



Sheikh Zayed -
Falconer and
Conservationist
Par Excellence

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Zayed Left His Mark in History

Great men are those who make history, place nations on the world map, and do the impossible to make the dreams of their people come true.

Great men are a gift from God to nations and peoples, and when we think of great men throughout modern Arab history, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan comes to mind. He was a loving father and wise leader who built a modern nation through the hardest of circumstances. The late Sheikh Zayed embodied humanity and the many mosques built, the cities and villages brought to life, and the wells, roads and orphanages that came into being will always be evidence of this compassion.

Sheikh Zayed's legacy is filled with immeasurable achievements, the most prominent of which was the establishment of the United Arab Emirates in 1971.

Although, our father, teacher and leader passed away on November 2, 2004 he left us in body only, as he will remain in the hearts of the people, and will always inspire us in the present and future. He left us a secure and prosperous nation with the capable and dedicated leadership of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE.

Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
Chairman of the Emirates Falconers' Club

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With the demise of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President and founding father of the United Arab Emirates on 2nd November 2004, the world was bereft of arguably one of the greatest conservationists of this century whose forthright vision of falconry and conservation long preceded the present-day global conservationists' movement.

Dubbed as the fore-runner of contemporary falconers and conservationists across the world, Sheikh Zayed was born a conservationist. His rise to prominence marked the beginning of an era. Although he was born into a harshly inhospitable environment of the Arabian deserts where the Bedouins eked out a living through hunting, young Zayed foresaw the need to strike a balance between preservation of the ancestral heritage of falconry and hunting on the one hand, and ensuring the long-term survival of falcons and their prey on the other.

By any stretch of imagination, his vision constituted a far-sighted view that came to be known to modern conservationists as "sustainable hunting". Clearly, Sheikh Zayed was not only ahead of his own generation but also far ahead of the entire worldwide conservationist movement. By mid-1930s, Sheikh Zayed became both falconer and conservationist with a fully blossomed vision of con-



servation. This was an encompassing vision in which he envisioned a transformed conservation-friendly society. In the social arena, Zayed was undisputedly the epitome of Arab falconry. He exhibited an enormous ontological and intuitive knowledge of Mother Nature, thus enabling him to capture the imagination of his Bedouin society.

He also introduced a humane face into the concept of the sports of falconry which he considered to be an invaluable heritage. As he pursued his passion for falconry, his skills were again unrivaled as chronicled by the great British desert explorer, Sir Wilfred Thesiger, who hunted with him over half a century ago.

In a nutshell, Zayed stood for conserva-

tionists' values as a matter of conviction and necessity. He loved the nature and the wildlife as never before. In the words of renowned British journalist Patrick Seale who met him 1965 in his hometown of Al Ain where he was governor, Sheikh Zayed knew every stone, every tree, and every bird of his domain. Above all, he understood the importance of preserving every drop of water and putting it to productive use. Tree-planting was his passion.

The planning was his passion.
With respect to his social milieu, Zayed perceived falconry not just as a sport in itself, but as a companionship. Unlike elsewhere in the world, falconry in Arabia is a communal pursuit. And because he was a master of falconry in his own right, he became closer to the hearts and minds of his people. His intimacy with his people was one of the reasons why he remained such a beloved and popular leader throughout his reign.

What was uniquely fascinating about Sheikh Zayed - the man and the conservationist - was his ability to remain focused on his convictions and values. Even when he became President of the seven-member federation of the United Arab Emirates, which

was established in 1971 after the British withdrew from the Arabian Gulf, he was neither swayed by the affluence of modern life nor by many responsibilities which he had to shoulder.

Indeed, the emergence of the federation marked the era when he was able to ensure that his concern for conservation took on a nation-wide approach, and a draft of legislation followed.

