activities:

- **Spanish Tour Guides Courses**

Since his early years, Abdulaziz Al-Babtain was fond of Ibn Zaydun, the famous Arab poet of Cordoba and Seville. When he visited south of Spain, he noticed the lack of knowledge of the Spanish tour guides. He therefore decided to offer these fully-funded courses taught by Arab and Spanish experts in order enlighten the tour guides on Arab and Islamic civilization of Andalusia.

These courses were convened for the first time in 2005 in collaboration with the University of Cordoba, and then expanded to the Universities of Granada, Malaga and Seville. The duration of each course is seven months.

- **Al-Babtain Chairs for Arabic Culture**

Promoting learning of the Arabic language and understanding of the Arabic culture in foreign universities were always on top of Abdulaziz Al-Babtain priorities. Therefore, he launched the previously-mentioned training courses which had been developed into Chairs for Arabic Culture in several universities around the world.

These Chairs offer Arabic language classes for non-native speakers during the academic year. The student receives a certificate at the end of each year stating the end of an Arabic language level. At the end of the third year, the student is given the final certificate. The Chairs also offer monthly lectures on the influence of Arabic culture in the hosting countries.

The Chairs are:

- 1 - **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Arabic Culture at the University of Cordoba, Spain**, established in 2004.
- 2 - **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Arabic Culture at the University of Granada, Spain**, established in 2007.

- 3 - **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Arabic Culture at the University of Malaga, Spain**, established in 2008.
- 4 - **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Arabic Culture at the University of Seville, Spain**, established in 2009.
- 5 - **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Arabic Culture at the University of Nice, France**, established in 2010.
- 6 - **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Arabic Culture at the University of Roma Tre, Italy**, established in 2013.
- 7 - **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Arabic Culture at the University of Beijing, China**, established in 2015.
- 8 - **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Laudian Chair in Arabic at the University of Oxford, the United Kingdom**, After his generous re-endowment of the oldest Chair in Arabic Language in the University of Oxford and Europe; the Laudian Chair, was named Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Laudian Chair in Arabic, on September 15, 2016. This chair was established in 1636 by William Laud, who at the time was Chan-

cellor of the University of Oxford and Archbishop of Canterbury.

- 9 - **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Arabic Culture at the University of Modern Chinguetti, Mauritania**, established in 2016.
- 10- **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Arabic Culture at the University of Mogadishu, Somalia**, established in 2016.
- 11- **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Arabic Culture at the University of Palermo, Italy**. Established in December 2016, after the meeting of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain with the Mayor of Palermo Leoluca Orlando and the President of the University.
- 12- **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Arabic Culture at the University of Sinnar, Sudan**, established in 2016.
- 13- **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair of the Arabic Culture at the University of Kara, Togo**, established in 2017.
- 14- **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair of the Arabic Culture at the University of N'Djamena, Chad**, established in 2017.

15- Abu Al-Qasim Al-Shabi's Poetry Chair, which was established in cooperation with the Tunisian Presidency and inaugurated at the City of Culture in Tunis in presence of H.E the president of the Tunisian Republic Mr. Béji Caid Essebsi , the Tunisian Minister of Culture, the members of the Kuwaiti-Tunisian Cooperation Council, ambassadors, intellectuals and also poets on June 29, 2018.

• **Other Kinds of Academic Cooperation**

- 1 - Master program in Contemporary Arabic Studies at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain** Established in 2016, this program, Master in Contemporary Arabic Studies, is the first in the European universities and one of a few MA programs in Europe taught entirely in Arabic.
- 2 - The Department of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain for Arabic Teachers at the University of Comoros, the Union of the Comoros**, established in 2017.
- 3 - The Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation Visiting Professorship in Arabic Culture at the University of Leiden, Netherlands**, established in 2017.



- 4 - The establishment of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Centre for Arab Culture at the University of Yerevan, Armenia, on January 08, 2018.
- 5 - Establishment of Al-Babtain University of Leiden Centre for Arab culture at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands to be inaugurated on October 10, 2018.

