

"The book "A Voyage from the Tigris to Detroit - Part One

Dear Colleagues ,

I am pleased to inform you that I have published a book entitled " "A Voyage from The Tigris to Detroit - Part One" and under the author's name "Hikmet Jamil". The book is available in Amason internet library (amazon. com\book) for those who wish to read it.

Dear Colleagues,

In order to give an idea about the book, I include below those who presented the wrote thee the introduction, as well as what was written by some colleagues who reviewed the book before its publication, and documented in the book itself, in addition to mentioning the contents of the book to give a complete .idea of the contents of the book

With sincere appreciation and respect.

Hikmet Jamil



**A Voyage
From the Tigris to Detroit**

Part I

Pre-Expatriation from Iraq
1941 – 1996



By
Hikmet Jamil

Translated by Nada Jawad Al Ward

Foreword

By

Prof. Hikmat Al Shaarabaf

Former Dean of the College of Medicine

University of Baghdad

I was asked by Prof. Hikmet Jamil to write an introduction to his autobiography which is now in the hands of the readers. I read the book slowly and with contemplation and found, as its title indicates, a book with many details about the author's scientific, practical, and academic course and career. It covered some aspects of his daily life and highlighted public events that he lived through or struggled with. The author wrote his biography in detail often, and sometimes at length, to give the reader a clear idea about his work and his perseverance, his patience and suffering, his successes and failures. It is clear that he sought hard and was determined to establish a distinguished position within the professional and academic field, which he succeeded in doing. He had fulfilled his personal ambition first and achieved his goal of employing the experience and competence he acquired in serving human beings second. During his relentless pursuit to reach his set goals, the author speaks about his successes with pride, but, at the same time, he is not shy to talk about his failures with sorrow and bitterness. These were the setbacks that were often caused by adverse circumstances or sometimes inertially. In order to preserve the chronology of events, both sweet and bitter, the author has divided his book into two parts, the first of which is devoted to his life in his home country (Iraq) and named it (Pre-

Expatriation), while he called the second part (Post- Expatriation) in which he talks about his life and his achievements after settling in the United States of America as his new home; while still longing to his country of origin and striving to serve it. It is truly saddening that thousands of distinguished people are being alienated and are forced to leave their home countries. Finally, the book is simply (the autobiography of a struggling Iraqi physician). Many are those who struggle, but those who achieve are few.

Prof. Hikmat Al Shaarabaf

June – 2020

Foreword

By

Dr. Nada Al Ward

**Previously, Assistant Professor of Public Health
at the College of Medicine / University of Baghdad,
and Coordinator of Emergency and Refugee Response
Programs at the World Health Organization**

I am grateful to my brother Prof. Dr. Hikmet Jamil for asking me to write this foreword for his interesting book.

In the first part of the book, Prof. Hikmet sailed on the waves of the immortal River Tigris, starting from his early childhood and landing at the sixth decade of his long life. During this trip, he portrayed himself as a child, an adolescent, a young man, a doctor, a university professor, and a father responsible for his family. He was also a social activist and sometimes a political activist.

Although the Tigris is a calm river in most of its course, Prof. Hikmet's journey was not; as it was affected by the countercurrents, by the competing boats, and by the weakness of the oars. What helped him to overcome these difficulties were the Providence and the arm that was able to move the oar and steer the boat skillfully to arrive to safety.

Prof. Hikmet's childhood was special, during which he moved between more than one school and more than one residential area in Baghdad of the 1940s. At an early age, he started to become better aware of the political scene in Iraq, which at that time was a raging sea in which many ships had sunk, and whose waves had claimed the lives of those who dared to come near as well as those who did

not. Dr. Hikmet realized this situation while he was still a medical student, so he left the sea of politics and returned to land deciding that the best thing he could do for his country was to be a successful doctor. And so, he did.

However, this brief period of political activity left its traces on him, as it threw him into prisons, was used by his competitors against him, and was utilized by the ruling regime to terrorize him from time to time.

The second part of the book covers his other journey, in which the boat had anchored on a new and less familiar land, in the US State of Michigan. Many of those living in this new land knew not of the true scientific caliber of this man who had just landed. They did not know that he was a true warrior, with his weapon being his knowledge, morals, and devotion to work for his country, which he loved. He had always kept the interest of the country and the safety of its people above all considerations.

With this tireless determination, Prof. Dr. Hikmet Jamil set out to build his history anew and establish his scientific position in his new country with the vigor of a newly graduated young man. Soon enough, the scientific community in Michigan realized that this newcomer carried in his suitcases a lot of knowledge and experience that can be a true and winning investment.

When Prof. Hikmet dropped his anchor in the new homeland, he did not forget the Tigris River. He began to build scientific bridges between American universities and universities and health institutions in Iraq, holding conferences, going back for visits,

developing joint projects, and trying to link Iraqi doctors and scientists inside and outside Iraq to maintain communication and cooperation between them.

An enjoyable journey, presented in two main parts, encompassing many incidents, and reviewing the history of a homeland in a difficult period in its history, which had pushed many boats away for its waters to head to distant shores. Nevertheless, the eyes kept turning to the homeland the hearts were always eager to return to it. I had the honor of reviewing the Arabic version of this good journey and translating it into English.

My dear colleague and brother, Prof. Dr. Hikmet, blessed are you and your journey. Sharing your memories with us was very delightful.

Dr. Nada Al Ward

May 2021

What colleagues wrote about the first part of the book

Dear Colleagues. After I finished the draft of the book, I sent it to a number of sisters and brothers to review it and send back their comments and suggestions that can improve the content of the book. Indeed, I received many comments and suggestions, most of which I took on board, and then the news of the completion of the first part of the book was published on "Facebook". I also announced that the book was posted on the author's electronic page under the "biography" section for those who would like to read the book.

Within a week, I received through "WhatsApp", "Facebook", e-mail and regular mail, the feedback from dear colleagues about the contents of the book. The feedback continued to arrive for a while until it reached 51 comments, which encouraged me to document all of these comments at the end of the first part of the book. These comments came from people who have witnessed many of the events mentioned in the book "A voyage from the Tigris to Detroit", as they have been close enough to do so. This voyage reflects my journey before the alienation from Iraq to the USA.

Note:

I still welcome comments, although they will not be published in the book because it is now on its way to being published but definitely will be published in the webpage of the author, the address of the web page is listed below:

[,https://www.hikmetjamil.com/](https://www.hikmetjamil.com/)

Dear colleagues: The correspondence I received according to the chronological order is listed below, as follows:

(1) On August 28, 2019, Professor Dr. Muhammad al-Rubaie (Head of the Network of Iraqi Scholars Abroad) published an article after reading the draft of my book and before my decision to divide it into two parts. He circulated his article to many Iraqi websites and newspapers. The text of the article says:

An Iraqi scientist in the Diaspora

<https://www.facebook.com/mohamed.alrubeai/posts/109081655>



In the world, there is no debate about the importance of the human element in the economic process, regardless of affiliation, skin color, or place of residence as long as the person's possession of experience, competence and knowledge which are compatible with the developmental needs of society. Countries in the world provide the same level of attention and recognition to the competencies of their citizens living abroad, as they do to those living within their borders. Rather, they give more attention to those living abroad because of their ability to succeed and achieve in developed and advanced societies and in a highly competitive atmosphere, as well as their attainment of high educational and skill levels. Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia are good examples.

Abroad, there were Iraqi scholars who worked to become distinguished figures, those who have innovated and contributed to building the edifice of science and global knowledge. Among those are Abdul-Jabbar Abdullah, Fakhri Al-Bazzaz, and Saleh Jawad Al-Wakeel. Today, forty of their likes are spread throughout America, Britain, Europe, and Australia. They met within the framework of the "Network of Iraqi Scientists Abroad", to put their sciences in the service of their country, in order to provide expertise and support in the field of science, technology, and other branches of knowledge, as a vital part of development and progress in Iraq, to exchange knowledge and train specialists, technicians, and experts.

