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SHEIKH RASHID'S BIOGRAPHY

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In 1833 there was a split among the Bani Yas tribe and the Al Bu Falasah section moved to Dubai where they established themselves as the ruling family.

Despite the turbulent conditions, Dubai had by the late 1870s become the principal port of what was then known as the Trucial Coast and it was already larger than Abu Dhabi.

Dubai is often called the Venice of the Gulf, with a wide creek dividing the town into two halves and gaily painted boats moving constantly across the clear, blue-green water. A forest of square wind-towers formerly rose into the blue sky, known as Badgeer from the Persian, but in the last decade

these have mainly been replaced by tall, modern buildings although a few old houses can still be seen.

Dubai's rise was attributed to the decline of Lingeh which until 1874 had been a tribally administered area.

After that the Persians abolished the Arab governorship and themselves took over the administration in 1902

the Imperial Bank of Iran began to collect custom duties on behalf of imperial customs.

في عام 1833 حدث انقسام في قبيلة بني ياس مما ادى الى نزوح شطر منها يسمى البوفلاسة الى دبي حيث اسسوا حكمهم فيها . وعلى الرغم من اضطراب الاوضاع في المنطقه اصبحت دبي في اواخر سبعينات القرن التاسع عشر ميناء رئيسيا لما كان يعرف بالساحل المتصالح ، وعندها كانت اكبر من ابوظبي . تعرف دبي دائما ببندقية الخليج (فبنيسيا) حيث يفصل بين شطرى المدينه خور واسع وتعتبر في مياهه الزرقاء قوارب زاهيه الالوان بصورة مستمره .

وقد تميزت ففتى الخور في السابق بوجود غابة من الهوائيات ذات الشكل المربع تناطح السحاب ويسمى الواحد منها بادقير ، وهى كلمه فارسيه تعنى هوائى ، ولكن حلت فى الغالب المباني الحديثه محل هذه الهوائيات فى العقد الماضى ، ولم يتبقى الا بعض البيوت القديمه .

يعزى ازدهار دبي الى تدهور الاوضاع فى لنجه ، التى كانت تحكمها عوائل عربيه حتى عام 1874م ، حيث قام الايرانيون فيما بعد بالغاء الحكومه العربيه ، واستولوا على الادارة فى المنطقه وعندها قام البنك الامبراطورى فى ايران بجمع الرسوم الجمركيه نيابة عن ادارة جمارك الامبراطوريه الايرانيه .

The effect of this was to drive much of Lingeh's trade to the opposite shore of the Gulf and Dubai in particular benefitted.

Some of the Lingeh merchants came to Dubai, but others settled on the island of Abu Musa.

Until the 1950s Dubai developed steadily but in quite unspectacular fashion. But the meteoric rise of Dubai as an entrepot and market itself was quite remarkable; and in contrast with Abu Dhabi's slow start, development in Dubai was extremely rapid.

ونتيجة لذلك فقد نزع اغلب تجار لنجه الى الساحل الآخر للخليج وبالاخص دبی التي استفادت من ذلك ، حيث قدم اليها المهاجرين في حين استقر البعض الآخر في جزيرــــــــــــة ابوموسى .

وكان من جراء ذلك ان تطورت دبی بصورة منتظمة حتى فترة الخمسينات من هذا القرن ولكن ليست بطريقه رائعه تمــــــــــــــــــــاما بينما يعد بزوغ دبی كمركزا تجاريــــــــــــا لتوزيع السلع وسوقا تجاريا امرا عجيبا بحد ذاته . وبالمقارنة مع البداية البطيئة لامــــــــــــارة ابوظبى ، فان تطور دبی كان سريعا للغاية .

Shaikh Rashid Bin Said Al Maktoum, the imaginative and creative Ruler who sits at the helm of the Dubai's government today, is a tall man with strong features. After serving for nearly 20 years as regent to his father, Shaikh Said Bin Maktoum, he acceded to the rulership upon the death of the latter in 1958. Shaikh Rashid is also paramount Shaikh of the Al Bu Falasah section of the Bani Yas tribe, as were his predecessors back in the 1830s.

يتميز الشيخ راشد بن سعيد المکتوم ، نافذ البصيره والحكمه ، حاكم دبی والممسك بزمام الجهاز الحكومى فيها ، بطول القامه والملامح القويه . خلف والده الشيخ سعيد بن مکتوم بعد وفاته عام ١٩٥٨ ، وبعد ان امضى مايقارب من ٢٠ سنه فى ولاية العهد وهو فى نفس الوقت القائد العظيــــــــــــم لآل بوفلاسه من قبيلة بنى ياس كاسلافه الذين يعود تاريخهم الى عام ١٨٣٠ م .

For a substantial period during the lengthy rule of Shaikh Said (r.1912-1958) the Bani Rashid and Bani Suhayl were often in militant opposition to the ruling house. On several occasions, the leaders of these branches came close to deposing Shaikh Said, and, on one occasion, in 1934, were implicated in an attempt on his life. The position of the Bani Hashar line, which currently holds power, remained exceedingly precarious until 1939, when the heads and influential members of both branches were dealt a decisive blow on the occasion of the present Ruler's marriage. Forces loyal to his father attended the ceremony and before it was over engaged in conflict with members of the other two branches, who were charged with being parties to a conspiracy to usurp the rulership. Several of their leading members were killed in the fighting that ensued and others were exiled.

The incident consolidated Shaikh Said's rule on the emirate, and as Dubai grew, Shaikh Rashid came increasingly to play an important role in political, commercial and social matters.

واجه الشيخ سعيد ولمدة طويلة خلال فترة حكمه الواسع (من عام 1912م إلى 1958م) معارضة مستمره وكفاح من ابناء عمه آل راشد وآل سهيل . فقد استطاع قادة المعارضة وفى عدة مناسبات ان يتوصلوا الى خلع الشيخ سعيد ، واكثر من ذلك ما حدث فى عام 1934 ، فقد تورطوا فى محاولة كانت تستهدف حياته . ومنذ بداية حكم الشيخ سعيد كان خط آل حشر الممسكين بزمام الحكم فى الوقت الحاضر فى وضع غير مستقر للغاية حتى عام 1939 ، عندما تعرض قادة واعضاء كلا العائلتين ذوى النفوذ الى هزيمة نكراء فى مناسبة زواج الشيخ راشد . وقد حدث ان اشتبكت قوات مواليه للشيخ سعيد ممن حضروا حفل الزفاف، وقبل الانتهاء من الزواج فى نزاع مع اعضاء من آل راشد وآل سهيل ، الذين اتهموا بالتورط فى مؤامرة انقلابيه للسيطرة على الحكم فى البلاد . ونتيجة لذلك فقد لقي عدد من قادتهم مصرعهم فى القتال الذى عقب ذلك ، بينما تم نفي عدد آخر منهم .

وطدت هذه الواقعة حكم الشيخ سعيد فى الامارة كما مهدت الطريق امام الشيخ راشد لى يلعب دورا هاما فى الامور السياسية والتجارية والاجتماعية الذى كان يواكب تطور الدور الذى تلعبه دبي .