■ **Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Global Prize for Historical and Cultural Studies of Andalusia**

Though he established several Chairs in Spanish universities mostly in Andalusia in addition to the tour guides training courses, Abdulaziz remained interested in the Arab existence in Andalusia and its impact. Therefore, he launched the “Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Global Prize for Historical and Cultural Studies of Andalusia” in collaboration with the University of Cordoba. The prize is worth of USD 30,000 and is dedicated to the best research that highlights a new aspect of the history or culture of the Islamic civilization in Andalusia.

■ **The Kuwait Center for Arabic and Islamic Studies**

This was established at the Imam Al-Shafi'i College in the Comoros University on 27/01/2009 as



part of the Arabization programme launched by Abdulaziz Al-Babtain in the Comoros to support education and revival of Arabic language.

■ **Al-Babtain Institute for Intercultural Dialogue**

This institute complements Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's endeavour to establish a dialogue between European and Arab cultures. Based in the University of Roma Tre, it was founded in cooperation with the Altiero Spinelli Centre, Italy, and Foundation of Meseuro, Belgium on 09/11/2012. Through the Master's programmes, the Institute seeks to promote the culture of dialogue, tolerance and moderation in European and Arab societies as well as among different cultures, civilizations and religions.

■ **Al-Babtain Fund in Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, USA**

The diffusion of the Arabic language reached all five continents after establishing this fund with the President of the University to promote teaching Arabic literature and language in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. This was done through periodical lectures, cultural and literary activities, in



addition to funding scholarships for a number of American students to study Arabic language in Arab Universities.

■ **Al-Babtain Academy for Arabic Poetry**

It was established in January 2017 to develop the training courses in prosody, poetry appreciation and Arabic language skills held in Kuwait and to serve wider segment of the society. The first two courses were held at Al-Babtain Central Library for Arabic Poetry to young and adults in prosody, poetry appreciation and elocution. Participants from several countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Iran, Senegal and Indonesia joined these courses.

In October 2017, the Academy launched the first level of a diploma in Poetic Creativity, in collaboration with the World Poetry Academy in Verona, Italy.

It also held Arabic Language Courses dedicated to non-native speakers of the diplomatic missions to the state of Kuwait. 130 diplomats from more than 30 missions, attended the first course.

■ **Building Schools and Institutes**

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's endeavours to improve education continued in various forms such as



building more than 25 schools, colleges and institutes in several countries as charitable contributions on behalf of Kuwait. These were established on the condition to maintain the name of the school and to teach the Arabic language. The schools are listed below:

- Kuwait Secondary School in Nuzha, Alexandria, Egypt.
- King Fahad Secondary School in Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt.
- Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Secondary School in Mokattam, Cairo, Egypt.
- Kuwaiti Moroccan Brotherhood Secondary School in Guelmim, Morocco.
- Sheikh Mohammad Amin Al-Shanqeeti Secondary School in Basra, Iraq.
- Kuwait School in Drenka, South Egypt.
- Kuwaiti-Moroccan Friendship School in Marrakech, Morocco.
- Kuwait School in Kyrgyzstan.
- Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz School in Bamako, Republic of Mali.
- Kuwait School in Kidal, Republic of Mali.
- Kuwait School in Quetta, Republic of Pakistan.
- Kuwait School in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Kuwait School in Karabakh refugee camps, Azerbaijan.

- Kuwait Algerian Brotherhood School in Aghwat, Algeria.
- Kuwait School in Qadiati governorate, the Republic of Georgia.
- Abdulrahman Al-Babtain Kuwaiti College of Islamic Studies in Shamkent, Kazakhstan.
- Abdulrahman Saud Al-Babtain Kuwaiti Institutes for Oriental Languages at the University of GOI, Kyrgyzstan.
- Saud Al-Babtain Kuwaiti College of Arts at the University of Aligarh, India.
- Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Secondary School in Mongolia.