Let us talk about an Iraqi scientist who was forced by the tragedies caused by the Baath regime to emigrate from his homeland without turning his back on the homeland: Professor Hikmet Jamil, graduated from the University of Baghdad, College of Medicine in 1962 and went to the University of London to obtain his master's degree in occupational medicine and to complete his doctoral study in Manchester, United Kingdom. He returned to Iraq in 1978 to work in the College of Medicine and to contribute to the introduction of diplomas, masters, and doctorate in occupational medicine in Iraq, to found the Iraqi Association for Occupational Health and Safety, and to practice medicine in the consulting clinic of the University of Baghdad, where he was the first Iraqi doctor to specialize in occupational diseases.

He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of England. He was chosen as the best faculty member at the University of Baghdad in 1993, but the University Council refused to honor him.

After being selected for this title for the second time, the University Council canceled the title altogether from the university's honorary awards. Dr. Hikmet Jamil was the presenter of the "Your Safety at Work" program, which was broadcast daily from Baghdad Radio during the 1980s, and he was the one who introduced the "Safety Belt" to Iraq in 1982. He published the newspaper "The Call of Safety" in the same year, and the Journal of Community Medicine, which is still published by Al-Mustansiriyah University.

He left Iraq to Amman in 1996 after constant persecution and harassment by the Baathist regime, including his arrest after the 1963 coup while he was working as a physician reserve officer, boarded on the death train, imprisoned for 18 months in Nugrat Al Salman prison, and released in 1965. He was charged with treason to the country but was acquitted after verifying the validity of the charge.

He left Amman to Michigan in the United States to become the focus of attention of Wayne State University in Michigan at the age of 62, and he later occupied the professorial chair at the university and became one of its most productive and enthusiastic professors, for which he was rewarded with appreciation and achievement awards in addition to multiple grants. Within a few

years of working at the university, he becomes a member of more than one council and governmental committee nationwide, to prove the words of wisdom of the English writer Aldous Huxley: "The secret of genius is that you can transfer the spirit of a child to old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm."

He succeeded in building research cooperation with American local community organizations, non-profit institutions, and academic institutes at the international level, especially among the countries of the Middle East. His research studies on the mental health of Iraqi refugees and the role of social pressures after displacement were particularly important. He published no less than two hundred scientific papers and wrote no less than twenty books and chapters. Eight of these books are still the focus of attention of teachers in Iraqi universities.

He was a brilliant orator who was invited by various health and social institutions around the world, where he gave more than two hundred scientific lectures. Hikmet Jamil's competence made him gain the trust and appreciation of international scientific institutions, which enabled him to obtain more than six million dollars in funding for the research he conducted on the Arab community and Iraqi refugees in Michigan since 2000. Despite the difficulties of establishing new projects and the spread of corruption in Iraq, Hikmet proceeded to realize his dream to establish the College of Public Health in Iraq and submitted to the Iraqi government in 2011 his project in coordination with Wayne State University in Michigan, so he visited Iraq several times to

implement his project, and after painstaking talks he obtained the initial approval in January 2013, when the University of Kufa adopted the project, but the project stopped in April 2014 and did not see the light to this day. Hikmet still believes that Iraq can provide tremendous potential for the realization of this project, and other community health projects provided that procedures are simplified, corruption is prevented, and a safe environment is provided, so you find him dreaming of being invited by the Iraqi authorities to cross the distance between Michigan and Baghdad at the age of eighty-four.

Doesn't this venerable scientist and distinguished physician deserve our pride and appreciation?

Prof. Muhammad al-Rubaie

Note: I must mention that after Prof. Dr. Muhammad al-Rubaie published his article on Facebook, more than 83 male and female colleagues answered, each of them, in his own style, criticizing the fact that Iraq is not embracing and not appreciating scholars in the diaspora. I wish them all health and success. The reader can review what they wrote through accessing the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/mohamed.alrubeai/posts/1090816557770569>

I cite one example (No. 2 below) on that:

(2) On August 29, 2019, a colleague commented on Professor Dr. Muhammad Al-Rubaie post on Facebook, with the following:

It is sad that our country, Iraq, is deprived of its scholars... An honorable biography created by a fighting and loving spirit aiming, at good deeds, not at boasting... May God bless every working, scientist who seeks to do good, and you are among them Dr. Hikmet.

(3) On March 13, 2020, brother Jamal Jamil accountant and auditor) wrote:

Dear brother Hikmet
Thank you for dedicating your book to me and for your outstanding efforts in writing your scientific career and efforts. The efforts made for Iraq and the sacrifices made by you to establish the concept of Occupational health and safety and work for the establishment of the national public health project in Iraq and you are in America.

Jamal Jamil

(4) On June 6, 2020, Prof. Dr. Zuhair Ibrahim (Former Professor of Clinical Chemical Pharmacy / University of Baghdad) wrote back when I sent him my draft biography before giving it a title or a cover:

A thousand thanks to Dr. Hikmat for this great book. I have not read a book in my life that sails to the world of fiction like this book. Your book is the best gift I got.
Greetings, love, and thanks very much.

(5) On November 22, 2020, Prof. Dr. Zuhair Ibrahim (Former Professor of Clinical Chemical Pharmacy / University of Baghdad) wrote when I presented the book to him:

Professor Hikmet Jamil

My greetings, my love, my respect, and my pride to your honorable person, Doctor Hikmet Jamil, you wrote a beautiful book (I have not read in my life a more beautiful book than your book) and you are also beautiful in mind and heart, with beautiful knowledge, manners, taste, morals, biography, family, pedigree, genealogy and creed (I mean the Christian religious belief and not the political belief, because I, and as you know my dear friend, am completely unlike you, for I am a fan of the Faysal and Ghazi kings. My father Qassem and my grandfather Ibrahim, and ascending to my great grandfather, Umar Khayyam, were all fans of the Shahs of Iran at that time. The difference of ideology between us will never expel you from my heart (so your place and dwelling are always in the heart). I cherish you as a friend, as a fellow physician, and I am proud of your abundant knowledge and of being in the lead of the Iraqi Scholars Association. A thousand thanks for this book that melted my heart and took my thoughts to my beloved Baghdad.

(6) On December 3, 2020, Assistant Professor Dr. Saad Al-Ghabban (University of Karbala) wrote:

I am humbled by being mentioned in my professor's biography, from whom I learned my professional ethics and how to apply them in my work. You have my great respect, appreciation, and gratitude, asking Almighty God to bless you with good health and a long life.

Your student who will never forget his esteemed teacher, Saad.

(7) On December 4, 2020, Prof. Dr. Laith Shaker (Professor of History / College of Ibn Al-Haytham / University of Baghdad)

wrote:

To the Honorable Dr. Hikmet Jamil, the true son of Iraq, we thank God for your kindness, good manners, and generosity.... Thank you for the wonderful gift, with our gratitude and appreciation.

(8) On December 4, 2020, Dr. Adnan Al-Morani (Faculty member in one of the colleges in Michigan and an employee of the Arab Community Center for Social and Economic Services

at Michigan) wrote:

Prof. Hikmet, it is a great honor for me and with a great gratitude to be among the distinguished group of professors you have selected to review the draft of the book you wrote on the path of your life, which is so rich and educational. May the Lord bless you for your mighty efforts? It really is a great lesson and a brightening light for present and future generations.

Adnan

(9) On December 4, 2020, Mai Zuhair Jamil wrote (Graduate of the College of Arts / University of Baghdad, a Decor Designer from a university in Sydney / Australia, and the cover designer of this book)

A thousand thanks, Amoo Hikmet. I was so happy and appreciative, it is very dear and great to my heart... May you enjoy thousands of good health, happiness, and achievements.

My appreciation and respect

Mai Zuhair Jamil.

(10) On December 4, 2020, Dr. Joseph Nimrod Al-Mooshi (specialist surgeon, formerly in the Ministry of Health and the former director of Al-Karkh Al-Jumhuriya Hospital in Baghdad, Iraq expatriate in America) wrote:

Dear Dr. Hikmet, Good day,

Thank you very much for your dedication of your book "A Voyage from the Tigris to Detroit" to me.

I not only read the dedication, but I went on and on reading the book, because it was so interesting and contained many names of our colleagues who are famous in their specialty and good personality. Every word in it was so sincere and true, it sits in my thought and I am proud of you and your participation in providing not heart. only your academic skills but your experience in life to your students and new generation of doctors as well as to your colleagues. I wish you the best of good health, happiness and from success to another.

