

NAJIB AL –KILANI ; HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ISLAMIC LITERATURE

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Najib Al–Kilani (1931–95), the famous Egyptian writer and poet will be remembered for his pioneering role in the formation of " RABIT A TUL ADABIL ISLAMI AL–AALAMIAH" and leading a movement to produce what came to be known as Islamic literature.

Though a physcian by profession Kilani through his works in different genres of literature got himself recognized as an outstanding novelist, poet and critic.

His long illness and imprisonment for over ten years failed to prevent him from producing not less than 40 novels, four collections of short stories, eight diwans of poetry , several books in literary criticism and at least 30 books on various aspects of Islam.

His various books including one on "Iqbal" brought him prestigious ;, awards and medals from different organizations.

In his writings Kilani has dealt with almost all aspects of human life, , particularly the sufferings of Muslim ummah under the colonial rule. Most of his novels deal with the major historical events taking place in different Islamic countries.

According to him no constructive literature can be produced in isolation from the religious norms and moral values. There is an intimate linkage between the two.

"The ultimate objective of literature is to benefit the people and to encourage them to build an ideal society while the aim of religion is not anything other than the welfare of mankind. So there is a convergence of the two in their ultimate objective," Kilani asserts.

However, it does not mean that all of his novels should be categorized under Islamic literature. There are certain novels written by him which are not different from those of others as they have been strongly criticized for its immoral contents. Such novels include "Fi–al–Zalam",Al–Yaumal–Maud" Allazin–a–Yahtarefun".

One of the main characterstics that ensures for his writings a place in the world literature is that he has transcended the boundaries of space and time in the choice of his themes. In criticizing the classicism Kilani has joined the literary Stalwarts of his age like Aqqad, Mazani, Ahmad Amin and Taha Husain.

Najib Al–Kilani's contribution to Arabic literature is not confined to novels and short stories. He has also left his marks in the fields of poetry, drama, literary criticism, children literature and autobiographies.

It is indeed a rare phenomenon that a person who is Physician by profession has given a valuable treasure to Arabic literature.