C - The Humanitarian Field

Apart from his endeavours to improve education and spread knowledge of Arabic poetry, literature and culture, Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain was particularly interested in humanitarian action which led him to launch several projects including:

- The Saud Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Center for Skin Burns and Cosmetic Surgery in Kuwait, he donated the costs of the building and the equipment to the Ministry of Health. The center offers free services to citizens and residents.

- The Kuwaiti Medical Center in Hamidieh, South Iran.
- The Saud Al-Babtain Wedding Ballroom in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, dedicated to citizens with low income who would like to hold wedding ceremonies, free of charge.
- The Mutli-Purpose Kuwaiti Cultural Hall in Tulkarem, Palestine.

He also established and renovated many mosques in Arab and Islamic countries. The most recent of these was three mosques in the Republic of Mali, Africa.



6 - Advancing the Culture of Peace with the United Nations

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain has been leading a process of intercultural dialogue since 2005 and recently he launched a new initiative of advancing the Culture of Peace.

In September 2017, he was invited by the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Peter Thompson to participate in the High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace. This forum, organized by the General Assembly at The UN headquarters, New York, is held annually to follow up on the 1999 declaration and program of action adopted by the General Assembly to promote a culture of peace through eight areas which are education; sustainable development; human rights; gender equality; democratic participation; understanding, tolerance and solidarity; free flow of information and knowledge; and promoting international peace and security.

The Chairman of the Foundation participated in the second panel, focusing on “Sowing the Seeds of the Culture of Peace: Early Childhood Develop-



ment is the Beginning”, where he called for a project entitled, “the Security of the Future Generations” by “committing ourselves, the entire international community, UN Member States, all governmental and non-governmental organizations to start tailoring peace based educational and cultural curricula on peace in our world’s educational and cultural programmes and materials, from kindergarten to elementary schools, high schools and universities”.

The Foundation will organize the World Forum for the Culture of Peace at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice (Peace Palace) in The Hague, Netherlands, on June 13, 2019, in the presence of a number of heads of states as well as political, intellectual and cultural elites.

On September 5, 2018, the President of the Foundation, Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations following an invitation by the President of the Association, Miroslav Lajcak, wherein he emphasized the Foundations commitment to promoting a culture of just peace that springs from the state of Kuwait’s commitment to permanently support peace around the world.

In this speech, Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain explained the project of the curricula that the Foundation is working on to teach the Culture of Peace at all levels of education around the world. He presented in the General Assembly the model manual developed by the Foundation to help educational experts prepare seventeen teaching manuals.

He also pointed out that the Foundation undertook the first step in the Project of Culture of Peace for the security of future generations. As a matter of fact, in November 2017, Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain's Chair for the Culture of Peace was inaugurated in Rome, Italy. Through the one hundred universities from different countries around the world, the European Inter university Centre for Democratization and Human Rights has been assigned the role of teaching the culture of peace.

He added that three specialist teams are currently working on the culture of peace curricula. An edition will be presented to the guests of the World Forum for the Culture of Peace which will be organized by the Foundation at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, in June 13, 2019.

- **Partnership with the International Peace Institute:**

In order to promote the culture of peace related to the program of action of the UN, Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain gave the principal speech at a side event during the UN High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace.

The event entitled, “Advancing the Culture of Peace”, was co-organised by the Foundation and the IPI. The President of the UN General Assembly, Peter Thompson was the keynote speaker as well as others including Gilian Bird, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations and Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support of the United Nations, and the audience was high-level member state representatives, UN Ambassadors, senior officials from the UN Secretariat, and representatives of academia, civil society and the private sector.

This was the first of series of activities that will be conducted in the future with the partner of the Foundation, the International Peace Institute.

Then it was the second conference organized by the Foundation in cooperation with the Internation-

al Peace Institute at its headquarters in New York on September 5, 2018. It coincided with the great symposium on the culture of peace organized by the General Assembly of the United Nations and was attended by a large number of Member States representatives. The second conference was entitled: «The Culture of Peace: Towards a True Path for Peace Support.»