God bless you and keep you well.

Your colleague Dr. Joseph N. Al-Mooshi

(11) On December 5, 2020, Prof. Dr. Ghalib Al-Haboubi wrote (Former Professor in the Department of Community Medicine / College of Medicine / University of Baghdad, and Former Head of the Department of Community Medicine in a university in the United Arab Emirates)

Brother Professor Dr. Hikmet Jamil

Greetings and I wish you and Mrs. Jamil the best and happiest times.

These memories undoubtedly will please colleagues and friends of Professor Dr. Hikmet Jamil, because it brings them back to

beautiful moments that take them out of the monotony of the quiet days of retirement to old days when the brother, Professor Hikmet, was constantly moving and energetic, with a wide step in his life, quick in everything, loud enough not to use the microphone in lectures or conferences...

This book presents his scientific activities and what he was exposed to as a result of his belief in the importance of commitment to scientific work only (teaching and research). He did not depart from this commitment despite the pressures he was subjected to throughout his work in the Faculty of Medicine and in other scientific and social bodies. Unfortunately, those in power during those days could not understand how a professor and researcher in the College of Medicine can commit his mind, time, and effort to contribute to the knowledge and development of his country. They were chasing his political history, which he left behind, while he was racing against time and age to achieve his plans after obtaining his doctorate and enrolling in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Baghdad.

I got to know brother Hikmet when he joined the department of community medicine in 1978. Our personal and scientific relationship continued to develop since that time. My first research was with him and under his supervision, as well as another one before I traveled to the USA to study for a doctorate in occupational medicine, to which he contributed through helping me to obtain admission at the University of Michigan-Anne Arbor. Our scientific relationship and cooperation continued after my

return to Iraq to join the department again, until he left Iraq after retiring in 1996 due to a health crisis resulting from of false political accusation.

Professor Hikmet Jamil actively contributed to advancing the scientific and research path of the community medicine department. He initiated a scientifically fruitful cooperation with the Ministry of Health, and he was the first to achieve the actual interconnection between the university and the community through campaigns to conduct basic clinical examinations for the residents of the villages surrounding Baghdad, where teams headed by university professors and consisting of graduate students of the community medicine departments performed these examinations.

Also in these teams were final year students of the Faculties of Dentistry, Pharmacy, Science and Education. These campaigns were under the overall leadership of the President of the University of Baghdad to materialize the relationship of the university and the surrounding community. This was the first field experience that did not stop until his retirement. He opened horizons for joint work with various social activities related to the specialty of community medicine and occupational medicine, where he worked as the scientific advisor to head the Iraqi Workers' Union and published many booklets on the most important health risks in the work environment to educate workers. He has important contributions in publishing several journals, and he alone has the credit for issuing the Journal of Community Medicine in Iraq, which contributed to the publication of scientific research for most of the professors in

Baghdad Medical College and medical colleges in the universities of Al-Mustansiriyah, Mosul, Basra, and other colleges.

What I could not understand while I was reading the journey of brother Dr. Hikmet Jamil, is why was he subjected to this psychological pressure, false accusations, and repeated summoning to the security services while he was working very hard in Iraq, but when he was visiting as an expatriate from the USA, he was surrounded by an aura of honor and attention. Colleagues in the department were surprised when he arrived in a red Mercedes government car with a driver and laughed happily when the secretary of the Minister of Health called to say that the Minister was waiting to see him...!

All the best of luck and respect for my brother Professor Dr. Hikmet, and my greetings to Mrs. Jamil, for her wisdom and efficient management of the family during these crises, as the family of brother Dr. Hikmet would not have remained cohesive and happy if it were not for this great lady. She deserves all respect.

And may brother Hikmet allow me, through his book, to greet all our colleagues in the department and to ask them to raise our hand to pray to God Almighty, to be with our friends, Professor Dr. Tariq Al-Hadithi and Prof. Dr. Walid Al-Tawil, to bless them with recovery and health.

(12) On December 5, 2020, Dr. Hassan Kazzaz (Former Director General of the Public Health Department / Ministry

of Health / Iraq and Former Head of the Iraqi Family

Medicine Association) wrote:

My big brother and my dear teacher

It is my great honor to receive this gift from one of the celebrities of Iraq, the honorable striver and the fruitful tree that has long been stoned by the hypocrites and the enemies of humanity. Words fail to describe you. May God grant you a long life and give you ample health and wellness.

Your brother Hassan Al-Kazzaz

(13) On December 6, 2020, Professor Dr. Muhammad Al-Rubaie / Head of the Network of Iraqi Scholars Abroad, wrote

after the completion of the first part of the book:

Thank you, dear doctor, for sending the book in its final form. I wanted to show it to friends in NISA, but I waited for a signal from you after finalizing it. I feel embarrassed for not being able to finish reading it, but the chapters I read taught me a lot about your life; of hardship, obstacles, and luxury, and found an excellent and consistent amount of personal and public information. I also found it distinguished by simplicity and ease, as if the writer were among us talking to us face to face about his life stories, struggles, sacrifices, and the difficulties he faced. I cannot do justice to the book until after I finish reading it, especially since it is now in a new look, perhaps with more events or new formulations. Thanks again, dear Hikmet, and we wish you all success, ample health, and a long life.

(14) On December 6, 2020, Assistant Professor Dr. Faris Al-Lami (Former Head of Community Medicine Department / College of Medicine / University of Baghdad, and Former Acting Director General of the Public Health Department at the Ministry of Health) wrote:

Dear Sir

I have been heartened by your words springing from the depths of your sincere heart. You were devoted to your country and served it with all you could. Many others, those who breathed its air, drank its pure water, and ate from the goodness of its land, denied any service to Iraq in its ordeal. Despite all the crises, pains, difficulties, bloodshed, dangers, and hardships that Iraq faced during the past three decades, you did not cut your ties with the Tigris and Baghdad or forget the kindness and roots of its people. You ceased every opportunity to visit Baghdad and meet everyone, young and old, student and professor. You offered advice and guidance, stimulating all to take Iraq to be foremost and to land its ship on a safe shore. While in your new home, you never stopped thinking about Iraq and its people, following its news and optimistically hoping that the future will be better. As you always did, you are still holding conferences, founding societies, and conducting research in various fields, with the common denominator being Iraq and Iraqis, inside and outside the country. I have learned a lot from you, as did many others. You will remain an example of perseverance, hard work and overcoming

difficulties, armed with knowledge, integrity, honesty, and team spirit.

We ask God to reward you for what you have provided in terms of knowledge and services to this wounded country, the reward for good working scholars. We pray for your contributions to continue to be an inspiration for future generations, so that Iraq will return to its former glory and prosperity, and Baghdad will return as a beacon. We ask Him, the Almighty, to grant your health, wellness, happiness and a long life with your children and grandchildren.

(15) On December 6, 2020, Prof. Dr. Abdulhadi Al-Khalili (Former Professor of Neurosurgery / College of Medicine / Baghdad University and The Cultural Attaché / the Iraqi Embassy in Washington, DC) wrote:

Well done our brother in the long path Dr. Hikmet for this enriching addition to the cultural library through the documentation of your long and rich experience in medicine and social life. God bless and grant you a long and fruitful life.

With affection

Hadi

(16) On December 6, 2020, Prof. Dr. Nabil Al-Tawil (Former Professor / Microbiology Department, / College of Medicine / University of Baghdad and Former Immunologist in a hospital in Sweden) wrote:

Thank you very much, Professor, Hikmet for this book. We ask God to grant your health and long life. I acknowledge your

valuable efforts in continuing education, conferences, and the
journal.

Nabil Al-Tawil

(17) On December 6, 2020, Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Hayawi (Former Dean of Saddam Medical College President of Saddam University Chairman of Iraqi Scientific Council and Former Professor of Anatomy at a university in Jordan) wrote:

Thank you, Dr. Hikmet Jamil. I have not read the book yet, but it
is

definitely a rich experience. I knew Dr. Hikmet as a proficient professor, scientifically capable, diligent, and energetic, with the characteristic of accurate documentation of his activities, which is a great feature for documenting scientific history. My best wishes
for a good health, wellness, and more production.

Mahmoud Hayawi.