Indeed, Rashid had began to take an interest in affairs of state from an early age. He had seen his people during the harsh times in the early thirties which are known as "Seneen Al Qahat"(years of the drought) and had vowed to improve their lot. In the early 30s, just before the events of 1938 he gained much experience which was to serve him well as Ruler of Dubai. He was involved in the negotiations leading to the opening of RAF air service facilities and the opening of the British Bank of the Middle East in 1946. Going through the records, it is quite obvious that all the bank's dealings were with Shaikh Rashid although Shaikh Saeed was still the Ruler.

There are some interesting comments in a report prepared by a person sent down by the Imperial Bank of Iran as an expert in which you find glimpses of Shaikh Rashid's intelligence. The report also incidentally gives the names of the major merchants of Dubai.

وبالطبع ، فقد بدأ الشيخ راشد يهتم بشؤون الاماره فى سن مبكر وعليه فقد عاهد نفسه وهو يرى شعبه خلال الايام المعبه فى الثلاثينات من هذا القرن تلك الايام التى كانت تسمى بسنين القحط ، على أن يعمل على تحسين مستواهم . واستطاع راشد أن يكسب الكثير من الخبرة فى الثلاثينات مما استفاد منه عندما اصبح حاكما لدبي فقد اشترك فى المحادثات التى أدت الى بدى خدمات الطيران الملكى البريطانى وكذلك تلك التى أدت الى تأسيس البنك البريطانى للشرق الاوسط عام ١٩٤٦ . حيث تبين من سجلات أنه من المؤكد أن جميع المحادثات التى كانت تدار بين حاكم دبی والبنك البريطانى كانت تدار من قبل الشيخ راشد على الرغم من وجود الشيخ سعيد حاكما فى ذلك الحين .

ويتضمن تقريراً اعد من قبل خبير وممثل البنك الامبراطورى الايرانى الذى ارسل لمناقشة موضوع افتتاح البنك مع حكومة دبی بعض التعليقات الممتعه ، حيث يمكن للفرد رؤية لمحات من ذكاء وفطنة الشيخ راشد . وقد احتوى التقرير كذلك على اسماء اكبر تجار دبی فى تلك الايام .

at that time, describes the city, its commerce, the amount of business it did, and the expert's meetings with Rashid. The expert Mr. F. H. Johnson, a Britisher, met the Dubai Ruler on January 5, 1946, and pointed out the advantages of establishing a bank in this emirate. Shaikh Saeed readily accepted that a bank was desirable in Dubai, but he wanted to consult the Government in London and to make sure that the opening of the bank would in no way contravene his agreement with Petroleum Concession Ltd (PCL). The agreement had stated that the Ruler would consult with the oil company as to which bank was to be given permission to open in Dubai. At the meeting with Shaikh Saeed, it was Shaikh Rashid who conducted all negotiations on behalf of his father. The articles were read over to the ruler, and were all favourably received with the exception of one article, number 11, which bound the ruler for 25 years while the bank remained at liberty to withdraw at any time. It is said that Shaikh Rashid put his foot down on this, and that it was at his

ووصفا لمدينة دبي وتجارته وكمية العمل التجارى المتداول فيها ، وكذلك شرحا لمادار من نقاش بين الخبير والشيخ راشد . خبير البنك البريطانى هـ السيد/ افهـ. جونسون ، بريطانى وقـد قابل حاكم دبي يوم ٥ يناير ١٩٤٦ حيث بين له امتيازات انشاء مصرف فى الامارة .

وفى الحال ايقن الشيخ سعيد ان دى فى حاحه ماسه لمصرف . ولكنـه اراد ان يراجع حكومة لندن فى الامر ، وان يتأكد من ان افتتاح هذا المصرف لايتعارض بأى شكل من الاشكال مع الاتفاقية المعقودة بينه وبين شركة امتياز البترول المحدودة (بتروليم كونيشان لميتد) التى تنص على ان يستشير الحاكم شركة النفط بالنسبة للبنك الذى يمنح الاذن للعمل فى دى . وكان الشيخ راشد يدير النقاش فى هذا الاجتماع بالنيابة عن والده الشيخ سعيد .

وقد تم قراءة مواد الاتفاقية فى الاجتماع، حيث استقبلت جميعها بالرضا فيما عدا المادة رقم ١١ ، التى تقيد الحاكم بقبول اتفاقية عمرها ٢٥ سنة بينما اعطت الحرية للمصرف ان ينسحب فى اية وقت شاء .

insistence that the British expert was forced to bring down the binding period to 20 years.

The role of Shaikh Rashid in the electrification of Dubai was also a crucial one. Some private merchants had set up small generators, but in 1958 Rashid took up the issue of a public electricity company with the British Bank. The setting up of a regular electricity company started in 1959 and Dubai had its first electricity connection in July 1961.

Mr. Khalil Al Fardan is a pearl merchant who left the business some years ago to go into the money exchange market. He worked with Shaikh Rashid in the pearl market during the pearl boom in Dubai and considers himself a close friend of the ruler.

Mr. Khalil Al Fardan talked about his experiences with Shaikh Rashid and said that he was a totally honest man and expected the same standards of honesty from his friends and associates.

During the Second World War the pearl industry began to wear out, as a result of which many people become unemployed.

ويذكر التقرير ان الشيخ راشد اصّر على ادخال تعديل على هذه المادة مما اجبر خبير البنك على تحفيظ المدة الاجبارية الى ٢٠ سنة فقط .

وكذلك كان دور الشيخ راشد في توصيل الكهرباء وتنوير دبي دورا حاسما . حيث كان لدى بعض التجار مولدات كهرباء في منازلهم ، ولكن في عام ١٩٥٨ ناقش الشيخ راشد موضوع انشاء الكهرباء العامه مع البنك البريطاني . وقد بدأ تأسيس شركة كهرباء دبي في عام ١٩٥٩ ، وجرى توصيل اول خط كهربائي في دبي في يوليو ١٩٦١ .

الحاج/خليل ابراهيم الفردان ، تاجر لؤلؤ لكنه ترك تجارة اللؤلؤ منذ عدة سنوات ليعمل في سوق الاوراق المالية والمرافعة عمل مع الشيخ راشد في سوق اللؤلؤ (لقماش) عندما كانت صناعة اللؤلؤ في اوجها في دبي . ويعتبر نفسه صديقا مقربا للحاكم .

يتحدث الحاج/ خليل الفردان عن تجاربه مع الشيخ راشد ، حيث يصفه بالرجل الامين الذي يتوقع من اصحابه وجلاسه نفس المستوى من الامانه في المعامله كما يشير الى ان صناعة اللؤلؤ بدأت في الانهيار خلال الحرب العالمية الثانية وقد نتج عن ذلك ان اصبح كثير من سكان دبي عاطلين عن العمل .

The operation of air services provided jobs for many of them; some left for the other Gulf states to look for jobs mainly to Saudi Arabia with its oil resources.

Each person in those days had the right to buy 2 kg of sugar a month for two rupees and sell it for 20 rupees to traders who would export it to Iran. The Ruler appointed a merchant in Dubai souk, called Eid, to sell rations to the people, and this was controlled through ration cards. But if a person needed more, he could approach the ruler and would usually get more if he could convincingly demonstrate that his need was genuine.

