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Sultan Nagi: the History Over Burden me

The Yemeni historian, Sultan Nagi is a prominent name abided to silence, the silence of writing, and the silence of historical martyrdom before he enters the intrnal silence.

Those who knew Sultan Nagi can remember that he was active and efficient. He was one of the first students who studied in the American University in Beirut where he studied history due to his feeling to the importance of this domain and its need mainly that Yemen is seeking a position in the history.

When he returned to Aden at the end of the fifties he established with a group of academic alumni a journal called "Dirasat" that means "studies" in an attempt to participate in cultural life. At the establishment of Yemeni Writers Union, he was one of the first founders, and when the High College of Education was established he was one of the participators in the college which became a nucleus for University of Aden.

From this track we can discover the personality of Sultan Nagi which discloses his renewed searching and the normal role he played. It is no wonder that the professor of history who spent days and nights on reviewing the history pages that he fully knew that whoever studied history were those trying to carve out their names on the walls and above wooden tables.

Sultan Nagi tied his historical and intellectual works in two axes:

- History of Aden city.
- History of Yemen in a full united perspective.

The first axis represented an aspect of his intellectual activity and production, that he studied the history of Aden city comprehensively which started from beginning of the British occupation of Aden. He translated many English books and studies published in Aden, and studied the managerial development of the city. He deemed this work a complete study about Aden in need of collection process to be included in one book that he published the subjects of this axis during long period in many journals and reviews, the matter which caused to lose this study its comprehensive dimensions which Sultan Nagi put them in his method related to writing the history of Aden city. But the time did not come to rescue to gather them in one book and to complete the deficient paragraphs.

By the way, the urgent need appears to study the history of Aden city and its social, managerial, political and cultural development that this city had a historical exception because it was under the British colony, testified all the negativities of the colonial societies, and also saw the challenge phenomena imposed by disparate development between the center and peripheries on all multiple levels from the economy to culture. Also, it witnessed a process of social and cultural hybridization imposed by the colonialism from the one hand and site of Aden city as an important port in the way of international navigation shipping from the other hand. All these factors make the study of Aden historical development urgent, the fact which Mr. Sultan Nagi perceived in his historical writings.

However, what we need to reassure that taking an interest in history of Aden city did not have any feeling in the historical separation out of common history of Yemen, but rather the history of Aden city was taught within the common of the history of Yemen as a whole. Moreover, this is what Sultan Nagi pointed out in the introduction of his Military History of Yemen, that he mentioned, " there is another advantage of this book that I have tried or rather exerted a great effort to write under a united perspective containing natural Yemen land in general, not limited to one of Petty Yemens as formed in the past by foreign ruling systems and forms of family's authorities that we were reading histories of many Small Yemens not for one Yemen."

Speaking of Sultan Nagi's book "Military History of Yemen" which is considered the first book writing the history for the Military Corporation in Yemen, it is necessary to indicate that the book presents the history of Yemen during the period 1839 -1967. Also the reader is noting that this period was a period of the British occupation for part of Yemen, it was the time of great changes in the recent and contemporary history of Yemen. The British presence in the south of Yemen had effect in the whole Yemen due to the occupation of Arabian Peninsula and Horn of African, and even if important Yemen ports remained out of colonial control, truly that was resulting from conflict of common interests in this significant water route which was known in the strategic studies with the route of India. The Yemeni ports appeared on the colonial maps as strategic sites, early Britain could control on Aden, subsequently controlling over the entire route of India, especially after its control on Egypt and Suez canal.

From this perspective, Sultan Nagi studied the history of Yemen in this period, that he considered that colonialism is not land occupation only, but a more extended operation, it

is interests and trade routes and regions of authority and others. It was necessary to study about Yemen in this colonial period comprehensively.

The other point that it should be assured is the comprehensiveness of the historical writings for this period even if the main theme relating to the history of the Military Corporation. In this work, he is reminding us with an important book of Egyptian thinker, Anwar Abdulmalik who authorized a book titled "Egypt is a New Society Built by the Military Men", during the first period of July revolution, which was a book containing the recent and contemporary history of Egypt which handled the political, economical, social and cultural changes through discussing the relation of the army with the authority in Egypt.

Sultan Nagi was successful in this connection that the book " the Military History" has become one of the most important references on recent Yemen's history.

In conclusion, I would like to indicate to the intellectual crisis from which Sultan Nagi suffered in the last years of his life, that attempting to live in the logic of history, seeing with the historian's viewpoint, and dealing with political and intellectual life with conscience of the historian are all factors compelled him to the crisis; therefore he saw the matters in Yemen contradicting the history logic. After breaking out hostility on January 13 in Aden, he became assured that the Yemeni history must be made in Yemen and the historical fates of the people can not be imported as clothes totally. Also the Yemeni history should be written by its people. Because the dust of the battle covered the clearness of the mind, Sultan Nagi felt that he was in need of isolation and contemplation. Thus, he spent the later months of his life contemplating the course of the events, but death overtook him before getting out of his silence, then he died while his heart and mind were full of many things he was intending to say and write, and we do not know if there were any papers or writings written in that period.

The question is for the sons of Sultan Nagi, since the appearance of these writings, if any, will open new horizons to discover his last contemplations in the history of Yemen, which he bore over his back during long years of his age full of shocks and events, while Sultan Nagi was in his short life living with such events. Did he leave for us a word before the last farewell?!