The conference was attended by the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Fabrice Huchfield, the former Prime Minister of Australia Kevin Rudd and Karen Pearce, Britain's representative to the United Nations.

- **Abdulaziz Saud Al Babtain Chair for Peace in Europe:**

In order to concretise the Foundation project “Culture of Peace for the Security of Future Generations”, accepted by the UN General Assembly in September 2017, this Chair was launched on November 22, 2017, at the University of Roma Tre, where Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain presented its conception.

The Chair goals are:

- Teaching students the rules for peace and the advancement of the culture of peace.
- Educating students to get special skills to implement culture of peace.
- Contributing in encountering terrorism and fighting “takfiri” thought.

The inaugural lecture was given by Michael Fren-
do, Speaker Emeritus of the Maltese Parliament. It
was followed by speeches supporting the activities of
the Chair, delivered by: Jorge Sampaio former Por-
tuguese President (in a video conference), Charles-
Ferdinand Nothomb, former Belgian Foreign Min-
ister and President of the Foundation “Dialogue
Nord Sud”, Nejib Friji Director of International
Peace Institute Middle East & North Africa (IPI
MENA), Michel Capasso President of “Fundazione
Mediterraneo”, George Ulrich, Secretary General
of the European Inter-University Centre for Hu-
man Rights and Democratisation, Patrizia Martello
, Executive President of the World Poetry Academy,
and Sami Al-Nusf, Former Kuwaiti Minister of In-
formation.



Photographs





Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain with the President of the UN General Assembly Peter Thompson in his office (7 September 2017).



Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, at the UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace, with the President of the UN General Assembly, Peter Thompson and Katalin Annamária Bogyay, Representative of Hungary to the United Nations



Giving his speech at the second session of the High-Level Forum



The UN General Assembly High-Level Forum
on the Culture of Peace



Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain at the IPI with (from left to right) Terje Roed-Larsen the President of the IPI, Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, Adam Lupel Vice President of the IPI, Gilian Bird Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations and Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support of the UN



Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain during the event held at the IPI on the sidelines of the UNGA High-Level Forum



Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain addressing the audience at the IPI event



At the opening ceremony of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Peace in Europe (right to left), Michael Frendo, Speaker Emeritus of the Maltese Parliament, Professor Luca Pietromarchi, Rector of Roma Tre University, Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Professor Luigi Moccia, President of the Centre of excellence Altiero Spinelli.



The audience at the opening ceremony of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Chair for Peace in Europe held on 22 November 2017 at the Great Hall of Roma Tre University.



The guests of the ceremony, from right to left, Michael Frendo, Speaker Emeritus of the Maltese Parliament, Luigi Moccia, President of the Centre of excellence Altero Spinelli, Patrizia Martello, Executive President of the World Poetry Academy in Verona, Michel Capasso, President of “Fundazione Mediterraneo”, Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Nejib Friji, Director of International Peace Institute Middle East & North Africa (IPI MENA), Sami Al-Nisf, former Minister of Information of Kuwait, Dr Touhami Abdouli, Director-General of the Foundation, and Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, former Belgian Foreign Minister and President of the Foundation “Dialogue Nord Sud”.



Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain with Miroslav Lajčák, President of the United Nations General Assembly at his office.
(September 5, 2018)



Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain during his speech at the General Assembly of the United Nations, presenting the model manual prepared by the Foundation for the education of Culture of Peace at all levels of education around the world. (September 5, 2018)

7 - Books, Studies and Academic Theses on Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Poetry

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain was honoured at several occasions in appreciation of his relentless efforts to promote Arabic poetry. Studying his collections of poems was one of the tributes given to a man who has honoured Arabic poetry by giving back its status in the Arabic literature scene. Many books, studies and academic theses studying and analyzing his poetry were published all over the Arab world, namely:

First- the Books

1 - “Critical Studies in the collection of poems (Intimations of the Deserts)”, Studies and criticism written by a group of researchers and critics, compiled and foreword by Dr Fawzi Eissa (Egypt), published by Delta Center for Printing, Alexandria 1996. The book includes the following studies and articles:

- A Dialogue with the Text, Dr Mostafa Nassef (Egypt), pages 43-90.

