

Dr. S.M. Zaman

Nasim Hijazi and the Arabic Version of his 'Muhammad Bin Qasim'¹

Thirty years ago, on the outskirts of Abbottabad, bypassers would see a tall sturdy man with plain features and a heavy frame striding briskly along the bypaths skirting the beautiful hills and ravines that form part of the breath taking panorama of natural beauty around this charming little town. To early morning walkers the figure was as familiar as his young bear which followed him tamely like a spaniel. During visits to his Rawalpindi home he could be seen riding furiously through the forests and fields along the Margalla hills where now the Federal Capital has emerged. The picture appears to be that of a heroic character sprung to life straight out of one of Nasim Hijazi's novels, But no, it is real ; of none else than the famous writer of a score of novels which have made Hijazi's name a household word for the Urdu-reading public in the last four decades. This profile of the author may not be familiar to many, just as his given name Muhammad Sharif is obscured behind the name he adopted for his literary *mission*, and I choose the word carefully in preference to 'career'.

Born at Suchanpur, a small village near Dhariwal in the District of Gurdaspur (Punjab) on the 19th of May, 1914, Nasim Hijazi received his early education in the neighbouring schools. His father, Chaudhry Muhammad Ibrahim, was a farmer of the lower middle class. Having matriculated from the University of the Punjab, he joined the Islamia College, Lahore in 1932, graduating from there in 1938. History and Classics were his favourite subjects of study. Justice Anwarul Haq, Maulana Abdul Sattar Niazi and the late Hamid Nizami were amongst his contemporaries. The flair for journalism took him to Karachi where he edited an Urdu daily

¹ Read at the laundring ceremony of the book held in Islamabad under the auspices of the Pakistan Academy of Letters on 26-10-81

ORIENTAL PUBLICATIONS

(Arabic & Persian)

1. (Iqlid al-Khizana) اقلید الخزانہ

Index of titles of works referred to or quoted by Abd-al-Qadir Al-Baghdadi in his Khizanat Al-Adab. 1927, 147 pp.
By M. Abd-al-Aziz Maiman Rs. 3.00

2. کتاب عقد الفرید

(Analytical Indices to the Kitab Al-Ikd Al-Farid of Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Abd Rabbihi)

Index I—Names of Poets cited in the work. Index II—Rhymes.
Index III—Names of Persons, Tribes, etc.
Index IV—Names of Places.

With a conspectus of the pagination of the contents in the various editions of the Ikd.

(Cairo edition, A.H. 1321) Vol. I (Indices), 1935, lxxiii + 1044 pp.
and Vol. II (Notes), 1937, xxiv—212 pp.

Prepared by Dr. Muhammad Shafi Vol. I Rs. 26.00
Vol. II Rs. 6.50

3. مکاتبات رشیدی

(Letters of Rashid Al-Din Fadl Allah)

Persian text and abridged translation. 1947, 479 pp.
Edited by Dr. Muhammad Shafi Rs. 12.00

4. غرة الزیجات یا کرن تلک

(Ghurrat-al-Zijat or Karana Tilaka)

Arabic text of Al-Beruni's Ghurrat-uz-Zijat with English translation & copious notes. 1978

Edited by M. F. Qureshi. Rs. 45.00

5. The Life and Works of Amir Khusrau

Doctoral thesis of Dr. Mirza submitted for the Ph.D. Degree of the London University in 1920. 1962, 262 pp.

By Dr. Mohammad Wahid Mirza Rs. 15.00

6. The Life and Works of Yaqut ibn Abd Allah al-Hamavi

Doctoral thesis of Dr. Rana submitted at the University of Cambridge in 1959. 1965, 84 pp.

By R. M. N. E. Elahi Rs. 10.00

7. The Imperial Library of the Mughuls

The book is a brief but interesting account of an hitherto little known subject. It deals with the library of the Great Mughuls and throws light on their love of books and their munificent patronage of arts and letters. The book has been edited by Dr. A. Shakoor Ahsan. 1967, 62 pp.

By Sh. Abdul Aziz Rs. 10.00

University Sales Depot

University of the Punjab
Lahore - Pakistan

REFERENCES

1. E. W. Polson Newman, *Great Britain in Egypt*, 31.
2. Tom Little, *Modern Egypt*, 57, 58.
3. E. W. Polson Newman, *Great Britain in Egypt*, 49.
4. *The Encyclopaedia Americana*, 2 : 157.
5. Tom Little, *Modern Egypt*, 45.
6. J. R. H. Weaver, *The Dictionary of National Biography*, 84—86.
7. W. S. Blunt, *Secret History of the English Occupation of Egypt*, 62.
8. *Ibid.*
9. W. S. Blunt, *My Diaries*, Part II, vi.
10. J. R. H. Weaver, *The Dictionary of National Biography*, 85.
11. W. S. Blunt, *Secret History of the English Occupation of Egypt*, 433.
12. W. S. Blunt, *My Diaries*, II, 463.
13. *Ibid.*
14. J. R. H. Weaver, *The Dictionary of National Biography*, 84—86.

