Farooq Luqman (1) Writer and journalist London, AL- Sharq- AL- Awsat Newspaper, issue No. 3816, 10/5/1989

Sultan Nagi and History of Yemen (1)

The Yemeni friend, Sultan Nagi returned in 1961 to Aden bearing a Bachelor degree in Literature – specialized in Arab's History – from the American University in Beirut. Since then no much attention was stirred because many southern graduates returned in that time from different world's universities in multiple specialties. Tens of doctors, engineers, lawyers, accountants and teachers returned to homeland that an intensive campaign of scholarships began in the middle of the fifties then its fruit was in the sixties. But the friend, Sultan Nagi was unique almost, that he appeared talents, genius and brilliance in history learning – especially in the Yemeni history in the Arabian Peninsula. In the two parts of Yemen, he was the first academic historians, Ba-Makhramah and Hamza Luqman. He was radically different from both giants in his manner, studies, researches and contributions, that he was the first Yemeni historian publishing a list of western books which dealt with history of South of Peninsula (north and south) which is practically known as "bibliography."

When came to me with a copy of his bibliography, he distracted my mind. Then I stood up in recognition of his assiduous research, great effort, depth of study and greatness of his ambition. Then I realized that Aden and in general the South of Yemen has got a new historian of highest level, who will record the history of the region in the recent scientific manners.

The reason lies in that we missed the friend, Sultan Nagi weeks ago; he was a first class talented historian who loved history, studied it in the American University, and then took charge of probing the history of his country from various resources that he could attain anywhere in the world.

Although he reached to the grade of chairman of the civil service after 1967, he preferred to devote himself to teaching the Yemeni history in the High College of Education in Aden after 1972 before he transferred to the Yemen Arab Republic where he served as a consultant in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He shared and participated in many boards and publications. He wrote out in hundreds of Yemeni historic subjects which form today an abundant book of information, conclusions and explanations which have never been confronted by anyone before; until he was granted a medal of the Arab historian in 1987 by the Arab Historians' Union.

Sultan Nagi was an assiduous researcher and an analytic staid writer who left a library of studies that no Yemeni has ever preceded him, but because of his early death at the age of fifty- three, he would enrich us with increased studies, that he devoted his life for the history of Yemen from its main resources, then he concentrated his prominent and genius work to analyze the significance of that history. That was the brilliance that privileged the unique historian, the rare gift that heaven brought.

