



**Speech of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber
Al-Sabah at the lunch banquet held in honor of His Holiness Pope
Tawadros II, 118th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark**

On Wednesday, the 26th of April 2017

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, and Peace be upon our beloved prophet Muhammad and his fellow companions,
His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, 118th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'd like to greet you with the greeting of Islam, Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah be upon you...

It is our pleasure to welcome you today, Your Holiness, as a dear guest to the State of Kuwait and its people. It's our pleasure to welcome His Holiness the Pope, not just as the spiritual authority for millions of Copts in Egypt, Sudan, Libya and Ethiopia, and which extends to most countries of the world where our Christian Copts live, but also as the successor of St. Mark, who was one of the 70 apostles chosen by the prophet of Christianity and sent out to deliver the gospel. It also means celebrating a church that has extended over nineteen centuries, a church whose patriarchs and popes played a leading role in Christian theology, and from which graduated prominent bishops in the history of Christianity such as: Athenagoras, Clement, Didymus, and Origen. Later on, great Church Fathers benefited from its theology, such as St. Augustine and St. Jérôme.

Welcome Your Holiness, from the land of Kenanah to the land of Kuwait. Celebrating your presence is an obligation imposed by the Arabism bonds that link us to Egypt and promoted by the blood relationship between your people



and our Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, since the day Maria the Copt became his wife and the mother of his son.

Your Holiness,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nowadays, the planet has become small, wars have become daily news broadcasted by news agencies, violence has become a phenomenon that rips apart societies, innocent people have become targeted by crimes of terrorism, the planet is suffering of pollution, and poverty has expanded and led to famine and epidemics in many societies. Arms race has become capable of annihilating the human race. In this frightening atmosphere, the role of clerics like you becomes an essential necessity to restore balance to our time, because the imbalances of our contemporary life are the result of the impoverishment of the spiritual side of man. This impoverishment leads to egoism, greed and poor conscience. This type of impoverishment cannot be fought by providing food and money, but by awakening the conscience and keeping it alive, by strengthening the human bonds between the people, and spreading peace and love. These meanings are the core of every religion, and all religious books promote them. The Old Testament states: "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever." The New Testament states: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." It also states: "God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him." The Apostle Paul said, "If possible, so far as it depends upon you, be at peace with all men". Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, also said, "Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without." As for the Holy Qur'an, God Almighty says: "And Allah invites to the Home of Peace and guides whom He wills to a straight path." The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "You will not enter Paradise until you believe and you will not believe until you love each other. Shall I show you something that, if you did, you would love each other? Exchange greetings of



peace amongst you.” “This is the message of all the religions: peace, love and tolerance, and no one can maintain and spread this message but clerics. They are able to penetrate people’s hearts to direct these meanings correctly. Therefore, we need people like you, Your Holiness, to address the imbalances in our contemporary life and treat them, and restore the spiritual side in men.

Your Holiness,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the dangers that surround our planet, we live in an unprecedented era. The means of communication have made us the inhabitants of one village, and made different type of knowledge accessible. People of all religions, sects and nationalities are communicating and talking to each other around the clock. We must accept the differences and believe in coexistence, coexistence of different religions and cultures, and we must lay the foundation of cooperation based on trust and respect, on fighting social differences, on safeguarding the dignity and rights of other parties. We must cooperate and work together in our common areas, especially when it comes to human values, such as the guarantee of human rights and safety, the values of tolerance and caring, helping the poor and the needy and relieving the afflicted people. Here, I’d like, Your Holiness, to thank you very much for your continued efforts in seeking to establish these concepts, not only at the level of the Republic of Egypt and the followers of the Coptic Church, but also in our Arabic and international surroundings. We were impressed by your wisdom, your tolerance and your steadiness in facing the brutal terrorism that hit your churches. As we share your sorrow and pay our condolences to you, we are confident that a religious leadership like Your Holiness is capable of overcoming the difficulties in order to perform your religious and spiritual role. We ask God Almighty to make this incident the last sorrow, and to preserve the Arab Republic of Egypt from all adversity.

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon you.
