

The remarkable life of George Kanaan, raised in the mountains of Lebanon to travel and become an international banker, with ever a love of literature, the arts and history. This warming narrative recounts a very human story of adventure and success.

“ Suq el-Gharb gave me a splendid view of the city, yes. But also of Beirut International Airport that lies just to the south of it.

The planes stirred something inside me. They made me long to travel and see the world. A case of itchy feet at a very young age.

One day my mother came out and joined me as I watched the planes come and go.

‘When will it be my turn?’ I asked her longingly.

‘One day when you’re older you’ll be flying off from there,’ she said as we gazed down on the airport.

‘Do you really believe that?’

‘I do,’ she said. ‘You’ll go to lots of exciting places all over the world.’ She paused. ‘But one day you will be sick of them. Lebanon will always be your home.’

She was to be right on both counts. ”

A remarkable and highly readable account of what it means to be an international banker. George Kanaan’s distinguished career brought him to different countries and cultures into which he immersed himself with energy and good cheer, celebrating diversity and achieving remarkable results. This book tells the story with charm and energy.

Shaukat Aziz
Former Prime Minister of Pakistan

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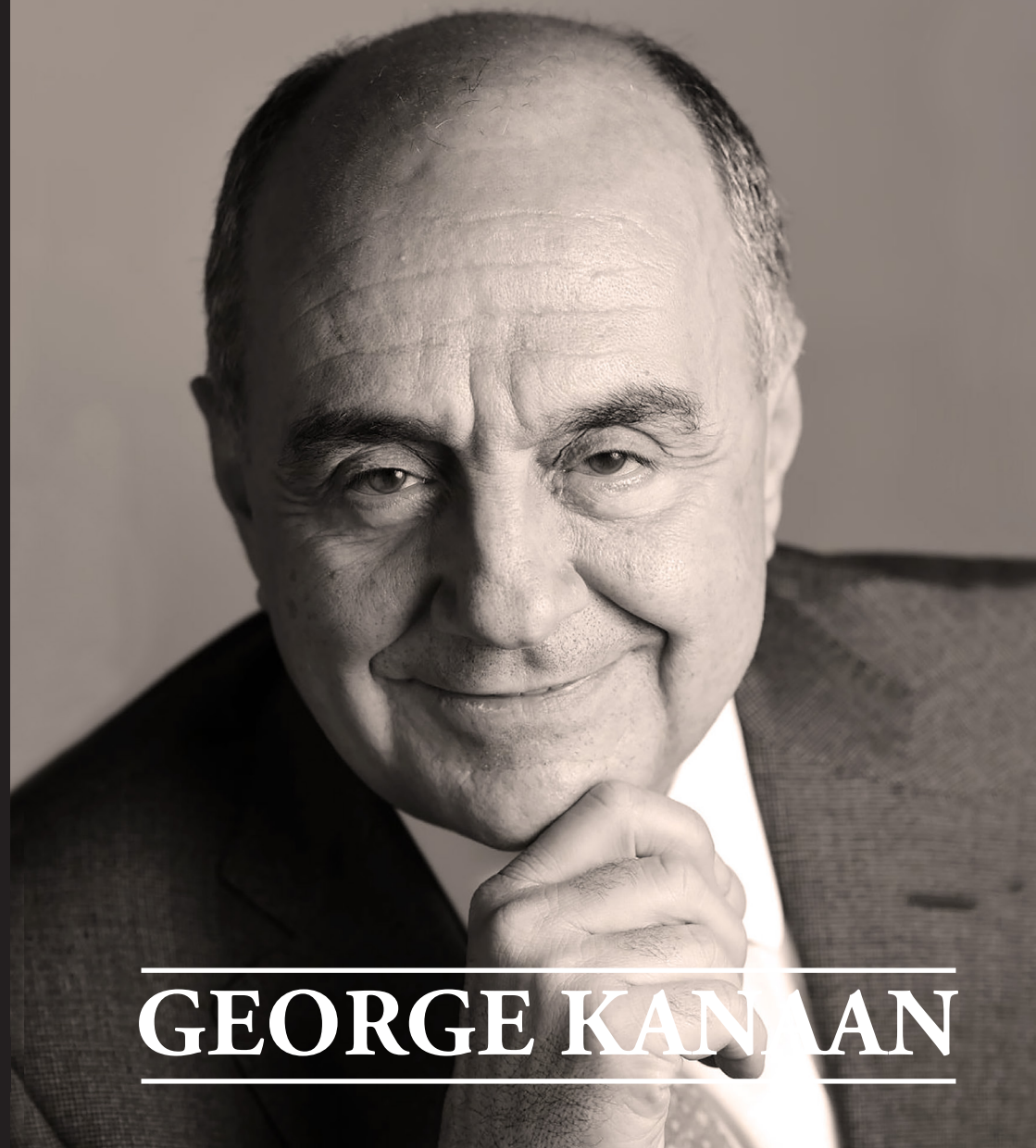
BEYOND LEBANON'S PEAKS
AN ODYSSEY

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FROM VILLAGE SCHOOL TO HARVARD AND FROM
BANKING TO A PRINCE'S COURT



GEORGE KANNAAN

Beyond Lebanon's Peaks traces an intriguing life story from its beginnings in the Lebanese mountain village of Souk El Gharb – an idyllic setting with a loving family. Here, a solid education provided the young George Kanaan with an excellent grounding in English literature and a lifelong love of the arts. He went on to study the sciences in the US with a Masters in civil and environmental engineering at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and from there went on to study at Harvard.

With the parallel tragedies of his homeland's slide into civil war and the deterioration of his father's health, George moved to Athens and later Riyadh, working with the prestigious and demanding Citibank, and in time settled in London, initially with First Chicago and then again with Citibank/Saudi American Bank.

In the early 1990s, Kanaan started work with Saudi Arabia's Prince Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, co-commander with General Norman Schwarzkopf of the allied forces during the first Gulf War. As chief executive of Makshaff, perhaps the very first Family Office, he travelled constantly between Arabia and the major world capitals.

In time, he was to return to banking, and from 2009 he has headed the Arab Bankers' Association from offices in Mayfair, London.