Khalil Fardan once called on Shaikh Rashid with a friend at his Al Bahr Majlis (at present, it houses the Ruler's Office) one evening during Ramadan time. There were many people present and entry was difficult, but Shaikh Rashid saw Fardan from his room on the first floor and sent one of his men to bring him and his friend up. They requested some additional rations which he first refused to give, saying that they had just received their share.

استطاعت عمليات خدمات الطيران ان توفر اعمالا لكثير ممن كانوا يعملون فى صناعة اللؤلؤ ، فى حين غادر البعض الاخر البلاد الى دول خليجيه اخرى للبحث عن اشغال وبالاخص الى المملكة العربية السعودية للعمل فى النفط .

ويقول الحاج خليل الفردان انه كان لكل شخص الحق فى شراء ٢ كيلوغرام من السكر شهريا فى تلك الايام وسعر الكيلو الواحد ربيه ، بينما يمكن ان يبيعهها بسعر ٢٠ ربيه للكيلو ، على تجار يصدرون السكر الى ايران . وقد عين الحاكم تاجرا فى سوق دبي اسمه عبيد لبيع السكر والمواد الغذائية بموجب البطاقات على الناس

اما اذا اراد اية شخص الحصول على مؤونة اضافية من هذا النوع ، فعليه ان يتقدم الى الحاكم بطلبه ، وسوف يحصل عليه اذا استطاع اقناع الحاكم بوجه اسباب الطلب المقدم له .

ويذكر الحاج خليل انه مره قام بزياره الى الشيخ راشد (مصدق له) فى مجلسه الواقع فى القصر البحرى (موقع مكتب الحاكم حاليا) فى ليله من ليالى شهر رمضان المبارك وكان المكان مزدحم بالناس ، حيث يتعذر الدخول على الشيخ ، ولكن الشيخ راشد رأى الفردان من مكانه فى الطابق الاول وارسل اليهما احد رجاله لياخذهما الى الطابق الاول . وقد طلبا مؤونة اضافيه ، والتي رفضها فى اول الامر زاعما انهما قد حملوا لتوهم على جصتهم منها .

They replied that the Eid of Ramadan was coming and they would need more food to serve at the festival and Fardan's friend said that his son was getting married. Shaikh Rashid said that he did not have enough to give them more and Khalil replied: I know you have enough. Do you want to eat it all and let your children watch? Rashid then ordered some more rations for them. Such frank talking was common and showed the rapport between the Ruler and his people.

During Ramadan, Rashid had the habit of staying awake all night, receiving people until the Fajr prayers. After saying his morning prayers, he would sleep until the Dhuhr prayers. Any person could go and talk directly to Shaikh Rashid and the latter disliked the practice of anyone bringing a third person to recommend his case. He felt that he was available to all of his people. Rashid is a humble man, a sincere person. One thing he dislikes is a person trying to outdo him.

I also interviewed Mr.Duff, Mr.Musarat Hussain, Mr.Thani Bin Abdullah and the Indian Merchant Witra.

ولكنهما اجابا ان عيد الفطر على الابواب وسوف تحتاج عوائلهم الى مؤونه اضافية من الطعام لتقدم على موائد طعام العيد فى حين اشار صديقه الى ان ابنة سوف يتزوج بعد العيد . وعندها اضاف الشيخ ان ليست لديه مؤونه كافيه يعطيها ، ولكن الحاج خليل اجاب اننى اعلم ان لديك كفايه منها . هل تريد ان تأكلها لوحده وتترك اولادك ينظرون؟ وعندها امر الشيخ راشد باعطائهم مؤونه اضافية .

ان مثل هذا الحديث الصريح يعد امرا شائعا ويظهر مدى الروابط الجيده بين الحاكم وشعبه . وكانت عادة الشيخ راشد خلال شهر رمضان المبارك ان يقضى الليل كله فى مجلسه يستقبل الناس ، حتى صلاة الفجر وبعد ان يؤدى صلاة الفجر ينام الى ان ينادى المؤذن لصلاة الظهر ويمقدور اية شخص الذهاب الى الشيخ راشد والتحدث اليه مباشرة ويكـره ان يتدخل وسيط ليشرح قضية شخص آخر من شعبه . وهو رجل متواضع ومخلص لبلدة واهلها . ولكنه يكره الشخص الذى يحاول ان يتفوق عليه غير مراعي لمركزه كحاكم .

كما تحدثت مع شخصيات اخرى عاشرت الشيخ راشد امثال المستر داف ومستر حسين والسيد/ ثانى بن عبد الله والتاجر الهندي وتراه .

Mr.W.R.Duff came to Dubai in 1960, as a Financial Expert, and joined the Customs Department.

In addition to Rashid's role in various negotiations, and talks on agreements

Mr.Duff brought out the following points.

Although Shaikh Rashid seldom negotiated directly, he was always present at discussions concerning government affairs.

He would listen carefully and follow all negotiations closely. He is capable of understanding quite a great deal of English but he never speaks the language.

Only when negotiating with President Shaikh Zayed and other rulers would he take a personal part when conducts

discussions privately; otherwise, he would listen and now and then raise a point. His intelligence is remarkable.

He picks on the right points at the right time. With an important foreign visitor

such as King Hussein of Jordan, he will talk very freely and on fully equal

terms. He would do same thing with the British Prime Minister, the only difference being that he would talk through an

interpreter. Among his close companions he talks freely and there is a

great deal of good-natured banter when he is with people like Mahdi Al Tajir and Ahmed Bin

قدم السيد/ و.ر.د. الى دبي في عام ١٩٦٠، كخبير في الشؤون المالية، والتحق بدائرة الجمارك فبالاضافة الى دور الشيخ راشد في العديد من المحادثات والاتفاقيات، اشار المستر د. الى النقاط التالية في حياة الشيخ راشد . فعلى الرغم من ان الشيخ راشد قليلا ما يدير النقاش بطريقه مباشرة، الا انه دائماً ما يكون متواجدا في المناقشات الخاصة بشؤون الحكومه، حيث يستمع بكل امعان ويتابع النقاش عن قـرب.

وله القدرة على فهم الكثير من اللغة الانجليزية ولكنه لم يتحدثها ابداً .

اما عندما يكون حديثه مع الشيخ زايد رئيس الدولة واخوانه الحكام، فانه هنا فقط يدير النقاش بنفسه بطريقه مباشره وفيما عدا ذلك فانه يستمع للحديث وبين الاونه والاخرى يثير نقطه معينه للنقاش . وذكاه عجب . حيث ان لديه القدره على اختيار النقطه الصحيحه في الوقت المناسب .

واذا زارته شخصيه اجنبيه مثل الملك حسين عاهل الاردن، فانه يتحدث معه بانفتاح ورحابه صدر وبدون تكلف . كما انه يستخدم نفس الطريقه مع رئيس الحكومه البريطانيه مع فارق واحد وهو وجود مترجم بينهما اما مع اصحابه الخلس امثال مهدي التاجر واحمد بن موسى وعيس بوحميد وغيرهم، فانه يتحدث اليهم بهدوء، وصراحه، كما ان بينهم الكثير من الدعابات المرحه .

and Essa Buhumaid.