(18) On December 7, 2020, Prof. Dr. Abdul-Hussein Al-Hadi (Former Head of the Community Medicine Department / College of Medicine / Saddam University) wrote:

My dear brother, Prof. Hikmet. Bless you for distinguished efforts
in documenting your career and excellent performance over decades of scientific, academic, and humanitarian contributions to our beloved country, Iraq. I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart on the release of the first part of your book “A Voyage from the Tigris to Detroit”, and I look forward to the continuation of your contribution, progress, and success in serving humanity.

(19) On December 7, 2020, Prof. Dr. Abdul-Munaf Hussain Al-Jadri (Former Professor and Head of the Psychiatry Department / College of Medicine / Baghdad University)

wrote:

Bless you for your continuous efforts and contributions, Professor Hikmet Jameel. During the years of our service in the College of Medicine, I felt your passion for science, love for development, determination, and patience despite some of the negative reactions that you have faced. You have organized the successful scientific conferences for the College of Medicine, you were the dynamo for the postgraduate studies in occupational and environmental medicine, and the owner of innovative ideas.

My regards.

Munaf

(20) On December 7, 2020, Prof. Dr. Miqdad Al-Ani wrote (Former Specialist in Surgery / College of Medicine / University of Baghdad)

Congratulations for the effort put into your book. I wish you success always and forever, and to bring back memories of the beautiful past, with my regards to you.

Miqdad Ani.

(21) On December 7, 2020, engineer Johannes Abona (engineer specializing in computer science) wrote:

Hi Hikmet,

Happy to hear that you are finishing up your book. I like the pictures within the book as it shows a lot of history. Unfortunately, I only

speak Arabic, but I am unable to read or write Arabic, so I was not able to read the book. I am glad it is coming along well, and I am sure your family is very happy. I hope you are doing well, and we will see you soon.

Kind regards,

Johannes Abona

(22) On December 8, 2020, Mr. Abdul Khaleq Al-Maliki (Employee of the Arab Community Organization for Social and Economic Services in Michigan) wrote:

All the love and appreciation to you, dear brother, Dr. Hikmet. I wish you prosperity, success, health, wellness, and a long life.

(23) On December 9, 2020, Prof. Dr. Jawad Al-Diwan (Head of Community Medicine Department / College of Medicine / University of Baghdad) wrote:

Respected Prof. Dr. Hikmet Jamil

Kind greetings

All thanks and appreciation to you for sending the copy of your book. All regards to you, as you document what happened during your life's journey. I will write to you after I finish reading the book and allow me to publish an article about it.

Dear Sir, I will distribute the book to the doctors in the department.

All wishes to you for health and wellness.

Jawad Al-Diwan

(24) On December 9, 2020, Prof. Dr. Khidir Helou (a member of the network of Iraqi scholars abroad and lives in England)

wrote:

Dear Hikmet,

I am delighted to see that you have published a book on your life experience that spanned your years in Iraq and the U.S. It is very special and saying that you wrote this acknowledgment to show the impact of NISA on you. I look forward to reading it!

Wishing you the very best,

Khidir

(25) On December 10, 2020, Bishop Francis Galabat (Bishop of the Chaldean Community in All America) wrote:

Chaldean Diocese Office

Dear Mr. Hikmet Jamil

Thank you for your email. I read the first page. God bless. I will be offering special prayers for you.

May you have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

(26) On December 11, 2020, Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ali Farhan (currently associate president of an Iraqi university in Syria and former professor at Baghdad University) wrote:

Greetings, my brother, the respected Professor Dr. Hikmet Jamil, I thank you very much for the gift... and I wish you a happy and blessed life... May God prolong your life and protect you, the Lord of Glory with the achievements and creations despite all the shortcomings you faced... I hope and pray that God will bless you

with glory and take care of you. My love and respect for your honorable person.

Your brother, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ali Al Farhan

(27) On December 12, 2020, Dr. Zuhair Jamil wrote (Dental Specialist in Iraq)

Dear Hikmet, I decided to write to express my thoughts after reading your interesting book, which reveals your journey in life, your career, scientific achievements, humanitarian activities and many more difficult situations that I did not know about in these details, in spite of being the closest of brothers to you in terms of age and profession. I was afraid that some readers would accuse me of bias because you are my brother. But after reading what friends, colleagues, co-workers, and students wrote, and even what was written by those who had negative and harmful attitudes against you at some time, I found that they have covered everything I wanted to write about you and your book in the lines of those who wrote. They have all agreed on your generous character, tolerance, and humility with everyone. All of them have expressed that Dr. Hikmet has a very high positive energy, which is durable and tireless, with all his work, ideas, projects, and research, all of which were in the interest of Iraq including scientific and societal research. Now that you are retired and have no work relations with them, this means that everything they wrote is real and expresses what they knew about you and what they felt about you, in appreciation of what you have contributed to science, to your country, and your colleagues during

your long and busy journey in life which is full of scientific and
research achievements.

In conclusion, I would like to say that Dr. Hikmet, my older brother,
is our role model and our family pride, from whom we have learned
a lot, and that his book “A Voyage from the Tigris to Detroit” is a
wonderful and honest record of a person who is ambitious, patient,
and steadfast to achieve his ambitions and what an ambitious person
can offer to science and the homeland, and to his fellow human
beings.

May God grant you a long life my brother Hikmet and may your
journey be inspiring to those who work for the sake of science and
the country.

Dr. Zuhair Jamil

**(28) On December 13, 2020, Dr. Hazem Al-Jumaili
(Undersecretary of the Iraqi Minister of Health for Medical
Affairs) wrote:**

Thank you very much, our teacher. We are honored by this gift, and
we wish you success in completing the second part of your project.

With many thanks and respect.

Dr. Hazem Al-Jumaili

**(29) On December 14, 2020, Assistant Professor Dr. Talib Al
Mosawi (Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President of
Al-Kut University College - Iraq) wrote:**

A Voyage from the Tigris to Detroit, I am talking about Hikmet.

I am Dr. Talib AlMosawi

(A voyage from the Tigris to Detroit) is memoirs written by the Iraqi medical scientist Professor Dr. Hikmet Jamil. This part of the book sailed through his life path from the time enter the school in Iraq in 1941 until his travels to the USA in 1996. This period is a phase of psychological alienation because of what he had been exposed to, while he was inside his country, of various kinds of violations, which led him to describe his trip as a boat journey, which is a metaphorical description. He portrayed what he had been exposed to as a boat sailing in hard waters with the sea waves and strong storms. He was on board that boat and he defied all obstacles to continue his journey and reach Detroit, USA, a place known to most residents of the globe. He described his journey as arduous, having been psychologically alienated in his own country. He was exposed to injustice throughout his life by successive governments but remained a lover of the country, aspiring to serve it. He suffered the harshest forms of treatment and harassment until 1963, from which he was 1958. He was arrested in Prison No. (1) in taken to Nugrat Al-Salman prison in the same year. He narrates events related to his work in the Ministry of Health until 1973, after which he started his academic career at the University of Baghdad, in addition to his voluntary activity in the field of occupational health and safety in most of the ministries in Iraq. During his work at the University of Baghdad, he faced problems and obstacles by fanatics and abusers aiming to ascend to higher positions in the ruling party which eventually led to his emigration to the USA in 1996.

Although the book tells the life story of the writer, it addresses at the same time an important historical stage in the life of the Iraqis, describing social, political and economic aspects as well as the fight between political parties and successive governments to gain power. This had led to the loss of rights and the undermining of freedoms for many citizens, sometimes accompanied by forced disappearance, which led the author to despair similar to thousands of Iraqis who, were alienated in their homelands. experience had motivated the author to write his autobiography as a witness to that era describing the amount of the suffering experienced by the society.

The book describes the path of a man who believed in the homeland and continued his difficult journey to make the voice of truth heard and as service for all the sons of the homeland wherever they are. In spite of the bitter memories, the book maintains its element of suspense.

We look forward to the publication of the second part of this journey taking place in the USA.

May God grant you success.

Dr. Talib AlMosawi

(30) On December 16, 2020, Dr. Alaa Al-Alwan (Minister of Health in the Republic of Iraq in 2019, and high ranking World

Health Organization staff) wrote:

Dear brother Prof. Dr. Hikmet,

Thank you for your generous initiative, and I pray to God to protect you and bless you.