- “Intimations of the Deserts” analytical study, Dr Mohammed Mostafa Hadara (Egypt), pages 91- 106.
- Critical issues on “Intimations of the Deserts”, Dr Abdul Moneim Khafagui (Egypt), pages 107-122.
- The construction of the Poetic Style in “Intimations of the Deserts”, Dr Fawzi Eissa (Egypt), pages 123-142.
- The Intimations of the Deserts- a reading in the content and the influences, Dr Ayman Mohammed Maidan, (Egypt), pages 143 -158.
- A Reading in “Intimations of the Deserts”, Dr Nabil Rashad Nofal (Egypt), pages 159 -164.
- The Echo of the Poetic Heritage in collection “Intimations of the Deserts”, Khalifa Al-Khayari (Tunisia), pages 165- 176.
- “*Joud Al-Ghawadi fi Banh Al Bawadi*”, Dr Abdul Malek Mortad, (Algeria), pages 177 - 187.
- “*Banh Al Bawadi*” (Intimations of the Deserts), Hamoud Al- Begheli (Kuwait), pages 191-192, previously published in Al-Qabas newspaper, Issue No. 8025, Wednesday January 25, 1995.

- “*Bawb Al Bawadi?*” (Intimations of the Deserts), Nasser Kermani (Kuwait), page 193, previously published in Al-Qabas newspaper, Issue No. 8096, Friday January 5, 1996 .
- Reaching the harbours of poetry with a first collection of poems- Faisal Al-Saad (Kuwait), pages 194-199, previously published in Al-Qabas newspaper.
- The owner of paralleled personalities- Iqbal Al-Gharballi (Kuwait), pages 200 to 202, previously published in Al-Watan newspaper, Issue No. 7129, December 15, 1995.
- The Strays of “Poet’s Intimations”, Pages 203-205, previously published in Al Ahram Newspaper, February 6, 1995.
- “Intimations of the Deserts” between the romantic flame and the interaction with the masterpieces, Rawda Abdellawi (Tunisia), pages 207-210, previously published in “Haqa’eq” magazine, Tunisia, Issue No. 518, October 6, 1995.
- “Intimations of the Deserts” A New Collection of Poems, Hamouda Al-Sharief Karim (Tunisia), pages 211-219, previously published

in Al-Horeya Newspaper, Tunisia, October 19, 1995.

- The Structure of poem in “Intimations of the Deserts”, Hamouda Al-Sharief Karim(Tunisia), pages 221-230, previously published in Al-Horeya Newspaper, Tunisia, October 26, 1995.

2 - “Laayoune Forum for Poetry” prepared by Dr Louise Boulbers and published by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Rabat 1997. The book includes the following studies and articles presented during an honouring Seminar held for poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain :

- “Intimations of the Deserts”, A Sincere abundant Passion, Dr Mohammed Altazi Saud (Morocco), pages 115 - 120.
- The time and place in the “Intimations of the Deserts”, Dr Mohammed Al-Sarghini(Morocco), pages 121 - 128.
- “Intimations of the Deserts”, A Dialogue with the Text, Dr Mostafa Nassef (Egypt), pages 129 - 134.

- The poeticalness of remembering and retrieval in the “Intimations of the Deserts” collection of poems, Dr Ahmed Altaebiq (Morocco), pages 135-160. (The Memory of Reading/ The Reading of the Memory- A Statistical Sequence/ Contradicting Reading- The Dialectics of Time and Space).
 - The Semantics of titles in “Intimations of the Deserts”, Mr. Abdel- Hakim Alsabee’, pages 161- 171.
 - “Intimations of the Deserts”, toward the awakening of the Bedouin urban poem, Dr Mohammed Al-Danai (Morocco), pages from 172-194.
 - The Rhythmic Structure in the poetry of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Dr Mohammed Mostafa Abushwareb (Egypt), pages 195- 202.
- 3 - “The Literary Movement in Kuwait- the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain’s Prize for Poetic Creativity and the poetry of its founder as a model”, prepared and reviewed by Dr Abdullah Benasser Aloui, the University of Sidi Mohamed bin Abdullah, Fes 2006.**

The book contains the following studies and researches presented in the honorary seminar, held on the occasion of awarding poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain an honorary doctorate from Sidi Mohamed bin Abdullah University in Fes on 15/12/2006.