ata, but Ali Fehmy remained at Cairo. And I saw nothing of Ali Nizami. But being at Zagazig on a visit to friends, Ahmed Eff. Shemsi and Suliman Pasha Abaza, as I was returning by train to Ras el Wady, it happened that Ahmed Pasha Ratib was on his way to Suez, for he was going on to Mecca on pilgrimage. And I found myself in the same carriage with him, and we exchanged compliments as strangers, and I asked him his name, and he asked me my name, and he told me of his pilgrimage and other things, but he did not speak of his mission to the Khedive, nor did I ask. But I told him that I was loyal to the Sultan as the head of our religion, and I also related to him all that had occurred, and he said, "You did well." And at Ras el Wady I left him, and afterwards he sent me a Koran from Jeddah, and later, on his return to Stamboul, he wrote to me, saying that he had spoken favourably of me to the Sultan, and afterwards I received a letter dictated by the Sultan to Sheykh Mohammed Dhaffar telling me what you know.

As to Yakub Sami, he was of family originally Greek from Stamboul. He went by my order to Alexandria to inquire into the affair of the riot, but they would not allow a true inquiry to be made into it. It was Yakub Sami who, with Ragheb Pasha, proposed that we should cut off the Khedive's head. You say we should have done better to do so, but I wished to gain the end of our revolution without the shedding of a drop of blood.

And the Khedive entered by the back door on the East side, and presently he came out to us with his generals and aides-de-camp, but I did not see Colvin with him, though he may have been there, and he called on me to dismount, and I dismounted, and he called on me to put up my sword, and I put up my sword, but the officers approached with me to prevent treachery, about fifty in number and some of them placed themselves between him and the palace, but Riaz Pasha was not with the Khedive in the square, and remained in the palace. And when I had delivered my message and made my three demands to the Khedive, he said "I am Khedive of the country and shall do as I like" (*"ana Khedeywi'l beled wa'amal zey ma inni awze"*). I replied, "We are not slaves, and we shall never more be inherited from this day forth" (*"Nahnu ma abid wa la nurithu ba'd el yom"*). He said nothing more, but turned and went back into the palace. And presently they sent out Cookson to me with his interpreter, and he asked me why, being a soldier, I made demand of a parliament, and I said that it was to put an end to arbitrary rule, and pointed to the crowd of citizens supporting us behind the soldiers. He threatened me, saying, "We shall bring a British army," and much discussion took place between us, and he returned six or seven times to the palace and came out again six or seven times to me, until finally he informed me that the Khedive had agreed to all, and the Khedive wished for Haider Pasha to replace Riaz. But I would not consent, and when it was put to me to say I named Sherif Pasha, because he had declared himself in favour of a Mejlis el Nawwab, and I had known him a little in former times, in the time of Said Pasha, when he served with the army. And in the evening the Khedive sent for me and I went to him at Ismailia Palace, and I thanked him for having agreed to our request, but he said only, "That is enough. Go now and occupy Abedin, and let it be without music in the streets" (lest that should be taken as a token of rejoicing).

And when Ali Pasha Nizami came to Cairo with Ahmed Pasha Ratib from the Sultan, the Khedive was alarmed lest an inquiry should be made, and Mahmud Sami being again Minister of War ordered us to leave Cairo, and I went to Ras el Wady and Abd el Aal to Dami-

by Mahmud Sami shortly before leaving office, and had not been replaced. This miralai was of us but *khain* (a traitor), and we agreed that we would make a demonstration and demand the dismissal of the whole Ministry, and that a Ministry favourable to the Wattan should replace them, and that a Mejliss of Nawwab should be assembled, and that the army should be raised to 18,000 men. But we did not tell Ali Fehmy of our design, for we did not wholly at the time trust him. And the next morning I wrote stating our demands and sent it to the Khedive at Ismailia Palace, saying that we should march to Abedin Palace at the *asr*, there to receive his answer. And the reason of our going to Abdin and not to Ismailia, where he lived, was that Abedin was his public residence, and we did not wish to alarm the ladies of his household. But if he had not come to Abedin we should have marched on to Ismailia,

When, therefore, the Khedive received our message he sent for Riaz Pasha and Khairy Pasha and Stone Pasha, and they went first to Abidin Barracks, where both the Khedive and Riaz Pasha spoke to the soldiers, and they gave orders to Ali Fehmy that he should, with his regiment, occupy the place of Abedin and Ali Fehmy assented and he posted his men in the upper rooms out of sight, so that they should be ready to fire on us from the windows. But I do not know whether they were given ball cartridge or not. Then the Khedive with the Generals went on to the Kalaa, and they spoke to the soldiers there in the same sense, calling on Fuda Bey to support the Khedive against us, the Khedive scolding him and saying, "I shall put you in prison"; but the soldiers surrounded the carriage, and the Khedive was afraid and drove away, and he went on by the advice of Riaz to Abassiyeh to speak to me, but I had already marched with my regiment through the Hassaneyn quarter to Abedin. They asked about the artillery and were told that it also had gone to Abedin, and when the Khedive arrived there he found us occupying the square, the artillery and cavalry being before the West entrance, and I with my troops before the main entrance, and already when I arrived before the palace I had sent in to Ali Fehmy, who I had heard was there, and had spoken to him, and he had withdrawn his men from the palace, and they stood with us.