Prior to the federation, Zayed had sharpened an advanced view of conservation in the early 1960s. For example, he arranged, just in time, for the capture of two breeding pairs of the Arabian Oryx for the nucleus of a captive-breeding programme. Today, 40 years later, there are well over 2,500 Arabian Oryxes in captivity in the UAE, many on his own private nature reserve island of Sir Bani Yas, along with hundreds of other endangered species.

In 1966, when he became Ruler of the Emirates of Abu Dhabi, then beginning its rapid rise as an oil producer, Sheikh Zayed created the Association for Animal Welfare.

a group of rangers who patrolled the desert to oversee the implementation of the ban on the hunting of wildlife. The gazelle, the wild doves and hare population were immediately

beneficiar
- Shil-

A black and white photograph of a Bedouin man with a beard and a traditional headdress. He is wearing a vest over a long tunic and a belt. A falcon is perched on his left arm. He is seated on a camel.



In 1989 the National Avian Research Centre, NARC, which is now part of ERWDA started breeding programmes for the African houbara, which after a slow start, produced over 200 birds in 2004. The long term objective, determined by Sheikh Zayed himself, is to produce 10,000 or more African houbara a year, most to be released to supplement wild stocks

In the early 1980s, Sheikh Zayed established a falcon hospital at Al Khazna, outside Abu Dhabi, this later being followed in 1999 by the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital, part of Abu Dhabi's Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency, ERWDA.

In the sphere of species protection, Sheikh Zayed was the first to discern the threats posed to birds and animals species. He set in motion a wide variety of projects designed to protect the species. On the directives of Sheikh Zayed, the Houbara Breeding Programme began in Al Ain Zoo (UAE) in 1977 where the first hatch was



started in 1995. By 2004 a total of nearly 1,000 wild-caught sakers and peregrines were successfully released back into the wild along their migration routes in Pakistan and Central Asia.

first country in the Arab world to introduce captive-bred falcons into falconry. It is worth mentioning that NARC has also developed a falcon captive breeding programme in order to reduce the pressure on the wild stock.

Like most Arab falconers, Sheikh Zayed traditionally released many of his birds back into the wild at the end of hunting season. The Sheikh Zayed Falcon Release Programme

أسطوله، بني فارق
في حلهم والماضي
وإنسان يسكنون ذلك
قصبة وعمق في
أشلاء ظل عليهم
وترحالهم
وفي حضلات
القصبة هذه تبدو
الطابع على خطيقتها
فمظهر السياحة
الشبيهة والجمال



reducing trapping pressure in neighbouring countries.

As can be discerned from the massive efforts exerted over the years by Sheikh Zayed, it is only fair to assert that his success story is almost unparalleled anywhere in the world. This explains why his endeavours have received international accolades, notably the Environment and Development

Golden Panda Award from the WWF in 1997, a top French Award for combating desertification in 1998, the UNESCO Environment Chair, the Arab League Scarf for Development and many other accolades. All these accolades come as a well-deserved recognition of the efforts of a man whose monumental work will leave an enduring effect for many generations to come.

Zayed lived and died with the values of conservation at his heart. In his own words he said: "Conservation of Nature is our sacred duty and obligation. The ecological balance should not be disturbed, for our survival is dependent upon it. We should play a positive role in leaving this earth a greener place for the generations to come." Since his death, he has received plaudits and praise from around the world for his statesmanship and for his achievements in building a modern, developed, harmonious and tolerant society in the United Arab Emirates. Falcons worldwide will have him, too, forever in their hearts for his far-reaching contributions to the sport – or indeed art – that he loved so much.

