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Eulogy of Yemeni Historian Sultan Nagi

Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Abdulla's Speech, Vice- President of the General Authority of Monuments and Public Libraries.

On Tuesday, at ten o'clock, a ceremony of eulogy was held on the occasion of forty days for death of the Yemeni known historian, Sultan Nagi, in Sana'a University. The speech was delivered by the Vice - President of the General Authority of Monuments and Public Libraries, in the name of Arab historians and archeologists.

In the Name of Allah, the All Merciful

O, dear brothers,...let me speak well about our late in my name and on behalf of the Secretary - General of Arab Historians Union.

"The death on his palm, jewelries are chosen by the generous"

Once the new moon of Ramadan Month emerged on us and the believers started preparing themselves for the fasting month, and for blessing pardon, the death notice came from the capital of mist carrying to us painful news that presses heavily upon the patient fasting because of its fright and frighten to belie it, but the death is right, and every soul will die certainly. The news was true and the friend and colleague, Sultan Abdu Nagi is dead.

In the last years, as usual, he departed to London for one month or two to continue his research on the contemporary Yemeni history in the British Museum. Once he started to turn over the pages of the past and cross - examine their news, he was overtaken by acute internal bleeding that he was carried to hospital but he did not do anything, he died and resigned his soul to God.

" Every female's child even if his safety, one day on the humpback is transported."

His homeland and lovers missed him, and like him makes the wailers weep, the thicket pigeons are lamenting, and the men's eyes are tearing.

" As though nothing among the reasons leading to clearness, a close friend and nobody is chatting in Mecca."

The deceased had learnt in Aden schools, to which he completed the secondary school, and then joined the History Department in the Faculty of Science and Arts in the American University in Beirut, from which he graduated in 1961. He worked in teaching profession in Aden, and then he travelled to Britain to continue his study, and then he obtained the diploma in educational administration from Reading University in 1964.

The departed held many positions in his practical career including the presidency of the Central Organization of Civil Services, lecturer in High College of Education, and member of the Supreme People's Council. The last position was a consultant in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sana'a. He was a member of Leadership of Alumni Conference, member of the Yemeni Unity Committee for Education, Culture and Information, member of the

Center for Arab Unity Studies and member of Society of the Yemeni Historians and Archeologists.

The late was honored in the Science festival - day, and obtained the medal of the Arab Historian, and got high appreciation in the scientific circles internally and abroad.

The deceased had participated in many sessions, delivered lectures in many Arab and foreign universities; one of the most important sessions was on the Yemeni civilization in 1975, and also sessions held in University of Exeter in Britain in 1983.

When the British Officer of Aden Education agreed to send the excellent student, Sultan Nagi in a scholarship to the American University in Beirut, it did not occur to his mind in 1957 that he would become someday a remarkable historian. All what the British officer of Aden Education searched for, was that the candidate to the scholarship had to have some amount of academic education which should add between two specializations, one of them was in education and the other was having excellence in English language to join a government position, either teaching in secondary schools or working in the civil service. The officer of Aden Education got what he wanted, that the student, Sultan Nagi was graduated from the university with bachelor degree in history and diploma in education, besides excellence in English language. The plan of the officer of Aden Education achieved completely, that the candidate joined the teaching career in secondary schools after his graduation, then when he perceived his managerial qualification he was transferred to the civil service, in which he proofed his capability and advance step by step to become its chairman after the independence, or rather he was the first national element reaching the grade of vice chairmen of civil service before the independence.

However, the British officer of Aden Education, did not perceive that the student would not dally his time away in Beirut, that he learnt under the hands of three famous professors of Arab history in the American University, or rather in the Arab World, Dr. Qastanteen Zuraiq, Dr. Niquila Ziadah and Dr Nabeeh Faris. Sultan returned with a good amount of knowledge, academic degree and a small historic library that increased to reach a large one, that I saw it by myself twelve years ago, it was really large.

While he was getting busy in the management, he wrote and translated a few things, but he set free from the managerial post, he was appointed as teacher in High College of Education in Aden, when his pen started writing researches, essays, translations and books.