Dubai rulers have always tended to delegate the tedious business of day-to-day administration to office staff (karany). At the same time, their generosity and lack of petty interference with the bazar, together with the reasonable rates of customs charged by them, constitute one of the principal reasons for the influx of foreign merchants which have built up the country's commerce. A quite unique feature of Rashid's handling of men is that he would like his friends to compete among themselves.

So that is a common fact where we get a man at the top who is as good as every one of his colleagues.

Rashid listens especially carefully during his majlis. He would throw out a little comment. He would say, for instance, you know, I heard the other day that there is some funny stuff going down there....anyone else heard anything about it? This is his way of getting people's reactions, hearing all the

كانت حكام دبي تميل الى تخويل مهام تنظيم اعمال الادارة الى موظفون كتبهم .  
يطلق على الواحد منهم كلمة "كرانى"  
فى حين ان كرم حكام دبي وتدخلهم الضئيل  
فى شؤون السوق الى جانب المعدل المعقول  
للسموم الجمركية المفروضة على التجارة  
تشكل احد الاسباب الرئيسية لتهاافت التجار  
الاجانب على دبي ، التى ساعدت على  
بناء المجتمع التجارى فى البلاد .

ومن الخصائص التى يتميز بها الشيخ راشد  
فى تعامله مع رجالات البلاد انه يجب لهم  
ان يتنافسوا فيما بينهم . ان ذلك  
امرا مألوفنا عندما يتمتع  
الحاكم والممسك بزمام الامور بجميع  
السميات الموجودة لدى  
اية رجل من رجاله .

ومن عادة راشد ان يستمع بأمعان الى  
الحديث فى مجلسه . ثم يأتى بتعليق  
بسيط . فمثلا يقول ، انه سمع شيئا  
عن موضوع معين منذ أيام ، كانه يريد  
أن يرى أن كان احدا من الجالسين لديه  
علم بذلك . هذه هى طريقتة فى  
حث من فى المجلس على الحديث بمالديهم  
سواء كان ذلك اشاعات او اخبار .

gossip and obtaining news. Rashid also has prodigious memory. If somebody said something to him in 1961, and if the same person said something else in 1966, he was quick to point out the discrepancy. Every engineer in Dubai will testify to the fact that if Rashid had been told four years ago that they needed 20 feet of pipe and came later and said that they needed 22 feet of pipe for the same job, he would say no, you told, me 20 feet and 20 feet it will be. He also would supervise many projects personally.

Dubai is acknowledged as one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. This is because of Rashid's toleration and his innate confidence in himself. He knows he is good Sunni Muslim and he does not bother if the other person is a Shia or Christian. Hindu. He went to opening of the Roman Catholic Church in Dubai and had coffee there. He has also been to the Shia Mosque several times and has had food there. For so many years, Shaikh Rashid used to participate in providing help for the Baharna group of Shias in Dubai in relation to Ashura ceremonies which are

يتمتع الشيخ راشد بذاكرة قوية فمثلاً إذا سمع من احد الناس شيئاً في عام ١٩٦١ وعاد نفس الشخص في عام ١٩٦٦ وقال شيئاً آخر في نفس الموضوع ، فان لديه القدرة السريعة على معرفة التناقض بين القولين وعليه فان جميع المهندسين في دبي يمكن ان يصادقوا على حقيقة انه اذا قيل لراشد منذ ٤ سنوات ان ما يحتاجونه هو انبوب طوله ٢٠ قدم ولكنهم فيما بعد طلبوا لنفس العمل انبوب طوله ٢٢ قدم فانه سوف يرفض ذلك ، مجيباً ان ما طلبوه اول الامر هو انبوب ٢٠ قدم وهو الذي سوف يحصلون عليه . كما انه يقوم بالاشراف على الكثير من المشروعات المقامة في دبي بنفسه .

من المعروف ان دبي تعتبر احدى اكثر المدن التي تضم مختلف الجنسيات في العالم وهذا يعود الى تسامح الشيخ راشد ووثوقه الفطري من نفسه . حيث انه يعلم انه مسلم سني قوي العقيدة ، لذلك فانه لا يشعر بالقلق اذ ما اذا كان الشخص الآخر من الشيعة او مسيحياً او هندوسياً . فقد حضر الشيخ راشد حفل افتتاح الكنيسة الكاثوليكية في دبي وتناول القهوة فيها . كما انه تردد على مسجد الشيعة في دبي عدة مرات وتناول الطعام معهم . وقد اعتاد الشيخ راشد ولعدة سنوات ان يشارك في تزويد جماعة البحارنة الشيعة في دبي بالموثنة لاعداد ولائم احتفالات عاشوراء .

held during the first 10 days of Muharram the first month of Islamic Hijri year.

The same cosmopolitan outlook Rashid brings to bear on the question of nationalities. It was this that brought Indian merchants to Dubai and helped in Dubai's development. All nationalities have lived together happily in Dubai.

Mr. Musarat Hussain is a Pakistani

businessman who has enjoyed good and close relations with Shaikh Rashid. Musarat Hussain said that at the very beginning of modern Dubai the only financial resources consisted of revenue from custom duties and from water supplies. These Rashid shared equally with his family and his people.

Rashid is a man committed to reform and development and he took one of the first steps towards developing Dubai by establishing a road link between Deira and Dubai. He borrowed money from the British Bank of the Middle East for this.

Rashid's relationship with the British was always cordial. But he always took decisions independently. For example when Pakistan International Airlines, the National carrier of Pakistan, wished

التي تقام في العشرة الاوائل من شهر محرم الحرام من السنة الهجرية .  
عالج الشيخ راشد موضوع تعدد الجنسيات على اختلاف مبادئهم ودياناتهم في دبي بنفس هذه النظرة الشمولية . وهذا هو السبب الذي استهوى التجار الهنود للقدوم الى دبي كما انه العامل المهم في تطورها . لذلك فكان جميع الناس على اختلاف جنسياتهم يعيشون بسعادة في دبي .

وهنا يأتي السيد/ مسرت حسين باستان الجنسية ورجل اعمال ، حيث كان يتمتع بعلاقات جيدة مع الشيخ راشد ، لكي يقبول ان المصادر المالية الرئيسية التي اعتمدت عليها دبي الحديثه منذ اول نشأتها كانت تأتي من الدخل المحصل من الرسوم الجمركية والدخل المالي من المياه . وقد كان الشيخ راشد يقسم هذا الدخل مع عائلته وشعبه بالتساوي .

وكرس الشيخ راشد نفسه على اصلاح وتطوير البلاد فقد بدأ اول خطوه تجاه تطوير دبي ، عندما وضع حجر اساس اول طريق معبد يصل ديريه بير دبي ، حيث استلف مبلغا من المال من البنك البريطاني للشرق الاوسط لهذا الغرض .

كانت علاقات الشيخ راشد مع البريطانيين دائما وديه . ولكنه كان يتخذ قراراته دائما باستقلاليه ومثالا على ذلك عندما ارادت شركة الطيران الباكستانية الوطنيه ان تبدأ خدمات جديدة الى دبي .

to introduce a new service to Dubai, they put their request to the British authorities in Dubai. Their request was rejected, and since they had already decided that their first plane would land at Dubai International Airport carrying the Pakistani President on his way to Jordan the Pakistani Authorities were in a quandary. Shaikh Rashid, therefore, without British approval ordered the PIA representative to go ahead with the flight. The plane landed at Dubai International Airport on schedule. The Pakistani School was built by Rashid's order next to the Catholic Church despite the objections of some of the British community and despite the school being an Islamic oriented institution containing a mosque. Rashid felt that all Dubai residents whatever their religion or nationality, should live close together and consider each other as neighbours.