- The poetic lexicon in the poetry of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Dr Abdullah Benasser Aloui (Morocco), pages 81-95.
- The Subjectivism and the Objectivism in the poetry of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Dr Omar Marrakshi (Morocco), pages 96-102.
- The Poetic Image in the creativity of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Dr Mohammed Alwasti (Morocco), page 103.
- Graphic Methods in the poetry of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Dr Almofdel Alkaynoui (Morocco), page 134.
- An introduction to the esthetics of the meter in the poetry of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Dr Ali Leghzewi (Morocco), pages 149-162.
- The esthetics of the rhymes in the poetry of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain - “Wastefarer”

- collection of poems as model, Dr Mohamed Aldnay (Morocco), pages 163-179.
- In the court of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Poetry, Dr Fatima Aljamei Alhababi (Morocco), pages 192 -219.
 - The fine love theme in Al-Babtain's Collection of Poems, Dr Yassine Al-Ayoubi (Lebanon), pages 220-228.
 - The Experience of Abdulaziz Al-Babtain: Virtuosity, Love and Passion, poetry verses by Dr Ahmed Aliraqi, pages 230-248.
 - The Sufism aspects in Al-Babtain's qasida, Dr Abdelwahab Alfilali (Morocco), pages 250-280.
 - The structure and the evidence in the poetry of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Dr EzzAlrab Lahkim Benani (Morocco), pages 281-297.
 - The poetical selection in the creativity of poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Dr Abdul Malek Al-Shami, pages 298-309.
 - Around Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Poetry: the charm of the existence. Dr Abdurahman Tenkoul (Morocco), pages 318 - 325.

- The theme of love in Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Poetry, the case of five translated poems, Dr Ahmed Saber, pages 626 to 335.
 - Viajero en los Desiertos, Antología de poesias de Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, (“Wastefarer” Anthologie of Poems of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain), Dr Mustapha Amidi, pages 336 - 345.
 - The approximation of some poems of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain to the German Language, Dr Khaled Lazaar (Morocco), pages 347- 356.
 - The components of the poetic discourse in Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain poems, Dr Rachid Al-Arjewi(Morocco), pages 360- 377.
- 4- **“The rhythmic structure in the poems of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain: A reading in the music of the poem frame”**, Dr Mohammed Mostafa Abushwareb (Egypt), published by Dar Al-Maarefa Al-Gamea, Alexandria 1997.
- 5- **“The Bedouin virtuousness in the poetic revelations of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain: Study in the mechanisms and inputs of the creativeness”**, Sabry Fawzy Abdullah Abu-Hussein (Egypt), published in Cairo, 2000.

- 6- **“The structure of rhyme, sound and rhythm in (Intimations of the Deserts) collection of poems”**, Abdulbar Alalili (Morocco), published by Al-Bablalabel press, Fes 2000.
- 7- **“A prosodic study of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain poetry of his collection (Intimations of the Deserts)”**, Mahjoub Moussa (Egypt), published by Al-Murjah for publishing and distributing- Kuwait 2002.
- 8- **“The effectiveness of Creativity- A Study in (Wastefarer)- Anthology of poems of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain”**, Mahjoub Moussa (Egypt), published by Al-Murjah for publishing and distributing- Kuwait 2008.
- 9- **“Characteristics, Objectives and Philosophy of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain’s Poetry”**, Fatma Mohammed.