ومن هنا في القرآن الكريم ما يذكره الله تعالى في الآيات التالية:

أيامكم أيامنا يكبسن الناس قلوبهم عظيمة
حيثما يمرون والقفار، في كل وقت الذي لا
يكون فيه الناس في البحر أو في الديار الاتساعات
الواسعات، فلهم يذوقون العذاب، ولهذا من وطن وحدهة أو يشاركان في
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والله من وراء القصد،“
أيد بن سلطان آل نهيان

لأساطير، ليس، بارق
في هلهل والقاضم
وأنا نسكون ذلك
وتصدق وتصدق في
أنساناً ظهوره
وترهاله
وفي رحلاته
الشخص هذه بدأ
الطاعر على دقيقته
فظفر به السجايا
الشبيهة والصالح
الطيبة والأخلاق
المحمدية، كما تعلم
البلاع السائنة والأخلاص المحمد
فلا ينطلي على بخلافات في بخلافات الفتن مجازاً لامتحان
والتعذيب والتعذيب على غيره من الناس، يضاف
ذلك ما يجهله القاصي من الرغبة النفسية
العنيفة والآنس الذي لا يبس.

هذا كي يكتب بالكلمة من العينين بالكلمة التي
يزيلها الرحمة الكثيرة من العينين بالكلمة التي
تجنب كل دار ورسمه من كلام سِّين رفقاه

فالسميداء في البحر متلاً، وبعيث وبعيده
السميداء للمرحات العذبة، كثراً كثراً والتي
تصحبه بالندبة التي يعطيه بالصادمة والمساوية
الذئب يغير بهما السميداء المغدور في
الغار، يغير بهما السميداء المغدور في

س، وتكون الرحلة طويلة أحياناً لا
من أنسوؤ أو أكثر، وهو لـ الرجال بينهم
والحاكم أو الأمير، ومنهم الناجر الكبيرين
أيضاً العادل العادي، ولكن صعّب عليهم حب
والأنوث والرغبة في التمتع باللذّة
شعر كل قرد منهم بالسلطة وصفاته
الحال عن كماله ضجيج المدينة

الشيخ زايد
كانه قادر
على فهم لغة
الطبيعة
للحياة الام.
قد رفض
استخدام
البندقية
يهدى منذ عام
١٩٢٠

عن إيمانه بغيره
عن اشتراكه وخواطره دون
أو قيود، فيتناهى المسوؤل أن
ف على رغبات شعبه ويدرك ما يجول في
بها، ويقف على حقيقة آرائهم فيحيط
إلي إصلاح شأن الناس عن دراية وفهم وعن
مساءدة وعمقها بأحوال الناس.
ن هذه المفيرة موكدة لمن يعيش مع الناس في

مقدمة كتاب رياضة الصيد بالصقور للمغفور له بإذن الله تعالى الشيخ زايد رحمه الله

في رحلات السيد النبي
القم بها مع محمدبن علي
القم والعتبة وزيارة قبره
الصحابي الشهيد علي
جلشتان العبرية، وفي
الفراعنة والملائكة التي أطلقوا
وطح زمام حكم مصر على الحكيم
وهيام الله العلامة كانت
بدينها أحلاط كثيرة من
العبد وروابط مختلفة عن
الطباطور العظيم الذي
الصادف.
وفي أحذن كلدرة ياتي
من الناس يسألون عن السيد وأساليبه
لهم أيده وعانياه.
وكثير من الناس كانوا يضرس إلى بعض
اللاقات التي تكتب في ذلك السيد الصديق العظيم
مما يخص علىه مسلمات ملائكة، ويعظمون
الطباطور العظيم الذي يحيي عدمة المخلوق.
أما بحيل الأفلاك التي يحيي بمقدار
القدر طلاقه بقدر ما يحيي بمقداره.