ربما التفتت من وعاء التفتت وركبة الزمان اليه

يحتفل في القام

جمهورية اليمن باليوم الثقافي ١٩٩٥/٨/٢١

سلطان ناجي :

التاريخ

الذي أثقل كاهلي

الأربع التي هي سلطان ناجي، قسم تاريخه في
الوقت، صحت الطابة، صحت الشهادة التاريخية
فإنه يدخل في صحت أيدي الذين عرفوا سلطان
ناجي يستطرون أن يتقدموا هم فإن نشيطا
وإخلا.

فقد كان من أوائل النظرة اليمنيين الذين ذهبوا
لدراسة في الجامعة الأمريكية في بيروت - حيث
درس التاريخ - لأخصائيه بالجمعية هذا العلم
والحداثة فيه وأسما واليمن تبحث عن موقع في
التاريخ

و حين عاد إلى عدن في أوائل الخمسينات، نشأ
مع مجموع من التاريخيين الجامعيين مجلة
أسموها "دراسات"، محاولين بذلك الأسهام في
الحداثة الثقافية، وبعد تأسيس هذه الأديان
والكتاب اليمني كان من أوائل الأديان المؤسسين
للتاريخ، وأدى إنشاء كلية التربية العليا في عدن
كان من أوائل المستطرون في هذه الكلية التي
أصبحت نواة لجامعة عدن.

من هذا الحصار يستطرون التفتت، شخصية
سلطان ناجي، فصار حيازة بكتاب، بحلة التفتت
عن دور - لأخرية في ذلك - فيستأن التاريخ الذي
يعرض الأوامر والتفتت بكتاب صفحات التاريخ -
يعرف في زمانه أن من يستطرون كتاب التاريخ هو الذين
يعملون بكتاب أسمائهم على الجدران وقرق الواح
الفتن.

ربما سلطان ناجي، عمله التاريخي والفكري في
صورتهم.

تاريخ اليمن يستطرون ودون شائق
وقد مثل الحضور الأول جانباً كبيراً من نشاطه
والفكرية الفكري، ذلك أنه قام بدراسة تاريخ مدينة
عدن بشكل شمولي، كتابه "تاريخ المدينة لهذه المدينة
التي بنى مع بدايات الاحتلال البريطاني لعدن
وقد قام بدراسة عدد من الكتب والدراسات
الانجليزية التي نشرت عن عدن، فأسر من التطور
الأمريكي للمدينة، ويعتبر عمله هذا أساهمة كبيرة
فائدة من عدن، فحتاج إلى عناية الجميع ليعلموها
كتاب واحد، ذلك أن سلطان ناجي نشر مؤلفاً
الصور على مدى فترة زمنية طويلة وفي عدد من
الصحف والمجلات - الأمر الذي أثقل كاهه الدراسة
أبحاثها الشمولية التي كان سلطان ناجي يضعها
في منهجية الخاص بكتابة تاريخ مدينة عدن لكن
الوقت لم يسمح ليعملها في كتاب واحد والتمثل



هشام علي



تجليات النورس

استقالة

بذلتها التي هي من في أسامة العلي
فيها الدلالة في ما هي - ولي أنوار العلي - أن كل من التطور والتفتت
من بعدها فائدة العلي - كان من شأنه التاريخ - وفكري فكري بالعدا
كان ليعتد في الواح والصور - وأما بالصور فليكن من بعد بمرور سنوات
الوقت والوقت

وقد قام الأستاذ سلطان ناجي بدراسة تاريخ
اليمن في هذه الفترة من هذا التطور - حيث رأى أن
الاستعمار لم يكن امتداداً لأرض فقط - ولكنه كان
عملية لغزو استعصا، مصالح وخطوط تجارية
ومناطق نفوذ وقهر ذلك، وكان لابد من دراسة
اليمن في الفترة الاستعمارية دراسة شاملة،
التي لا أخرى التي ينبغي التأكيد عليها، وهي
شعوبية الطبقة التاريخية لهذه الفترة وأن كان
الاستعمار الرئيسي يتعلق بتاريخ المؤسسة
العسكرية، وهو هذا العمل يذكرنا بالكتاب لهم
للعقار المصري في دور - عند ذلك الذي وضع كتاباً
لكن هو أن - مصر مستعصا جميعه يمينه
العسكريون، خلال الفترة الأولى من ثورة يوليو
وقد كان كتاباً شاملاً لتاريخ مصر الحديث
والعاصر، تناول التطورات السياسية
والاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية من خلال
الحديث عن علاقة الجيش بالسلطة في مصر.

وقد كان سلطان ناجي مؤلفاً في هذا الربط،
حيث أصبح كتاب التاريخ العسكري - من أهم
الترجيح عن تاريخ اليمن الحديث.

في الكتاب لود الإشارة في الإزمة الفكرية التي
عاشها سلطان ناجي في السنوات الأخيرة من
عمره - فمما لود العلي - يستطرون التاريخ ومما لود
الزيرة يعرضي التاريخ - والصحف مع الحداثة
السياسية والفكرية يعرض التاريخ - فله هذه عوامل
دفعته إلى الإزمة ذلك أنه رأى أن الأمور تسير
بصورة مبالغ في التطور وبعد تفكير أحداث
١٢ يناير فأنه أن تاريخ اليمن - يجب أن يصنع



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كان ليعتد في الواح والصور - وأما بالصور فليكن من بعد بمرور سنوات
الوقت والوقت