Shaikh Rashid was thought to have been involved in the gold business since the very beginning of the gold era in Dubai, but Mr. Musarat Hussain thinks that, in practice, Rashid never directly

فقد قدمت طلبا الى السلطات البريطانية فى دى . ولكن هذا الطلب رفض ، وحيث ان الشركة قد خططت مسبقا بأن تقبل اول رحله لها تهبط فى مطار دى ————— الدولى ، الرئيس الباكستانى وهو فى طريقة الى الاردن ، لذلك اصحبت السلطات الباكستانية فى ريبه من امرها . ونتيجة لذلك ، امر الشيخ راشد شركة الطيران الوطنية الباكستانية دون اخذ موافقة السلطات البريطانية فى البلاد ، بأن تبدأ فى تنفيذ جدول رحلاتها الجديد . وعليه فقد هبطت الطائرة فى مطار دى الدولى فى موعدها المحدد .

اضافة الى ذلك تم بناء المدرسة الباكستانية وبامر من الشيخ راشد بالقرب من الكنيسة الكاثوليكية فى دى ، على الرغم من معارضة بعض الشخصيات البريطانىة ————— وعلى الرغم من كون المدرسة معهد اسلامى جامع ، يحتوى على مسجد . وعليه فان الشيخ راشد يشعر انه يجب ان يعيش جميع سكان دى بغض النظر عن جنسياتهم او دياناتهم مع بعضهم البعض يتمتعون بحسن الجوار متآلفين .

entered the business as a merchant.

But overall Rashid encouraged the gold trade in the creek and the Dubai Souk.

With the arrival of the petroleum era, businessmen and industrialists came and put the gold merchants out of business. At this period new faces began to appear around Rashid which gives another evidence of how he chooses companions, a process based on how useful they are at a particular time.

Dubai economy depended for long on the fact that the individual, whether Arab or foreigner, always had the feeling that his stay in the country was not connected with collecting money which was to be transferred outside but that the money he earned had to be invested here.

Rashid encouraged throughout his time traders of all kinds to invest their money in Dubai and at the same time provided them with proper security.

كان يُبْنى ان للشيخ راشد دورا فى تجارة الذهب منذ بداية عصر الذهب فى دى ، ولكن السيد / مسرت حسين يعتقد انه من الناحية العملية فان الشيخ راشد لم يدخل كتاجر بطريقة مباشرة فى هذه التجارة .

ولكن اجمالا ، فقد شجع الشيخ راشد تجارة الذهب فى خور دى وسوقها . ومع قدوم عصر النفط غطى نشاط رجال الاعمال ورجال الصناعة ، على تجار الذهب . لذلك فقد بدأت تظهر فى هذه الفترة وجوه جديدة حول الشيخ راشد ، مما يعطى دليلا آخر عن كيفية اختيار الشيخ راشد لاصحابه المقربين منه ، تلك العملية التى تبنى على مدى اهمية هؤلاء الرفقاء فى وقت معين .

اعتمد اقتصاد دى ولمدة طويلة على حقيقة ان لدى الفرد ما اذا كان مواطنا اوغير مواطنا ، الشعور بأن وجوده فى هذه البلاد ، ليس لمجرد المال الذى يتقرب الى الخارج . وانما لى يستثمر هنا لذلك فقد شجع الشيخ راشد طوال فترة حكمه التجار من كل الاجناس والانواع على استثمار اموالهم فى دى ، وفى نفس الوقت وفر لهم الامن اللازم لذلك .

Interviews with Mr.Thani Bin Abdullah, a former speaker of the Federal National Council and close companion of Shaikh Rashid since his childhood, and the Indian merchant Mr.Witra.

Thani Bin Abdullah said that Rashid was among us like one of us. If Rashid is leaving his place in the Majlis and someone else, without noticing him, goes out in front of him, he will not mind it at all, even if he walks in front of him.

Both Thani and the Indian merchant Witra made the comment that Rashid was able to stop many acts of vandalism and looting which were taking place prior to the 1939 movement. One event was they both witnessed a big fire which hit Bur Dubai in the summer of 1938.

There was widespread looting while people were busy in extinguishing the fire and Sheikh Rashid was able to stop it.

Witra is one of the few people who came from India when Rashid was a teenager and lived and worked in Dubai, he enjoyed friendly relations with Shaikh Rashid and his mother Hissa bint Al Mur during the period.

في حديث مع السيد/ثاني بن عبد الله  
الرئيس السابق للمجلس الاتحادي الوطني  
ورفيق الشيخ راشد منذ طفولته ، وكذلك مع  
التاجر الهندي وتــــراه .

بدأ السيد/ ثاني بن عبد الله حديثه قائلاً  
كان الشيخ راشد فينا كأحدنا . فمــــثلاً  
إذا حدث وأن غادر الشيخ راشد المجلــــس  
وسبقه شخص دون ان يلاحظه في الخروج من  
المجلس فإنه ماكان ليهتم بأن يسبقه ذلك  
الشخص في الخروج ، حتى ولو كان يمــــى امامه .

وهنا علق كل من السيد/ثاني والتاجر الهندي  
على حقيقة ان الشيخ راشد استطاع ان يوقف  
اعمال التخريب والسلب التي كانت تحدث قبل  
احداث حركة عام ١٩٣٩ . فقد شهد كلاهما  
حدثاً واحداً ، وهو الحريق الكبير الــــذي  
اندلع في بر دبي في صيف عام ١٩٣٨ . حيث  
حدثت اعمال سلب واسعة بينما كــــان  
الناس متشغليــــن في اطفاء الحريق .

وكان وتراه ، احد الناس القلائــــل  
الذين جاءوا من الهند وقت أن كان الشيخ  
راشد في سن الصبا ، وسكن وعمل في دبي  
وقد كانت له علاقته طيبة مع الشيخ راشد  
ووالدته الشيخه حمه بنت المر خلال هــــذه  
الفتــــرة .

Vitra came to Dubai with his brother-in-law during 1922 from Karachi. The Gulf Arabs had traded their pearls at Indian Ports and brought back with them food-stuffs, merchandise and textiles to Dubai and other Gulf States.

They invited the Indian merchants to trade with the Gulf States. So the first people who came down to the Emirates, especially Sharjah and Abu Dhabi, were traders known as Banian.

Vitra speaks fluent Arabic. He came to Dubai at the age of 12, worked in a shop with his brother-in-law at Souk Al Banian, in one of Shaikha Hissa's building. The merchants at this Souk which used to have a big gate till 15 years ago when the wind of change hit the Dubai market were Hindus. The gate was shut in the evening and opened the next morning. The Indians traded in perfumes, textiles and other merchandise imported from India. The rent of the shops was collected by the Shaikh agent, Al Deweis, with his "Karani" (clerk) Mohamed Al Shirawi and then Khamees Bin Feirus.