My best wishes and respect.

Alaa Al-Alwan

(31) On December 17, 2020, Professor Dr. Ahmed Al-Khafaji (formerly Head of the Community Medicine Department, College of Medicine, University of Basra) wrote:

Dear brother Dr. Hikmet Jamil, Esquire
I have enjoyed reading the first part of your book, "A Voyage from the Tigris to Detroit." I have received the book in its electronic version yesterday, Wednesday - December 16, 2020. I started reading it on the phone immediately, with the intention of reading it quickly initially to learn about its contents and headlines, planning to follow that with a second thorough reading to grasp the lessons and wisdoms it contains later. However, and after I started reading, I found myself immersed in it with passion and a great drive to learn more about the early stages of Dr. Hikmet's life. I started reading at about nine in the evening, and finished the large part of the book
after 3 a.m.

My journey with the book was very enjoyable and useful for me because it was many turns and human situations that were
meaningful and informative.

May God grant you success in completing the second part of the book soon, God willing, because I am very eager, and looking forward to reading about the second part of your journey and your
distinguished contributions.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Khafaji

(32) On December 18, 2020, Mr. Saadallah Karbouli (former

**head of the Health and Safety Department at the General Center
of the Federation of Trade Unions in Iraq) wrote:**

During my work with Dr. Hikmet Jamil for four years, when he worked as an advisor for occupational health and safety in the General Federation of Trade Unions, I found him to work with sincerity and perseverance without receiving any payment in return. Many people stood against him because of their jealousy of the great success he achieved improving the occupational and health standards of Iraqi workers.

We are grateful to you Dr. Hikmet because you have scarified a lot for your country. You are one of the strong pillars that contributed to building our dear Iraq.

Saadallah Karbouli

(33) On December 18, 2020, Professor Dr. Basma Muhammad Al-Ani (Professor of Chemistry at Ibn Al-Haytham College, University of Baghdad and a founding member of the International Al-Nahrain Society for Iraqi scholar) wrote:

Our honorable professor, Dr. Hikmet, you have honored us by sending us your book which carries a distinguished life and scientific experience to learn from.

May you live long with the blessings of God and to remain as a valuable asset for Iraq and its people.

Dr. Basma Mohammed Al-Ani

(34) On December 19, 2020, Dr. Adnan Hammad (formerly Director of the Community Health and Scientific Research Center at Access) wrote:

Dear Hikmet

Thank you very much for sharing this beautiful achievement with me, which narrates your biography, culture, personal and national history. I look forward to reading this part and the second part soon,

God willing.

Dr. Adnan Hammad

(35) On December 19, 2020, the emeritus professor, Dr. Sarmad Khunda (Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the College of Medicine, University of Baghdad) wrote:

Dear Dr. Hikmet,

I am still looking at the winding and enjoyable march of your life, and through it showing difficulties and sufferings that you went through during your work in Iraq, a situation which faced all those who have served this wounded country. These mishaps did not change after you have left your mother country, which is still facing political failures.

As a former colleague of yours, I appreciate the extent of your suffering in order to fulfill your service and scientific goals. Success was the outcome of this long journey.

I will have to express my bitterness of all those who left the country to leave a vacuum, which was adversely used by some. I had been through a similar situation, but I was determined to continue with my scientific work in the College of Medicine as an emeritus professor, despite my old age. I would have liked all those from our generation to continue to work in Iraq to maintain the scientific

standard of the College of Medicine as one of the most prominent colleges in the Middle East, as it used to be in the 1970s. I congratulate you for this interesting narration, and I hope you will accept my comments with an open heart.

Sarmad Kaunda, Emeritus Professor, Baghdad Medical College

(36) On December 19, 2020, Professor Dr. Amer Fatuhi (Professor of Mesopotamian History and Arts in Michigan)

wrote:

Respected Prof. Dr. Hikmet Jamil... Greetings and peace
Thank you very much for gifting a copy of your book titled “A Voyage from the Tigris to Detroit”: I cannot but congratulate you for your rich review of your life’s journey full of achievements and life details that paint the image of Iraq in an era of fraternity and the growth of the national spirit, except for some exceptions that disturbed the peaceful general atmosphere of the homeland for one reason or another. I will publish an introduction to the book on Nebuchadnezzar's page after discussing the issue with the Publication Committee, and I will encourage other Iraqi pages to share the publication.

I could have sufficed with this and concluded this congratulatory letter with good wishes, but for the sake of your achievement, I found a number of typographical errors that can be corrected easily and by analogy in the indexing of the book (Chapter Five under the title The Blue Asbestos Incident and page number 104, knowing that the correct one is the Asbestos Incident blue and the page number is 105). I must also point out, by virtue of my experience in the field

of design since I was in my early twenties, when I was supervising the design of the Art magazine, which was issued with a quarter of a million copies per week, that the cover of the book does not give the reader any idea of the content and does not belong to a design in our time with its technical capabilities I hope that this clarification will not cause any inconvenience to your honorable person, especially since the effort within the book and the smooth and clear writing style are indisputably superior to what the modest cover contains in design and implementation.

Once again, I thank you very much for your generous gift of a copy of your book, which I consider a qualitative addition. I hope that our page and the rest of the Iraqi pages, especially the page of my brother, Dr. Nizar Malacha introduces the book. May you and your loved ones be well and healthy.

Dr. Amer Hanna Fatuhi

Professor of History and Arts of Mesopotamia

(37) On December 19, 2020, Professor Dr. Ahmed Al-Rubaie (President of the Iraqi University Graduates Forum in Australia) wrote:

Our honorable professor, Dr. Hikmet Jamil, Esquire
There are no limits for my gratitude and pride in receiving your fragrant biography of which we are proud, a biography that chronicled not only a prominent medical, academic, and national role model, but also important periods in the history of our beloved Iraq for more than half a century.

We sincerely wish you a long life and the best health and peace of
mind.

Ahmed Al-Rubaie

(38) On December 19, 2020, the consultant Prof. Dr. Eng. Salam Marougi (University Professor / San Francisco / California)

wrote:

My Dear Dr. Hikmet,

I am so grateful for the generous kindness you are expressing towards me. I am so glad we met back in Erbil, though I wish we
have met much earlier.

I am sure I will read this book many times, and I hope you do not
mind if I share it with some close friends.

With Christmas upon us, I would like to wish you and your entire family a Very Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year hoping
it will bring joy, happiness, and Excellent Health to you all.

All the best, hope to get together and meet soon.

Regards,

Salam

(39) On December 21, 2020, Dr. Khamis Hussein Al-Saad (the former administrative undersecretary of the Iraqi Ministry of

Health) wrote:

Peace be upon you, Doctor. I miss you, and hope that all is well. Glad to be in touch again. I am currently in Amman, and I am sure that you know what happened. By the middle of next month, I will finish my work here and go back to the Ministry. I don't know where I would be as all possibilities are there, among which is a long-term

leave from work. I am sending my telephone number, which is
connected through WhatsApp.

My greetings.

Dr. Khamis

**(40) On December 22, 2020, the emeritus professor Dr. Saadoun
Khalifa (professor of community medicine, College of Medicine,
University of Baghdad previously) wrote:**

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Brother Professor Dr. Hikmet Jamil Esquire

I had the pleasure of reading the first part of your book entitled (A Voyage from the Tigris to Detroit). Before I touch on the subject of the book, I must talk about the author of the book, Professor Hikmet Jamil, with whom I became acquainted when he was appointed as a lecturer in the department of community medicine at the College of Medicine, University of Baghdad, while I was one of the professors of the department. I found in Dr. Hikmet all the sincerity in his teaching career in addition to his great passion for scientific research. He was the one who introduced the subject of occupational health to the curriculum of the department, and he opened new horizons in the field of occupational health with the other concerned ministries. He excelled in holding seminars and publishing journals and books on occupational health to enlighten the reader about the importance of occupational health. He had a high attitude that made everyone in the department appreciate Dr. Hikmet.

