



Maroun Semaan
In
Memoriam

16 May 2017

It is with deep sorrow and a tinge of incredulity that I bemoan the departure of a giant amongst men and yet the warmest of the warm. My sorrow is the more compelling as Fortune put me on another Continent when Maroun returned to his Continent, his home for eternal rest. There is a ritual in life that binds the coming and the departing, and I yearned to partake personally in the ritual to express my own thoughts and feelings towards Maroun. Maroun entered our life, and we entered his, and thus in the mystery of love we became one. Maroun entered history as an example, and as an example he endures unto our infinite future.

There is little to convey orally to his immediate family, and there is a lot to convey in silence, in deep silence, and torturing anguish, to family and friends alike. Maroun is never alone, he is always in a circle of friends, indeed a circle of disciples who loved and cared for him as their pillar.

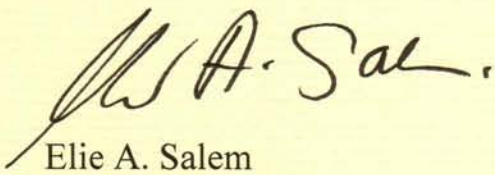
At a moment as momentous as this, we look upwards to the Almighty Above, soliciting His love and care for a man who loved and cared, and had the gift of the Almighty in him.

During my absence in the U.S. my colleagues at the University of Balamand expressed their deep sorrow in writing, and in partaking in the rituals we hold to our departing ones. Now that I am back I owe it to our beloved Maroun, as President of the University of Balamand, to express anew our institutional loss, and in the very spirit that binds us as Balamandians to a great human being, a great philanthropist, a generous supporter of higher education.



Maroun to us is virtually a myth, a mystery, a rarity, an incarnation of the true, the good, and the beautiful. To Maroun there was no other. The other was pulled by love and sucked unto his orbit, and thus encapsulated in his open, loving, confident persona. A towering figure was he, and a towering figure he will remain.

May his soul rest in peace, and may his family live in the very glory that Maroun was, and Maroun radiated.


Elie A. Salem