Second - Studies on Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Poetry

- 1- **“The approach of virtuousness in the poetry of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain”**, Dr Yassine Al-Ayoubi (Lebanon) in his book (In the Word’s Shrine: A critical research and study of the modern and

contemporary Arabic literature), pages 265-278, published by The Contemporary Library, Beirut 1999.

2- **“Interview with Abou-Alkacem Mohamed Kerrou on the Foundation of Al-Babtain’s Prize for Poetic Creativity”**, interviewed by Hassan bin Osman and compiled by Abou-Alkacem Mohamed Kerrou (Tunisia) in his book (Interviews and poets) pages 15-20, published by Dar Al-Maghreb Al-Arabi, Tunisia 2001.

3- **“Playing a sad cord: A study of the word rhythm in (Intimations of the Deserts)”**, Dr Mohamed Abdelhamid Khalifa (Egypt) in his book (In the Rhythm and Environment of our Arabic Poetry), pages 153-187, published by Dar Alwafaa for Printing and Publishing, Alexandria 2005.

4- **“Al-Babtain: Wastefarer in Time”**, Ahmed Fadle Shabloul. A research paper delivered in the seminar held in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, honoring the poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, on the occasion of the issuance of his second poetry collection “Wastefarer” on 01/11/2004. The research is published in the website “Dar Nasheri” for publishing.

- 5- **“The structure of poetic style in (Intimations of the Deserts) collection of poems”**, Dr Fawzi Eissa (Egypt) in his book (The Esthetics of Receiving: A critical analysis in the Contemporary Arabic poetry), pages 75-88, published by Dar Almaarefa, Alexandria 2009.

Third- The Academic Theses

- 1- **“The love Poem in Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Poetry”**- Postgraduate Thesis - prepared by Khaled Mohammed Al-Mansour under supervision of Dr Abdel-Hamid Guida, the Lebanese University, Beirut 1999.
- 2- **“Study and Analysis of the Two Collections of Poems of Al-Babtain in Persian”**- Master’s Thesis- prepared by Mokhtar Mojahed (Iran), under supervision of Dr Mohammed Ali Azersheb, Faculty of Arts- Theran University 2008.
- 3- **“The Biography in (Wastefarer) Collection of Poems of the Poet Abdulaziz Saud AL-Babtain (Travelling through Self-gate)”** - Research for postgraduate diploma- end of second year, prepared by Essam Hajli (Morocco) under supervision of Dr Omar Marrakshi, The Ministry of National and Higher Education, Rabat 2010.

- 4- **“The Collector of the Literary Genres in the Two Collections of Poems of Poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain”**- Master’s Thesis, prepared by: Mohammed Laheq (Morocco) under supervision of Dr Omar Marrakshi, the High School of Teachers, The University of Rabat 2010.
- 5- **“The Emotional Tendency in the Poetry of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain”**- Master’s Thesis- Prepared by: Inas Al-Refai (Egypt), under supervision of Dr Fawzi Eissa, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University 2014.
- 6- **“Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Poetry- Study of Style”**- Master’s Thesis prepared by Ghassan Abbas Al-Saeidi (Iraq), under supervision of Dr Fawzi Eissa, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University 2016.
- 7- **“The Aspects of Chaste Love in Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Poetry”**- Master’s Thesis prepared by Effat Mardani (Iran), under supervision of Dr Sayed Fadle-Allah Merkaderi, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, The University of Shiraz.

Fourth- Other Books

These books reflect the love and respect which poets, statesmen and intellectuals hold for Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain as a person and for his cultural and humanitarian efforts as a poet and intellectual.

- 1- **“Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain- Impressions and Testimonials by Statesmen and Intellectuals”**, with foreword by Dr Ahmed Darwish (Egypt), published by Al-Dar Al-Masriya Al-Iebnaneya, Cairo 2014. The translation into English was published by Al-Ain Publishing house in 2015.
- 2- **“Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain in the Hearts of Poets”**, poetry texts compiled, organized and foreworded by Dr Mohamed Mostatfa Abushwareb, published in three volumes by Al-Wafaa Printing &Publishing, Alexandria 2015.