As for the book, as soon as I started reading it, it made me eager to keep reading its pages one by one to reach its end, enjoying its

contents, which are full of events, stories, and educational lessons in his autobiography, which he inherited from his family and passed it to younger generations with its high values. He also touched on matters of nationalism and patriotism, including the people's uprising against the Portsmouth Treaty, which the present generation does not remember, and it was called an up-rise leading to the fall of the government and the annulment of the treaty. He also touched on the people's revolution for the cause of Palestine, which unfortunately was sold by our Arab rulers, and they ran for peace and recognition of the State of Israel. In the other chapters, the author went through what he was exposed to due to his political beliefs for which he was detained and imprisoned. The book carries lessons to the new generations showing how Dr. Hikmet had persevered and endured all difficulties to achieve his dream of obtaining the highest scientific degrees in his field of specialization and the recognition he received from various universities. The book, even as a biography, contains lessons from which the reader can benefit.

I congratulate Dr. Hikmet on this great achievement, and I am waiting for the second part. May God help us to serve our beloved Iraq.

Emeritus Professor Dr. Saadoun Khalifa Al-Tikriti, Sunday,
December 22, 2020

Note: Professor Saadoun's message that was sent by phone as a picture.

(41) On December 23, 2020, Dr. Bahaa Najm (member of the International Nahrain Association of Iraqi Scholars) wrote:

Thank you very much, dear Dr. Hikmet, for this beautiful gift.

For more contributions and creativity, God willing.
May God protect you and those around you from all evil and grant you health, safety, and continued success. I wish you all the best for a safe and healthy Christmas holiday with family and friends.

Dr. Baha Najm

Florence – Italy.

(42) On December 23, 2020, Professor Dr. Fakhri Muhammad Al-Hadithi (formerly Dean of the College of Medicine at the University of Baghdad) wrote:

My dear brother, Hikmet Jamil, the esteemed

Greetings to you all

I offer you my warmest congratulations for this effort and frankness in your book with the sequence of events starting from elementary school in Iraq until you moved to live as an expatriate in the USA. You did not forget about Iraq and tried to connect Mesopotamia and

Detroit, through the Tigris River and the Detroit River.

My brother Hikmet, after reading your book, I felt compassionate for the tragedies and successive accidents which you have faced between 1963-1973. With patience and ambition you had managed to reach your goal in this unforgiving world, which I have also suffered.

We did not know each other during the earlier days when we were students in the Faculty of Medicine, but time brought us together in

the same faculty as professionals. The first meeting we had was in my house in Al-Amiriya when you visited to congratulate me on the occasion of my appointment as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. I thanked you for your noble feeling towards me. This happened in April 1983, and we talked about what I would do as the dean of the Baghdad Medical College, the school from which we graduated. Would I work as an administrator who runs day-to-day work of the “mother college” that represents the great medical edifice with its finest doctors, the advanced cadre in Iraq without engaging them in scientific events such as an annual conference. Work has begun in the field of continuing education in cooperation with the Ministry of Health for which Dr. Hikmet had contributed his support and experience at work through initiating this activity in community medicine. We agreed together to start preparing for the annual conference of the College of Medicine. Indeed, the preparation for the conference was done and it was announced in April 1984. It was a wonderful achievement with the number of research, and the number of attendees for the participants which was between 700-1000. On the opening of the conference, it honored a number of former college deans and retired professors. At the conclusion of the conference, a ceremony was held by the Deanship, which was attended by the professors in the college with the guests of the conference in their honor.

My brother Hikmet, this work continued for eleven years, which included continuing education through communication and coordination with the Ministry of Health to help its doctors to join

the seminars within the continuing education program that you were responsible for in addition to the Journal of the Medical College, despite the difficult circumstances that were the result of the war on Iraq by Iran. With the help of the Minister of Culture and Information, we were able to continue publishing the journal in a good way, in addition to continuing to work in the scientific field. The Deanship did not forget to go to the social and sports field. The professors and students participated in preparing for a sports festival sponsored by the President of Baghdad University. Our achievements in the scientific and social field represented cooperation by everyone from the teaching staff and students, and this institution in the field of raising the name of the prestigious Baghdad Medical College and its national and scientific reputation.

Finally, I wish you success and health.

Your brother Fakhri Muhammad Al-Hadithi.

(43) On December 23, 2020, Dr. Musab Kabi (former president of the Chaldean American Society for Health Sciences) wrote:

A great accomplishment

This needed to be documented, Makes us very proud and Honored.

We are blessed to have you represent us as a Chaldean, as a doctor and as humanitarian. Keep up the great work.

Thank you very much for sending me the book.

God bless you.

(44) On December 23, 2020, Dr. Talib Al-Khafaji (a psychologist at King Fahd Teaching Hospital in the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia) wrote:

Dear Hikmet: Wonderful project, surely you have lived a very rich life with great experiences. I will read it. In this occasion I will tell you happy holiday and have great upcoming new year.

Talib Kafajy

(45) On January 4, 2021, my brother, Engineer, Sabah Jamil and his wife wrote

My dear brother, Dr. Hikmet

My wife and I had a great time reading the interesting memoirs of your life and scientific career, which are full of giving, sacrifice, love of the country and its service, and sincerity, on the one hand, and your love for science, perseverance, and challenge on the other hand, despite all the difficulties and pains you faced, and you were patient and honest in dealing with them.

This distinguished scientific march full of achievements and scientific research made you one of the Iraqi scientists in medicine.

You are our pride, my brother Hikmet.

Thank you for the gifts, and may God grant you a long life with health and grace.

Your brother Sabah

(46) On January 8, 2021, Dr. Ithar Al-Zubaidi (Professor in the faculties of the medical group in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan previously, and founders and director of a pharmaceutical company for the pharmaceutical industries in

America currently) wrote:

Our dear respected teacher.

After greetings, I congratulate you for this work, which is added to your honorable scientific career, which is still and will continue to be a source of pride for all Iraqis, wherever they go. I hope that you will accept all my thanks and appreciation, and I wish from the heart more successes.

Dr. Ithar Al-Zubaidi

(47) On January 8, 2021, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Bouran (Professor of Occupational Medicine in Jordan, a Jordanian and a colleague for decades) wrote on Facebook:

Ramazani is considered the godfather of occupational medicine, as is Hikmet Jamil the godfather for occupational medicine in the Arab countries, as he ended his career in the United States, defying the factor of age. May you live long, O hard fighter. We eagerly await the second book, which I personally know a lot of, and that the next generation will learn from the previous generation. You have been and still are a beacon of occupational medicine.

All the best, dear friend, and decorate it with your high morals.

Ahmed Boran

(48) On January 15, 2021, Dr. Nada Al Ward (Assistant Professor of community medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Baghdad previously, and emergency and refugee coordinator in the World Health Organization previously)

wrote:

Peace be upon you,

First, I would like to congratulate my dear brother, Prof. Dr. Hikmet Jamil, for this wonderful book, which documents his life path and his many accomplishments during this honorable journey, praying
for him to enjoy a healthy long life.

I got to know Prof. Dr. Hikmet upon my return to Iraq after obtaining my post-graduate degrees and joining the community medicine department at the College of Medicine / University of Baghdad. I studied the subject of public health during my studies at the College of Medicine in the third and fourth years. After I passed to the fifth year I was cut off from the subject of public health due to the change in the syllabus of the study at this stage and beyond. After my graduation, came the stage of medical residency and travel for post-graduate studies. This period extended for nine years, during which there has been a near total change of the staff in the department, now re-named “community medicine”. So, I felt like a total stranger
during the first days of joining the department.

But Dr. Hikmat kindly came to my office, welcoming me, and he sat down introducing himself to me and simply talking to me about general issues. How tactful and polite this behavior was, which I still remember with full gratitude. Then and there, started a collegial relationship and a friendship which continued to the present day.

I don't remember that he had stabbed someone in the back, criticized anyone in his absence, or dug a hole for him. All his time and attention was directed to his work and he treated everyone with respect and affection. These qualities may be rare today and, in those
old days too.

I taught his son, Dr. Laith and his daughter, Dr. Mada, when they were students in the College of Medicine. I had the honor of getting

to know the virtuous lady, his wife, Sister Um Laith.

As for what he wrote in this book, it is a documentation of his life, as well as a documentation of decisive years in the history of our beloved country, politically and socially, years whose events led to what we are witnessing today in terms of dispersion across the globe and to the decline that our mother country is suffering from because of the coups, wars, and reckless adventures it faced.