He published a series of studies on old Yemeni history and new Islam on Al- Thaqafa Al – Gadidah Journal, Al-Hikmah, Al-Yemen Al- Gadeed, and on Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Journal and others. All his researches concentrated on the recent years about the modern Yemeni history that he benefited from foreign books and the published and unpublished British documents. He translated and presented a book for "Gavin" about the history of the British colonialism in Aden from 1839 -1967, wrote about the historical background of the British occupation, and then wrote three books:

- 1- Selected and Annotated Bibliography on Yemen in (1973).
- 2- Military History of Yemen (1839 – 1967) in (1976).
- 3- Role of Fatat Al – Gazirah in Events of 1948 in Sana'a in (1980).

He exceeded more knowledge that he was working to prepare a book on the current political history of Yemen. No doubt that he left good number of useful books that we ask God to make circumstances favorable for publishing very soon.

This is a resume of deceased's speeches, please allow me to repeat them to you:

* "...at the time when the orientalist are exerting their commendable leading efforts and developing old Yemeni studies whether joint or several, each in his field through his institution or his authority, review, publisher or the others, the time has come for the Yemenis to assume personal responsibility for establishing, supporting and generalizing the heritage of bright old civilization among their citizens and Arab brothers equally...", Sultan Nagi – An extracted from a project of work paper presented to the session of the Yemeni civilization in February 1975.

* "...there is another advantage of this book that I have tried or rather exerted great effort to write under united perspective containing natural Yemen land in general, not to be limited to one of Small Yemens as formed in the past by foreign ruling systems and forms of family's authorities that we used to read about in history, the histories of Turkish Yemen, Motawakeli Yemen and British Yemen...etc. where each historian used to swim in his orbit for which it was stated. Although the reality of division in the period on which the subject focused. That imposed on me sometimes to designate forms related to the Military Corporations in the North or in the South or the period of armed struggle against the colonialism in the South or the Republican war against the royalists in the North. In spite of that, I would say that I have attempted to advance in paralleled steps that, for example, the Army of Gonderma in Sana'a encounters the First Yemeni Battalion in Aden, Army of Imam Yahia with Army of Aden Protectorate in Aden, so that the events of 26 September up to the siege against Sana'a could have been parallel to events of 14 October up to the independence on 30 November, at the same time without negligence of the organic relation between these chapters which makes the reader feels, as I think that he reads and live with military history for a single united Yemen without division..", Sultan Nagi – An extracted from introduction to (Military History of Yemen 1839 – 1967), page 8, the first edition of the book issued in 1976.

* "...At any rate, generally since the state of Bani Rassul, it has been the greatest state of Yemen states in the middle ages, that in the period of its power, it controlled over all parts of Yemen nearly. The Rasoulis developed their administrative system and then they took interest in the cultural and educational aspect. They became famous for building schools and mosques in the Yemeni cities, and that became of their popular ostentations, that most of their Sultans were competing to establish these schools and they endowed on the land and fertilized regions in the service of schools – Wadi Al-Dabab, for example which stands between Taizz and Hugariyah – to face the cost of teaching students, demonstrators and teachers...On the whole, science and literature flourished in the time of Rasouli state, that there are many evidences indicating to the presence of appropriate intellectual climate which attracted poets, writers, scientists and jurists to Yemen and to Rasouli palace from the other Arab countries...As we know and read that king, Al-Muaiyad collected books which had never compiled by anyone, that the number of his books amounted to a hundred thousand...And we found that the scholar Al-Raymi when he sent to King, Al-Afdal his explanation on 'Tanbiah' in 24 volumes, Al-Afdal ordered to bring that scholar as a prince was lead or carried in procession, where the parts of the volumes were carried on plates of silver wrapped by silk clothes, that the princes and scientists escorted that procession with drums, from Al-Musanaf House to Al-Sultaniyah House, where the king gave the author twelve thousand Dinars..", Sultan Nagi – An extracted from "Islamic Yemeni History, series of essays published in Al-Hikmah Review, 1974 issue No. 31, pages 72 -74.

".. After Imam held agreement with the Turkish in 1911, which gave him a medial status, he sent letters to chiefs of protectorates in which he confirmed claims of his ancestors relating to the Arabian South, and called those who had documents from his antecedents to renew their allegiance for the central Yemeni authority in 1911, the Turkish-British