جاء وتراه الى دبي مع زوج اخته فى عام ١٩٢٢ من كراتشى . عندما كان عرب الخليج يتاجرون بالؤلؤل (لقمات) فى الموانئ الهنديه ، حيث يعودون الى دبي ودول الخليج الاخرى من هناك محملين بالمـــــــواد الغذائية والبضائع ، والمنسوجات .

قدم هؤلاء التجار الدعوة الى التجار الهنود لكــــى يتاجرو مع دول الخليج . وعليه فان اول مجموعــــه من الناس الذين جاءوا الى الامارات ، وبالحـــــــق امارتى ابوظبى والشارقه ، كانوا من البانيين، وهى كلمه تعنى تاجر بالهنديه .

يتحدث التاجر وتراه اللغة العربية بطلاقه ، فقد جاء الى دبي عندما كان عمره ١٢ سنه ، وعمل فى محل مع زوج اخته فى سوق البانيين ، فى احد مباني الشيخه حصه . وكان جميع التجار فى هذه السوق من الهنود الذين يدينون بالديانة الهندوسية . كما كان لهذه السوق بوابه ضخه ، منذ تأسسها وحتى قبل ١٥ سنه من الآن ، عندما هبت ريح التغيير على سوق دبي القديمه . وكانت البوابة تغلق فى المساء ، وتفتح مره ثانية فى صباح اليوم التالى اشتغل التجار الهنود فى هذه السوق بتجارة العطور والمنسوجات ، والبضائع الاخرى التى كانت تجلب من الهند . يحرى تحصيل ايجار المحلات التجاريه فى هذه السوق بواسطه وكيل الشيخ ، المعروف بالدويس وكتبه الكرانى" محمد الشيراوى ، وقد اصبح فيما بعد خميس بن فيروز يقوم بذلك .

Witra had free access to the Shaikh's palace since his early days in Dubai. He used to take merchandise to the palace such as perfumes of all kinds, cloth and "Zari" embroidered textiles. He then would give invoices for what he sold against which a "Barwa" payment order would be issued by Shaikh Saeed to Abdul Kareem Hamal Bashi, who was the Customs Officer. The note said that the trader should be paid the amount

specified which was often on instalment basis, from Customs revenues. Customs revenues were collected on each consignment as follows:

Rs.2 as port charges on each package;  
half-a-rupee as handling charges;  
and a quarter rupee as Customs

Duty, which used to be called government money.

Rashid's friends were mostly from Shandagahand Jumeira. At the beginning of winter, he and his companions would sit at Gobeiba to train falcons, in order to prepare them for the hunting trips to take place later in during the winter in the Dubai desert.

وكان وتراه منذ قدومه الى دبي يتردد على قصور الشيوخ بحريه ، حاملا مختلف انواع البضاعة من روائح وملابس واقشمة زرى . ومن ثم يدفع لهم فواتير مايبيعه عليهم ، حيث يصدر بموجب هذه الفواتير اذونات صـ عرف باسم "بروه" يامر باصدارها الشيخ سعيد الى عبد الكريم حمال باشى ، مسئول وكاتب الجمارك . ويكتب فى "البروه" امر دفع المبلغ المذكور فيها الى التاجر ، وعادة يجـرى ذلك على دفعات متقطعة من دخل الجمارك .

وهنا يعلق وتراه على نوعية ومقدار الرسوم التى يجرى تحصيلها عن كل ارسالية بضائع وهى مايلى :-

اجور الميناء "الخور" روبيتان  
اجور المناولة  $\frac{1}{4}$  روبية  
رسوم جمركية  $\frac{1}{4}$  روبية ، التى كانت تسمى  
الرسوم الحكومية .

واعقب الاثنان السيد/ ثانى بن عبد الله والتاجر الهندى وتراه ، بالقول ان رفقاء راشد كانوا من الشدغه والجميره ، حيث كانوا يجتمعون فى بداية الشتاء ومعهم الشيخ راشد فى الغببيه لتدريب صقور سيدهم لاعدادها لرحلات الصيد التى يقومون بهـا فى منتصف الشتاء وكانت تلك الايام فى صحراء دبي .

At the age of 18, Rashid started to attend his father's majlis, but his personality as a leader emerged after the events of 1939. For 20 years during the lifetime of his father, Rashid followed and participated in all important state activities.

وقد بدأ الشيخ راشد فى سن ١٨ سنه فى حضور مجلس والده الشيخ سعيد ولكن شخصيته كحاكم بدأت تظهر بعد احداث ١٩٣٩ . واستطاع الشيخ راشد ولمدة ٢٠ سنه من حكم والده ان يتابع ويشارك فى جميع نشاطات البلاد المهمه .

- فيما يلي نسخ الوثائق التى اعتمد عليها الحديث حول سيرة حياة صاحب السمو الشيخ راشد بن سعيد المكتوم والتى حصلت عليها من المكتبات البريطانية ، بتوصيه من القنصل العام البريطانى فى دى السيد/ بيتر هنجكليف والتى آمل ان انشرها فى كتابى هذا ، بعد الحصول على موافقتكم الكريمه .
- (١) خطاب الشيخ سعيد بن مكتوم الى المعتمد البريطانى حول خزان النفط "الجالوت" لاستخدام الطيران.
  - (٢) اتفاقية انشاء البنك البريطانى للشرق الاوسط.
  - (٣) اتفاقية محطة الكهرباء .
  - (٤) تقرير حول دخل واقتصاد دى .

## Chapter I The Old Dubai

Al Furda, the custom house on the creek, which was also the ruler's office, symbolises the traditional role of Dubai as a commercial centre. An entrepot in the Gulf from the late 19th century, Dubai is a successor to the fabulous Qais and Hormuz which had flourished before the coming of the Europeans into the region.

Dubai is often called the Venice of the Gulf, with a wide creek dividing the town into two halves and gaily-painted boats constantly moving across the clear, blue-green water. A forest of square wind-towers formerly rose into the blue sky, known as Badgeer from the Persian: in the last decade these have mainly been replaced by tall, modern buildings, although a few old houses can still be seen. A British visitor in 1954 gave a very graphic description of Dubai.

its Suqs or markets on either side of its broad creek are the most picturesque I have ever seen in the Middle East and take one back to the time of the Arabian Nights. In the narrow lanes roofed with matting, where the gloom is flecked by spots of sunlight, Arabs, Persians and Baluchis display their multifarious and many-coloured wares. Wild-eyed tribesmen with their camel canes and daggers haggle with the shopkeepers and the wealthier Persian merchants with their long flowing robes and gold-brocaded headdresses pass

to and fro, intent upon their business. Graceful dhows glide into the creek, lower their sails and cast anchor while the whole day long small craft are busy ferrying shoppers from one bank to the other. The rectangular houses of the Shaikhs and merchants with their tall wind-towers cast white reflections on the water. Conditions are no doubt primitive, but there is an air of bustle and prosperity about the place that gives it a peculiar charm. (Quoted in Rosemarie Said Zahlan, Origins of the United Arab Emirates, London, 1978 p.13)

Dubai Creek was used by groups of fishermen who lived in the desert nearby or came from Oman from times immemorial. It was settled as early as 1820 when a certain Shaikh Hazza bin Zaal signed the General Treaty of Peace with Britain on behalf of Dubai, according to J.G.Lorimer, author of the Gazeteer of the Gulf, Oman and Central Arabia.