We hope and pray that our home country will rise from its depression with the vigor of conscious youth looking to a better future.

My brother, Dr. Hikmet. We are waiting for the second part. Soon, God willing.

May you be well.

Nada

(49) On January 17, 2021, Dr. Kamel Kammouna (ophthalmologist) wrote:

Dear Hikmet

A will and a determination resulting in a great chapter. With regard to the period of Iraq, it attracted me more because I was a participant and lived through most of its events. It was like a flying carpet taking me here and there, many memories were painful, and a few made me happy. In summary, what you wrote made it clear that life can be harsh and hurtful more than being merry and joyful. The wise man is the one who does not get defeated by its high waves

and who emerges as a giver of things that remain alive long after he
is gone.

May God grant you success and thank you.

Your brother Kamel Kammouna

**(50) On January 22, 2021, Dr. Fadhil Ali (PhD in computer
sciences) wrote:**

To our dear professor, respected Dr. Hikmet,
After reading your memoirs book (part one), I found it interesting
and useful for every time and place, as it is an important resource
that develops and encourages future generations to pursue science
and knowledge and not to despair of perseverance and love of
reading.

I learned from your book how to deal with someone who loves or
hates me, regardless of their gender, rank or religion, I also learned
to tell the truth even if it was against myself, and I learned how to
learn from my mistakes.

I wish you success, prosperity, and a long life.

Your faithful son

Dr. Fadhil Ali

**(51) On February 19, 2021, Prof. Dr. Jawad Al-Diwan (Head of
the Community Medicine Department at the College of
Medicine, University of Baghdad) sent me by email his article**

published on the website “Modern Discussion”:

The email messages

Prof. Dr. Hikmet Jamil the esteemed

Kind greetings

I did not know your leftist orientation while I was in Baghdad or during my studies. I was surprised to know that you have spent time in Nugrat Al-Salman notorious prison. Perhaps, sir, you do not know

that I am a left-wing and was a fierce warrior in my youth.

Sir, I wrote the article in an attempt to condemn the Baath through a piece of literature, and more than three thousand readers viewed it

in the first two days on the following link:

<https://www.ahewar.org/debat/show.art.asp?aid=709579>

My love sir,

Text of the article written by Prof. Dr. Jawad Al-Diwan

Hikmet Jamil on his boat,

Jawad Al-Diwan

Al-Hiwar Al-Motamadin (Modern Discussion) - Issue: 6818 -

2021/2/19 - 10:48

Theme: a biography

Prof. Dr. Hikmet Jamil kindly sent me the first part of his memories "A Voyage from the Tigris to Detroit" in the form of an "image", with its cover being a provocation for a reader like me, as it displays the picture of the Iraqi flag, on which the tyrant of Iraq has written in his own handwriting. Despite its adoption by the Iraqi parliament, it remains a provocation. Feelings don't melt and disappear with the approval by the Parliament, with its disputable members.

Prof. Jamil recounts his memories of where he grew up and his graduation from the College of Medicine - University of Baghdad. He had included some political events and his choices to turn to the

left at that time, and his withdrawal, from the left and from all political activities in 1961.

The events after the Black February of 1963 have taken part of his memories, including his arrest, and his trip on board the death train which took him to Samawah, and then to Nugrat Al-Salman, the famous desert prison. He had faced the court martial in which the witness was a military doctor! This doctor was mentioned by name (he specialized in psychiatry later and may not have any guilt feelings). Professor Jamil got a prison sentence. He did not mention the word “Black February 1963” clearly, meaning he did not describe it as “black”, while those events are known to politicians and to the left, in particular. During those days, Iraq was subjected to a fierce Nazi attack, the “heroes” of which were advocates of Arab nationalism, and the word “nationalism” has since been associated with blood, and to-date. The Nugrat Al-Salman remained as a disgrace to the rulers and politicians of Iraq for that period, but it was not presented by Iraqi literature and prison literature as a parallel to the Bastille in France. Professor Jamil alleviated his personal suffering in this dark period with examples such as being beaten on his back with a stick by the interrogator when leaving the interrogation room. As for the denial of the permission to urination, defecation, and sleep, it has gone unnoticed. This is an observation in favor of Professor Jamil, not against him, as he sets an example of forgiveness and remission.

The different authorities did not forgive him for his leftist orientation at some age, using it as the major excuse for the

dishonest rivalry, including replacing him with another doctor in the cigarette factory clinic based on a malicious accusation! The doctor who took his job became a Minister of Health for more than a decade! But Professor Jamil recalls the event without much emphasis. Whoever competes in that way occupies leadership positions in the state, with an intention for success, but taking it to failure. Professor Jamil did not present these examples from Iraq.

Memories are not simply recording events, and they differ from novels, and Professor Jamil's memories are not written as a novel.

The Baath regime did not forgive him in the eighties and the nineties, for his old orientation to the left, as there were events of security and intelligence arrests and were described by Professor

Jamil, simply without condemning them, as suspicions or something of the sort. He mentions some mishaps by Baathist professors to prevent him away from specific activities, such as to lead and organize the preparations for the scientific conference!

What is important is that a Baathist's name in the forefront, and not another! He mentions the names of such people, maybe as part of the revelation to relief the tension, but he leaves that floating without taking it further. The mentioned names are people who have worked to violate their colleagues following Black February.

It is unfortunate that those who witnessed these violations did not document them for the generations, and here I do not mean

Professor Jamil, as he was detained away from them.

I may have imagined that these memories are a disclaimer of history to wash away the dirt and grime of some people in the

history of Iraq. I say again, this is a worthy position for Professor Jamil, especially if I evoked the problems that face him in the mid-nineties, which was a reaction to his distinguished scientific success, leading to his retirement and emigration to the USA. Prof. Jamil recounts his experience in Britain and obtaining a master's and doctorate to lead the reader to the conclusion that success is an ally of effort and perseverance and not an ally of relationships and political trends. He specialized in occupational medicine and had a positive impact on Iraq. Prof. Jamil contributed to the development of postgraduate studies at the College of Medicine - University of Baghdad and had established postgraduate courses in occupational medicine including the higher diploma, master's, then courses for doctors working in factories and others. Perhaps it is appropriate to refer to his contribution to the development of the study of epidemiology, at the College of Medicine, University of Baghdad.

Professor Jamil contributed to developing the social and community role of the College of Community Medicine, through establishing relationships with workers' unions, associations, the media, and medical publishing. The introduction to the book did not contribute to the display of the valuable memories it encompassed, but it is a beautiful piece of literature.

All respect and appreciation to Prof. Dr. Hikmet Jamil
(52) On March 1, 2021, Dr. Nidal Kamar Abdul-Wahed Al-Abadi (UNESCO/United Nations Coordinator, President of the

Human Culture Eyes Organization, Instructor at University of Information and Communication Technology in Baghdad)

wrote:

It is a great honor prompting my gratitude that you have chosen me to be among the distinguished group of great professors to consult with them for reviewing the book of the journey of your life, which is rich in lessons, preaching, moral, educational, social, scientific, and human experiences. It is truly a great education and a bright light for present and future generations. Prof. Jamil insisted on working diligently, as he opened up prospects for working with various social activities related to the specialization of community medicine and occupational medicine. He worked as a scientific advisor to the presidency of the Iraqi Trade Union and published many brochures on health risks in the work environment to educate workers. He has important contributions in publishing multiple magazines and is credited with publishing the Journal of Community medicine in Iraq, which contributed to the dissemination of scientific research for most of the professors of Baghdad College of Medicine and colleges of medicine at the universities of Al-Mustansiriyah, Mosul, Basra and other colleges. His journey continues on board the boat, which is a description of his struggle and suffering, so he portrayed what he was exposed to, as the boat is exposed to during a journey that takes him on the waves of the seas and the storms and strong winds that attack him while he is on board that boat, but he defies all obstacles to continue his path until he reaches Detroit (alienation and hardship longing for

his homeland, his love for his only beloved Baghdad, which is his true and eternal love) but he described his journey as arduous, as he

lived in his country being psychologically alienated.

All the best and respect to Prof. Dr. Hikmet and my greetings to the spiritual family support in the journey of this boat, which contributed strongly to its arrival to safety.

