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Aden, Al-Manar Journal, issue No. 5, October 1989

History of Aden in Sultan Nagi's Books *

Sultan Nagi's way in writings have the pride of place and consider historically important due to its diversity and comprehensiveness, and dependency on the rare documents and references, it is difficult to get some of them, and some other drawn from foreign resources.

Sultan Nagi's writings are characterized by stylistic simplicity and non-affectation, when the reader reads them, he feels that he is in front of Sultan Nagi face to face; his phrases are hid and simple and his statements are short inclining towards the speech of common people, nobody will find any difficulty to understand or assimilate its meaning. Also, the reader doesn't feel weary from its pursuing, that the book is like a sea draws the reader and arouse his interest and enforce him to continue reading with what the reader needs of valuable and historical information and convinced documents admitted to the reader.

Sultan Nagi had many historical fields of interests, but most of them concentrated on old and contemporary history of Yemen in its various areas. He wrote in political, military, cultural, social history, and the history of education. Most of these are established in many periodicals and local and Arab journals, and some other were published in independent books, perhaps the most famous ones are the Military History of Yemen and Role of Fatat Al-Gazirah in Events of 1948 in Sanaa and others.

Maybe the reader who is interested in the Yemeni history has read some of Sultan Nagi's writings whenever the opportunity is available but some of his writings published at narrow scope that the reader finds it difficult to find them, for example writings about the history of the Yemeni cities and regions in the south of the country.

The General District for Local Management Affairs (formerly), the General Department for Local Government (presently) conducted a blanket social survey in many areas in the south part of Yemen in both years 74 and 75, which entrusted the historian, Sultan Nagi a task of presenting a brief historical outline about the areas covered in the survey in order to provide the reader with a historical background of the areas of the social survey.

Sultan Nagi performed this task, that he presented stimulating historical presentation for many blanket social survey, these areas are:

- In Aden Governorate: Sheikh Othman, Al-Mansoura, Dar Sa'ad, Al-Burairah and Crater.
- In Abyan Governorate: Area of Ga'ar, Zingibar and Shuqra.
- In Hadramout Governorate: Area of Mukalla, Al-Shihr, Seioun, and Shibam.

He talked about the history of each area since it was a small village until it became a city inhabited by population and buildings. He also talked about the changes and development in every town, which altered landmarks and monument. He tried to follow the movement of construction and building in each area, the changes in the situation of population life and their economic, and cultural lives. He highlighted on the political events in every area alone, that he sow its reasons; initiatives and trajectory, outcomes, negative and positive

influences on the life of people and the society. Many time he was contemplating some historical landmarks in this area or that one, explaining its history and indicating to its founder and causes of its building and the changes that happened in it through different ages of history besides the invasions and occupation occurred, and how the people confronted those foreign invasions, and how they expelled the invaders from their lands.

As long as we are talking about the history of the Yemeni cities in Sultan Nagi's writings, it is important to contemplate some of the significant patterns of what he wrote about some of these cities to show his style in writing and his manner set forth the historical matters that our talk will strictly be on Aden city and its suburbs.

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* Extracted from article. (for more details about History of Aden, see read about Aden and list of works).

تاريخ عدن في كتابات سلطان ناجي

تحتل كتابات سلطان ناجي التاريخية اهمية عظيمة لما فيها من تنوع وشمول ، ولاعتمادها على وثائق ومراجع نادرة ، بعضها يصعب الحصول عليها بسهولة ، وبعضها مستقاة من مصادر اجنبية .

وتتميز كتابات سلطان ناجي بالسهولة الاسلوبية ، وعدم التكلف ؛ حيث يشعر القارئ حين قراءتها وكأنه امام سلطان ناجي يخاطبه وجها لوجه ، فعباراته بسيطة ؛ وجملته قصيرة تميل الى حديث العامة ، لا يجد المرء صعوبة في فهمها او استيعاب مضمونها ؛ كما لا يمل متابعتها ، ذلك ان الكاتب يجرح قارئه ويشد انتباهه ، ويجبره على مواصلة القراءة ؛ بما يزوده من معلومات تاريخية قيمة ، وما يعرض عليه من وثائق مقنعة .

وكثيرة هي مجالات اهتمامات سلطان ناجي التاريخية ، غير ان معظمها يتركز حول تاريخ اليمن الحديث والمعاصر بمجالاته المختلفة ، فقد كتب في التاريخ السياسي والتاريخ العسكري والتاريخ الثقافي والتاريخ الاجتماعي ؛ وتاريخ التعليم والتربية ومعظم هذه الكتابات مبثوثة في العديد من الدوريات والصحف المحلية والعربية ، ونشرت بعض كتاباته في كتب مستقلة ، لعل اشهر كتابه (التاريخ العسكري لليمن) و (دور فتاة الجزيرة في احداث عام ١٩٤٨ م وغيرها .

ولعل القارئ المهتم بالتاريخ اليمني لا شك قد قرأ بعضا من كتابات سلطان ناجي حيثما تيسر له ذلك ، غير ان بعض كتاباته نشرت على نطاق ضيق يجد القارئ صعوبة في العثور عليها ، ومن ذلك مثلا كتاباته حول تاريخ بعض المدن والمناطق اليمنية في جنوب الوطن . فقد اجرت المديرية العامة لشؤون الادارة المحلية (سابقا) الادارة العامة لشؤون الحكم المحلي (حاليا) اجرت مسحاً اجتماعياً شاملاً في العديد من مناطق الشطر الجنوبي من الوطن في عامي ٧٤ و ٧٥ م واسندت الى المؤرخ سلطان ناجي مهمة اعطاء نبذة تاريخية موجزة عن