Photographs





Abdulaziz Al-Babtain with HM King Mohamed VI of Morocco
(Crown Prince at the time), Fes 1994.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain with HE late Prime Minister Rafik Al-Hariri
and Fawzi Hobeiche, Minister of Culture (right), Beirut 1998.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain with HE President Mohammed Khatami and Mr. Ataallah Muhajirani, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Tehran 2000.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain with HE President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and Dr. Mohieddine Amimour, Algerian Minister of Culture and Communication, Algiers 2000.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain with HM King Abdullah II of Jordan, Amman 2001.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain with HH Sheikh Salman Bin-Hamad, Crown Prince of Bahrain and Mr. Nabil Bin-Yaakoub Al-Hamar, Minister of Information, Manama 2002.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain with HM King Juan Carlos of Spain, Madrid 2004.



Opening ceremony of the Shawqi/Lamartine Session. (Left to right)
Dr. Adel Al-Tabtabae, Kuwaiti Minister of Education and Higher Education, HE. Mohammed Khatami, Former Iranian President, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, French Minister of Culture and Representative of the Session's Patron, President Jacques Chirac, Mr. Amr Moussa, and Dr. Soad Al-Sabah (31 October 2006)



With Former Bosnian President Haris Silajdžić, Sarajevo 2010.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain with Tokia Saïfi, president of the committee of political affairs of the EU Parliament, and Jorge Sampaio, Former Portuguese President (Brussels, November 2013)



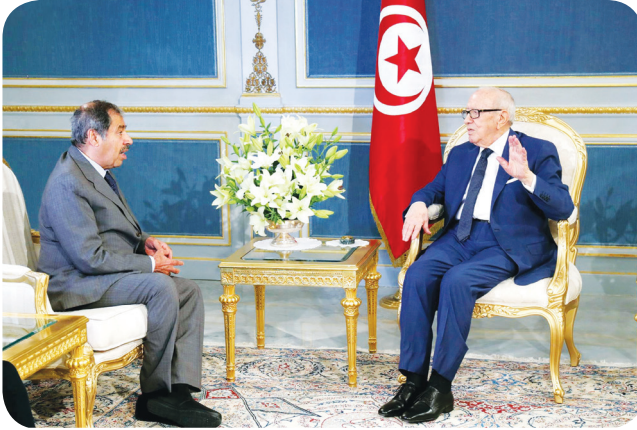
With the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Lord Patten of Barnes after the celebration of renaming the Laudian Chair- the Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Laudian Chair in Arabic, 15 September 2016.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain with His Eminence Cardinal Filoni, Counselor of the Pope Francis, Rome, Italy, October 2016.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain writing a word in the golden register of the city of Palermo, Sicily, Italy, October 2016.



Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain with HE President Beji Caid Essebsi discussing cultural affairs (17 July 2017).



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain receives the Distinguished Global Leadership and Humanitarian Award from the President and members of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations (7 September 2017).



His visit to the Tunisian President Mr. Béji Caid Essebsi at the Carthage Palace on June 29, 2018 to invite his excellency to the World Forum for the Culture of Peace which will be organized by the Foundation at the Court of Justice (the Peace Palace) in The Hague, Netherlands, on June 13, 2019..



His meeting with the President of the Republic of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca at the Presidential Palace on July 1, 2018 to invite her Excellency to the World Forum for the Culture of Peace.

The Foundation Offices

Kuwait

P.O. Box 599, Al Safat, 13006

Tel: (+ 965) 22406816

(+ 965) 22415172

Fax: (+965) 22455039

Egypt

P.O. Box 509, Al-Dokki 12311, Al-Giza

Tel: (+ 202) 33027335

Fax: (+202) 33030788

Italy

Via Tuscolana 650, 00173 Rome

Tel: (+ 3906) 57335212

Fax: (+ 3906) 57335366

www.albabtaincf.org

[info@ albabtaincf.org](mailto:info@albabtaincf.org)