كل قلب عاشق للطيب يا زايد بكار

في رثاء المغفور له بإذن الله الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان رحمة الله

دُمْ ضَلْعِيْنِ الْعَجْوِيْ وَكَسْرِيْ مَهَانَيْ
بُوْمِ إِنْ أَقْفَ قِبَلَهَا وَاقْلُوْنِ الشَّفَرِيْ حِبَّهَا
تَضَاعِيْنِ مَاهَدْ شَاتِ عَوْنَى مَهَلْ رَاعِيْسَهَا
وَلَا حَصَرْرِيْنِ عَارِهِ جَنْوَبَهَا وَخَالِسَالِيْهَا
وَيَغْوِيْهُنِيْنِ شَعْرُوْنِ بَوَادِرِ زَيْسَهَا
عَيَالِهِ لَهُ عَلَيْنِ تَجْبُوْنِ الْطَّلَبِ مَعْمَرَهَا

حِبْ كَهَالِعَوْنَى الْمَوْرَى اَتَهْمَرَهَا
سَالِمَانِيْنِ بَقْتِيْنِ تَذَكَّرَتِ اَولِ الْمَسْتَوَارَهَا
وَيَسْعِيْنِ لَهُنِيْنِ دَرَوْجَ الشَّاعِرِ الصَّفَارَهَا
يَهِيْ مَاهَوَهِ كَلَّتِ شَعْبِيْنِ قَدْفَهَا كَاسَارَهَا
اسَهِيْلِ يَسْكَنَهِ جَنَانَهَا عَلَيْا مَعِيْنِ اَلْمَسَارَهَا
قَفَتِ دَرَقَهَا مَعِيْنِ الْبَلَزَزِ خَسَارَهَا

هذه القصيدة رثاء في قيد الأمه الإسلامية الشیخ
زايد بن سلطان آل نهیان طیب الله ثراه



زياد سلطان التاريخ مداد من ذهب



عندما يذكر العظام، ومحاجتهم الرائحة التي تلامس الخيال،
نقف متأملين أمام هاماتهم، هل جازوا وولدوا أثاباً متعاقب طوي
تاريه، أم هو المكان والرمان الذي جعلهم عظاماً؟
إنه لا هذا ولا ذاك إن العظام هم من يصيرون التاريخ.
ويسقطون في الأم، ويغدوون لهم، ويسطرون الرجال والمكان
والزمان لتحقيق أحالم شعورهم، وإن لم يكن لديهم المال، إن
العظام هم هبة من الله بسماته وذلاله المليوب والآدم، وعندما
نستذكر عظام التاريخ العربي الحديث، يوزع في طيبة الصد الأول
منهم، اسم الوالد والعلم واللائد والزعيم الذي غُيّبه الموت في ٢
نوفمبر ٤٣٠٤، نعم غاب عن زايد يحيى، ولكن ظل رايانه ضخوراً في قلوب إبناء الإمارات، وظل يحيى
ملهماً لأخوه وأخواته ومستقبلنا لئن كان زايد لنا أباً ملائكة وقائداً حكماً، وكان رجل الطموح، قادر سعيتنا في
أجل الطلاق، حيث كنا نحتاج فديعمنا الله به، وكذا هلقين ماتتنا الله به.
وشخصية زايد لم تأت من فراغ، إنما كانت تتاجن لظروف، وعوامل كبيرة، واحادات ومشاعر والإيمان
والأحلام، وكان عليه الأكابر الشغل، روى الصدّع، وتوحد المصير إن في تاريخ زايد علامات مميزة لا تعد
ولا تحصى، وكان أكثرها رواً وإنجازاً يوم السادس من أغسطس من عام ١٩٦٦، ووقف يوم زايد على قمة الاعتزال
لليناء الافتخار في ٢ ديسمبر من عام ١٩٧١، وقام زايد بزيارة إمارات العربية المتحدة.
لقد كان الوالد زايد إنساناً يكفي ما تحمله هذه الكلمة من معان، يستظل المساجد والمدن والقرى
والمدارس والطرق والآبار ودور الإيتام، شاهداً على تلك الأحاديث الجبواها، فكم من التكالى والمهتمين
والمساكين والمخاتجين والأهل، كان لهم آباً وملاذاً عندما تتحقق لهم الدنيا.



م. ٤٤٢٩٣ - م. ٤٤٢٩٣ - م. ٤٤٢٩٣
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