I looked for words to describe your book, and I can only say that you are creative, and you have all my gratitude and appreciation.

Dr. Nidal Kamer Abdul Wahed Al-Abadi

UNESCO/United Nations Coordinator

President of the Human Culture Eyes Organization

Instructor at University of Information and Communication
Technology

Monday 2021/3/1

**(53) In March 1, 2021, the consulting engineer Abdel Moneim
Abdel Karim (President of the Iraqi Association for
Occupational Health and Safety) wrote:**

He who is accustomed to giving

Is not hindered by the refraction of time

Really a wonderful saying and very consistent with the long march of Dr. Hikmet, which was punctuated by many accidents, difficulties, problems, and bumps at the beginning of his academic life and his service in the health sector and made most painful and by suffering from political persecution and imprisonment, especially the suffering on the death train, which is a disgrace in the face of the Baathists. In spite of this, Dr. Hikmet was able to pass all these

hardships through the excellence of his knowledge, his work and his love for the mission for which he fought. What distinguishes these memoirs is the accuracy and smoothness of the documentation of the information over these long years and his gratitude to the people of Samawah in the death train accident. This is a wonderful historical march of an Iraqi who is full of love, loyalty, gratitude and giving to the soil of this wounded country despite being thousands of kilometers away from home.

I wish Dr. Hikmet Jamil a long life and that his love will continue for the homeland and his loved ones in Baghdad

<u>Chapters of Part One</u>	
(Pre-Expatriation from Iraq 1941-1996)	
Chapter One: Education and Politics 1941-1962	17
Chapter Two: Detention-Death Train-Prisons 1963- 1965	59
Chapter Three: Work in the Ministry of Health 1965-1973	83
Chapter Four: Travel for treatment and study 1973-1978	111
Chapter Five: Work at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research 1978-1996	141
Chapter One	
Home and School Education and Politic 1941 – 1962	
Foreword by Prof. Dr. Hikmat Al-Shaarabaf.....	3
Forward by Assistant Pro. Nada Jawad Al Ward.....	5
Note about the Book for Respected Readers	8
Introduction.....	9
Dedication	11
Thanks, and Gratitude (Part one of the book)	13
The idea of writing notes.....	15
Chapter One	
Education and Politics 1941-1962	
Pre-primary school years.....	17
The first educational incident outside home.....	18
Failure to pass the finals of the fifth grade.....	19
My first participation in a national activity.....	21
My first participation in a political activity.....	22
An event during the 2 nd . year of intermediate school.....	25
The experience of mixing work and study.....	26
The first political experience.....	29
Educational behavior.....	30
Joining the College of Medicine in Baghdad.....	38
A unique political experience.....	39
Experience of combining politics and science.....	41
Graduation from the College of Medicine, University of Baghdad.....	48
Photo of the Chapter listed below.....	51

Chapter Two Arrest - Death Train - Prisons 1962-1965	59
Admission to the College of Reserve.....	59
The Arab Socialist Baath Party take power.....	60
The day of my arrest.....	63
Detention in Prison No. 1.....	64
Death train transport.....	68
Transfer to Nukrat Al-Salman Prison.....	70
Transfer to Hilla prison.....	75
Photo of Chapter Two are listed below.....	77
Chapter Three Work in the Ministry of Health 1965-1973	83
Resident doctor in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.....	83
An accident that reflects the parent-child relationship.....	86
A nearly fatal injury while on duty.....	87
A practicing doctor in Sulaymaniyah.....	89
A security test in Sulaymaniyah.....	90
Halabja district incident.....	92
The Sulaymaniyah cigarette factory incident.....	92
A second security test in Sulaymaniyah.....	96
Chwarta district incident.....	97
Travel for Specialization.....	100
The incident of the central dispensary management in Sulaymaniyah.....	102
The incident of my eye condition & traveling to London	103
Photos of the Chapter are below.....	108
Chapter Four Travel for treatment and specialization 1973-1978	111
Travel for treatment and study.....	111
Change of specialization.....	114
Specializing in venereal diseases.....	116
Studying for the master's and diploma in "O.M."	117
Doctorate study in "O.M." and the environment.....	120
What I learned while studying my PhD.....	126
Photo of the Chapter below.....	139
Chapter Five	141

Return to Iraq and working for the MHESR 1978-1966	
Short Presentation.....	141
Moving from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.....	142
University of Baghdad / College of Medicine.....	145
Voluntary work.....	146
The incident of the first lecture.....	147
The outpatient event in the Medical City.....	150
A road map for scientific activities.....	151
The incident of the first article in the newspapers.....	153
The first security test incident.....	156
A warning from Prof. Abdul Sattar Shahen.....	158
Incident of the Minister of the Interior.....	160
Honored by the President of the Republic.....	162
The blue asbestos incident.....	163
Incident in the General Federation of Trade Unions.....	165
Seminar of the "MOH" on the Health and Safety Cadre...	167
Developing books on the topic of health and safety....	169
Chemical Strike Verification Incident.....	171
Establishing postgraduate studies in "O.M." medicine...	177
An incident with the military intelligence.....	198
Prof. Lee in the Department of Community Medicine....	180
The incident of recommending an Iraqi colleague to study	184
Encouraging colleagues to study for a doctorate in occupational medicine.....	186
Prof. Lee, the cigarette factory, and a car accident.....	188
First radio program "Your Safety at Work".....	192
The Minister of Health and the National Center for Occupational Health and Safety.....	194
The 1 st . medical conference of Baghdad Medical College	197
Being awarded the Fellowship in Occupational Medicine	199
Decision of the Minister of Industry and Minerals, and the Battery Factory.....	201
Higher education is closed to the Baathists.....	204

My removal from the second conference of Baghdad Medical College.....	205
Incident of “Shuker Al Najjar” Furniture.....	208
Being awarded an Honorary Liaison Member Certificate.....	210
Wrong name and Baghdad Security Department.....	211
Being awarded an honorary doctorate in occupational medicine.....	213
University of Baghdad and honoring a Prof.....	214
Dentistry is closed to the Baathists.....	216
Iraqi Society for Occupational Health and Safety.....	217
The Minister of Interior and Road Traffic Accidents	222
A decision to leave Iraq.....	224
What have I achieved returning home?.....	230
The period of leaving Iraq.....	240
Conclusion.....	241
Photo of Chapter Five.....	242
Part One of the Book Ended	
What readers wrote about the first part of the book?.....	251
Chapters of Part Two	300
Resume of Dr. Nada Jawad Al Ward	

A Voyage From the Tigris to Detroit

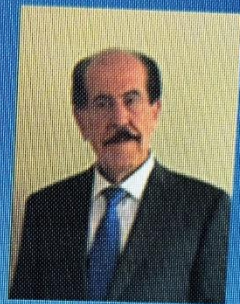
Pre-Expatriation from Iraq
1941 – 1996

Part I

By

Hikmet Jamil

Translated by Nada Jawad Al Ward



Hikmet Jamil

- This voyage shows the author's struggle throughout his medical practice and political and academic life, aiming for the prosperity of Iraq. His voyage was subjected to turmoil, but his insistence and patience took his boat to shore.
- The author is a graduate of the University of Baghdad, with a diploma, master, doctorate, and fellowship degrees from England.
- Obtained the Professorship from the University of Baghdad, and the Emeritus Professorship from Wayne State University.
- Published 20 books, 210 articles, and contributed to the establishment of three scientific societies.
- His biography was published in 1995 in the American Institute of Biography and in issues 25 and 26 of the Cambridge Encyclopedia.
- Enrolled in politics in 1958 and withdrew from it completely in 1961. Arrested in prison No. 1 in 1963 and was transferred on the death train to Nugrat Al-Salman prison and then to Hilla prison, from which he was released in 1965.
- Worked in the Ministry of Health where he was harassed because of his political background.
- Returned to Iraq in 1978 to start his academic career in the University of Baghdad and continued his voluntary activities in the field of occupational health and safety in most of Iraq's ministries. While working at the University of Baghdad, he faced obstacles from fanatics and profiteers who aspired to ascend to higher positions in the party, until he was forced to expatriate to America.
- Front & Back Covers were designed by Prof. Dr. Amer Hanna Fatuhi.