The settlement assumed some importance with the migration of about 800 members of the Al Bufalasa section of the Bani Yas tribe from Abu Dhabi in 1833. They were led by Shaikh Obeid bin Saeed, who died soon thereafter, and Shaikh Maktoum bin Butti who assumed the leadership until his death in 1852 from smallpox while on a voyage to Muscat.

The history of Dubai during the rest of the 19th century is largely shrouded in mystery. There was the natural cycle of competition, intrigue and power struggles between different sections of the ruling family. What is remarkable, however, is that alone among the Trucial Shaikhdoms, Dubai was spared the agony of violent successions. Shaikh Saeed bin Butti, who succeeded his brother in 1852, suffered from opposition from his nephews Shaikh Hasher and Shaikh Suhayl. However, this did not lead to a deposition of the reigning Shaikh, and in fact he was succeeded in 1859 by Shaikh Hasher, and Shaikh Suhail's son Butti enjoyed a brief reign in the 20th century. Shaikh Saeed bin Maktoum similarly faced some opposition from some of his cousins in the 1930s without leading to his overthrow.

This was partly due to the liberal policies pursued by the benevolent shaikhs who shared the privileges of power and wealth, such as exemption from custom duties, with a large number of members of the ruling family. Another was the ability of the ruling family to accommodate differences of opinion within the ruling circles. Rosemarie Said Zahlan, author of a recent history of the UAE, goes so far as to characterise this as the toleration of a "loyal opposition" within the dynasty, although this may be going too far with the analogy of a Western parliamentary democracy.

Dubai's opportunity came with the decline of Lingeh, the then dominant port near the Straits of Hormuz, which until 1874 had been a tribally-administered area. The Imperial Iranian Government abolished Lingeh's Arab Governorship and took over the administration in 1902. The Imperial Bank of Iran began to collect customs duties on behalf of the Government. A law introducing very high customs duties for import and exports drove away the prosperous entrepot trade from the Iranian coast.

Dubai was not only geographically well placed to benefit from Lingeh's misfortune but also provided a liberal commercial climate under Shaikh Maktoum bin Hasher who welcomed the merchants, craftsmen, traders and pearl divers. Under his rule Dubai port grew rapidly and became a regular port of call for steamers from 1902 and the Trucial Coast's main commercial centre. The population of Dubai doubled between 1908 and 1939 when it numbered 20,000 [Zahlan:3-4]

#### The quarters of Dubai

The growth of Dubai can be traced from the layout of the city. Shindagah and Al Ras are opposite each other on Bur Dubai and Bur Deira respectively. These two quarters, in addition to Jumeirah and Umm Esgame villages, housed the Bani Yas. They included the Al Bufalalah, who comprise the ruling family of Al Maktoum, Al Bumeheir, Al Seweidi, Al Merar ( who lived in a quarter named after them in central Deira) and Al Mazareii. Most of these people worked as divers, fishermen and seamen.

The Baharna quarter in the centre of Bur Dubai on the creek, which accommodates the old Dubai souq, is named after the very first families which arrived in Dubai from Bahrain and other places in the Gulf, including Lingeh. Arabs from Iran shared this residential area: they spoke the same language, and were involved in the same businesses, such as pearl dealing (Letwash) and dhow building (Leglaf) in addition to blacksmithing (Lehdad). These families had a long experience in these professions, having acquired it in different places in the Gulf.

The Bastakia quarter to the east of Al Fahidi fort is the home of immigrants from the district of Bastak in Fars near the port of Khamir and other Iranian provinces. They came either at the same time as the Baharna and Arabs from Iran or thereafter. Speaking Persian and specialising in trade, they built their houses close to the creek where boats could be offloaded, and also near the Souq. They introduced the famous wind towers, a unique architectural characteristic of the quarter, which has spread all over the Gulf and has been incorporated into modern architecture.

The Lary are another group of merchants originating from the Iranian province of Lar. They are located in the Bander Taleb area of Deira which also accommodates part of Dubai Central Souq. They make up to 80 per cent of the Murshed Bazar and Deira Souq traders. The area between the bazar and the Creek is all land that was reclaimed during the late 60s.

The creek provided port facilities for all kinds of businesses located on its shores. The dhows used to anchor as near the merchants' sheds as possible to unload their cargoes. Small boats used to carry the goods to the banks of the creek and directly to the stores which were located by the creek. Customs officers (karani) visited the merchants' stores for inspection and duty collection. The dhow building yards and the associated blacksmith workshops were also located near the creek for the same reason, enabling them to launch their ships directly into the water.

Another quarter was named Souq al Banian, inhabited by Hindus and other Indians who lived and worked next to the Dubai souq. Arabs used to trade their pearls at Indian ports and returned with foodstuffs, merchandise and textiles. Dubai rulers and merchants encouraged Indian merchants to come and invest in the local trade and bring in their experience. Many came to Sharjah and Abu Dhabi as well as Dubai.

Souq al Banian used to have a big gate until 15 years ago. It used to be shut every evening and reopened the next morning. The Indians traded in perfumes, textiles and other merchandise which were imported from India. Many of them were goldsmiths. Most of the buildings belonged to the Shaikh during the time of Shaikh Saeed bin Maktoum. The rents of the shops were collected by his agent, Al Deweis, with his karani (clerk) Mohammed Al Shirawi and later on Khamees bin Feirous.

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[ATMUR CHAND TULSI DAS]

Witrah, who came to Dubai in 1922 from Karachi at the age of 12 with his brother-in-law, was among the very few people who had free access to the Shaikh's palace since his early days. He relates that he used to take merchandise to the palace, such as perfumes of all kinds, cloth and zari-embroidered textiles. He would then give invoices for goods sold against which a barwa (payment order) would be issued on the custom officer. The note stated the amount to be paid, which was often done on an instalment basis from the custom revenues.

During Shaikh Saeed's time the customs officer was Abdul Kareem Hamal Bashi. Customs duties were collected on each consignment as follows: Rs.2 as port charges on each package; half a rupee as handling charges; and a quarter rupee as custom duty, which was called government money.

Another quarter of Dubai was known as Fareej Al-Balouch east of Port Rashid area in which the Baluchi minority lived in temporary cottages made of palm tree wood. They lived among other small minorities from Iran and Pakistan for a number of decades until 1962. With the start of Port Rashid construction works, the area underwent major changes, so these people moved to Satwa where many of them managed to construct their own houses. The only landmark which is left of their old site is their graveyard which lies on Khalid bin Al Waleed street.

Apart from these major communities there were also a number of people who came as labourers, farmers and water carriers, while their women worked as housemaids. They lived scattered in all the different quarters of the city.

### The Pearl Era

The economy and social life of old Dubai centered around the pearl industry, the great "gmash" as much as if not more than modern Dubai does around the oil industry. Pearl fishing was described at the end of the 19th century as "the premier industry." The purchasing power of the inhabitants depended very largely on pearl fisheries. "Were the supply of pearls to fail", commented Lorimer, author of the Gazetteer of the Gulf, Oman and Central Arabia. "the ports of Trucial Oman, which have no other resources, would practically cease to exist." (Lorimer, 2220).

