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Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Maqaleh's Speech on Eulogy of deceased, Sultan Nagi

Dear brothers, colleagues, my students

On what thing can I tell to you about him... about the late friend, Sultan Nagi? What are you expecting me to say in this stance by which the exaltedness of death is dried and the forty day memory? If the word is augmenting to anything to speak about his life, it would fail when talking about the death, that absent which is present and the present which is absent!

I happened to know Sultan Nagi at first through his historic writings, translation and judicious pursuit of all aspects of our contemporary history, especially those historical aspects concerning the national confrontation against the authority of British occupation in our beloved South Yemen. When I met him for the first time, I found him a true example of the humble silent researcher, scrutator and sober historian. Then I saw him frequently, in each time the figure of the humble historian and researcher who searched for knowledge was growing in the clearness and brightness. When he issued his famous and significant book about the history of Yemeni army, I was seeing and hearing him discussing with open arms everyone wanting to show any remarks on the information in which the book contained in order to benefit from those remarks whatsoever could be. Perhaps he could add new or amend any old information in the book. These are the outstanding features of a distinguished and original researcher who does not get impatient with criticism, and who does not refrain from searching and reading and deepening in the subjects.

Sultan affiliated to the society of Yemeni historians and Arab historians who obtained a medal of Arab historian. After his historic activity had extended gradually, he translated and wrote essays and historical studies and made comments on the facts, suddenly the illness attacked him and limited his activities in the narrowest scope, and then he vanished with his experiences of long years, which he acquired through reading references and searching for documents. In the last meeting I found him before his trip for treatment talking about hope and return with new incentive, but the death was faster and stronger of all the miracles about the medicine that we know.

Dear, brothers...colleagues

The best honor for any deceased is to revive his works by taking care and publishing his works in order to make his names bright and present among the lives. Therefore, the best honor for the our deceased is to revive his works by collecting his studies and researches which were published or the unpublished ones to be published in one or more books. No one can be relied on to perform this task except his colleagues in the Yemeni Society for History, those who have the first favor to give this ceremony of eulogy which is deemed as loyalty for the late colleague who was snatched by the death prematurely.

Finally if there is some thing to say is that yesterday evening I was skimming my note by chance in which I put selections of old and recent poetry when I long time hesitated at these poetic lines:

They have buried you...and the seasons finished xxx by you the roses become green

SULTAN NAGI

My thirst is tearing you... you burnt xxx but not of thirst to quench Until You quenched the thirst from the wounds xxx the wounds of long times flow Your eyes lived in pain xxx that fed with pate You lived in critical silence xxx you don't know what to say Someday I heard a knock xxx come in... the impossible came Is our fate impossible? xxx Never... our death is beautiful

Peace be upon the deceased and to God's paradise! Peace be with you.