It was an industry which engaged most of the able-bodied men throughout the summer months from May to September, when the sea was calm and the water warm. More than 22,000 people were engaged in the industry all along the coast. They manned 1,200 boats, the largest number, 410, belonging to Abu Dhabi, and 335 operating from Dubai. It yielded a revenue of about £7,000 to the former emirate and £5,000 to the latter at the end of the 19th century. (Lorimer, I: 2220-2285)

Dubai prosperity in those days was due primarily to the pearl trade, with many of the local families engaged in it, such as Bin Dalmouk.

Shaikh Mohammad bin Ahmed bin Mubaraq Bin Dalmouk was active in Dubai during the first half of this century. He was politically and financially powerful, having gained much influence from his domination of the pearl industry during the boom era of the "great crash". He owned a number of pearl boats and financed many boat captains in order to enable them to equip and provision their vessels and pay advanced to their divers. Shaikh Ahmed drew his political influence by virtue of being a member of Dubai's ruling family. He had a large sum of money to put into the pearling business, and was thus entitled to buy pearls at cheaper prices, about 20 percent below the market value.

The pearl merchants community consisted of different categories. One was the pearl dealer, "tawash", who bought and sold pearls with some experience and financial capability behind him. Some of the leading "tawash" of Dubai were Humaid Al Basti, Bayat Al Mur, Mejren bin Sultan Al Mur, Jassim Al Bagali, Rashid bin Huraiz, Rahma Al Shamsi, Hammad bin Majid bin Futaim, Hammad Al Ghurair, Mohammad Obeid Al Budour, Mater Musabeh, Salem Musabeh, Haj Yousef Al Sayegh, Hussain bin Ali Al Sayegh, Al Haj Abdulla Al Mutaai, Haj Hassan bin Makki, Ebraheem Al Daasqi, Mohammad bin Obeid bin Medaie, Essa bin Thani, Hareb bin Hareb, Saleh bin Behzad Nasser bin Sultan Al Suweidi and Mohammad Al Ameel.

The pearl fishermen would stay at sea for the entire season. Some dealers used to approach them at the pearl banks or meet them at Dalma island when they come to replenish their supplies of fresh water. To buy pearls there used to be hard bargaining.

The second category was of pearl experts such as Haj Ebraheem bin Fardan and Sultan bin Oweis who were also prominent "tawash". And then there were the pearl traders who traded in other commodities as well. They used to collect pearls from the merchants and acted as intermediaries to sell in the international market in India and in Europe. Traders such as Abdul Qader Mohammad Abbas, Abdullah Murad and Farouq, were very active in this field. The pearl dealer would seek the help of the traders to sell his pearls in the international markets since the latter had good connections abroad, especially in India and France. The trader in turn would seek the advice of the pearl experts to classify his wares in accordance with the well-known categories of the pearl scale. Abdul Qader Mohammad Abbas had an office in Bombay as well as in Paris, where he dealt with the pearl trade in particular and in foodstuff and garments in general. One of his brothers stayed in Paris for almost 15 years. Mustafa bin Abdul Lateef was functioned from Bombay.

Rahma Al Shamsi, a pearl dealer who later left to go into the building construction business still talks excitedly of the days when he used to act as a pricing expert for pearls

and settle disputes between pearl merchants over the value of their goods. His judgement was accepted as final, so great was the authority he enjoyed by virtue of his reputation as an expert.

In 1940, Shaikh Rashid decided to enter the pearl industry, so he called Rahma to do the buying on his behalf. The venture was successful, but Shaikh Rashid decided not to continue in this business in order not to be seen as interfering in affairs of the pearl community or taking away business from the traditional pearl dealers.

The pearl industry began to decline in the 1930s with the international monetary crisis at that time and the growth of the cultured pearl industry[primarily in Japan]. The decline gathered momentum during the 1940s and the whole industry died out completely in the 50s.

The decline of the pearl industry brought countless problems for the people working in it. The boat captains went bankrupt, and the divers fell into debt. Many of them had to sell off their property, but still could not pay off their debtors.

Though the pearling industry was controlled by merchants who had interests in other businesses also, the collapse of pearling nevertheless hit them hard and many of them were rendered bankrupt.

Their sons had to look for jobs with boat builders and blacksmiths, although they were absolutely ignorant of the demand of these trades.

During the 1950s when the pearl industry died out completely, a new phenomenon became a major economic factor in Dubai. This was the gold trade to India which helped the growth of Dubai and thus encouraged banking activities.

The dictionary defines smuggling as the "act of bringing goods into a country without payment of customs duty". Although many referred to Dubai as the Centre for gold smuggling, this was incorrect, for the trade did not contravene Dubai laws. It was in fact, genuine re-export business.

Kuwait had been the primary exporter of gold to India in the early 1950s. But the growth of other economic activity in Kuwait saw it relinquish its position to Dubai, which had the advantage of being closer to the subcontinent.

British Bank of the Middle East which was originally called the Imperial Bank of Iran and which opened branches in Kuwait in 1942, in Bahrain in 1944 and in Dubai in 12 October 1946 was a large importer and seller of gold, but on behalf of bankers from Dubai.

The National Bank of Dubai and the First National City Bank of New York were also big importers of gold, while some merchants ordered their own gold from London direct.

India has always been a bottomless pit for gold a sponge which absorbed about \$200 million worth of gold every year.

The price in Dubai in 1967 was \$.35 an ounce and it was sold in India at \$.68 an ounce.

Dubai allowed the free import and export of gold and these was thus on its part no illegality in the transactions carried out here.

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WORK EXPERIENCE

1] COMPANY :: EMBASSY OF U.A.E. IN LONDON MEDICAL  
DEPARTMENT

PERIOD :: JULY 1979 TO OCTOBER 1981

POSITION :: INTERPRETER AND TRANSPORT OFFICER

DUTIES :: ACT AS AN INTERPRETER BETWEEN THE  
PATIENT AND THE DOCTOR.

REASON FOR LEAVING :: RETURNED HOME AFTER COMPLETION OF  
STUDIES,THE REASON WHY I WAS THERE.

2] COMPANY :: KHALEEJ TIMES NEWS PAPER  
DAILY ENGLISH NEWS PAPER

PERIOD :: MARCH 1982 AND STILL WORKING THERE

POSITION :: TRANSLATOR AND REPORTER

DUTIES :: TRANSLATE THE ARABIC ITEMS RECEIVED  
BY THE TELEPRINTER OF THE NEWS AGENCY  
INTO ENGLISH AND WRITE ARTICLES ON  
TRADITIONS OF THE COUNTRY[COPIES  
ATTACHED].

3] COMPANY :: DEPARTMENT OF PORTS & CUSTOMS

PERIOD :: MARCH 1983 AND STILL WORKING THERE

POSITION :: LIAISON OFFICER

DUTIES :: CORRESPONDENCE,TRANSLATION,DOCUMENT  
DESIGNER,PUBLIC RELATIONS REGARDING  
ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL MATTERS  
WHICH RELATES CUSTOMS AFFAIRS.