



## DR. AHMAD AMIN HIS LIFE AND WORK

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### ABSTRACT

*Dr. Ahmad Amin was a renowned historian, author, thinker, and literary critic of modern period Egyptian Arabic literature. Besides he was a researcher, professor and reformer. His name and fame rest on his historian and literary excellence. Also in philosophy was the free roaming of his pen. For this is well-known all over the world, including Egypt for his many achievement in Arabic literature, philosophy and law. So, the main reason for highlighting the 'Life and Work' of this great author in my article. I hope that this article will benefit Arabic language researchers and students from all over the world including India.*

*Keywords : Life, Education, Work, contribution, career, Personal Life.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Dr. Ahmad Amin was a famous Egyptian author of the modern Arabic literature. He was born on 1 October, 1886 at 5:00 A.M. in a conservative family in the Cairo capital of Egypt. He was the fourth child in his family. His father Ibrahim At-Tabakh was a famous scholar and great teacher. Besides being a teacher, his father was the Imam of the mosque and a memorizer of the Holy Quran. His father's only addiction was to collect books on various commentaries, fiqh, hadith and literature. So Dr. Ahmad Amin was brought up in an aristocratic and educated environment.

### 2. DISCUSSION

The author's took care of his son's education from an early age. The author received his primary education from his father and lessons to the 'Holy Quran'. From an early age, the writer grew up in a religious environment, so, he recited the 'Holy Quran' morning and evening, including five daily prayers, and fasted during the month of Ramadan. The author himself commented on the religious atmosphere of his home in his autobiographical books: "If you open the door of our house, you will get the scent of religion, bright and sweet smell."

The author was admitted to a 'Maktab' after receiving his primary education from his father. After completing his studies there, he admitted to the primary school. Then his father admitted him to Al-Azhar University and there he studied for four years.

The Sharia Judicial School was established in 1907 at the Cairo to training religious judges and lawyers. The school used to admit meritorious students of Al-Azhar through difficult entrance exam. It was a highly quality educational institution of that era. Dr. Ahmad Amin passed that difficult entrance exam and was admitted Sharia Judicial School. He was admitted to that school and took lessons in modern knowledge and literature in addition to religious studies. At that time the school had a considerable influence on the author. For some time he also studied irregularly at the University of Egypt. While Sharia Judicial School, the author had to hard work to get an education. Eventually the author learns English from a female teacher and becomes proficient in English.

### 3. CONTRIBUTION

After completing his education, Dr. Ahmad Amin started writing various essays in various reputable journals. About five hundred essays written by him have been published in Al-Risala, Al-Thaqafa, Al-Hilal and other well-known journals. Moreover, he has gained fame by writing books on various subjects. The most notable of his book is 'Hayaati' (My Life). His famous autobiographical book 'Hayaati' (My Life) was published towards the end of his life in 1950. At the time, the book was an honest portrayal of human life and an important document that helped Egyptians move toward modernity. For this reason, this autobiography became of interest to many people besides that general reader. Through his writings, historians of modern Egypt will be able to learn about two political leaders and other outstanding personalities. The sociologists can find out in this book about a boy past activities that happened in his life. The Islamic thinkers will be able to learn about the rules of Islamic conduct in his family in the style of his autobiographical book, which will be useful in real life.

Ahmad Ami's book enables modern Arabic literary to better understand his thoughts against the background of his work and intimate life. In this book, he has beautifully portrayed from his early life to the last day of his life, for which many researchers have researched this famous author and are still doing so. In this autobiographical book he mentions the things that can be presented to people in life, the things that can't be presented to people, he doesn't mention. So the author himself says about this in his preface to the first edition of the autobiography: "I have not told all the truth in it but I have also not told anything but the truth. For there is some truth which is vile tell and repugnant to hear. If we do not deem proper the nudity of the whole body, how can we deem proper the nudity of the whole self."

In addition to his autobiography, this famous author was the writer of many other book. Notable among them is 'Fajr-Al-Islam' (The Dawn of Islam), the book published from Cairo in 1928 while he was a professor at Cairo University. In this book, the presents the record of development from the beginning to the end of the Umayyad period. Then his book 'Duha-Al-Islam' (The Morning of Islam) was published in three volumes from Cairo in 1933-36. In this book he discusses in detail the Abbasid period related to the first century. Another of his book is 'Zuhar-Al-Islam' (The Noon of Islam), published in four volumes from Cairo in 1945-55. This book covers up to

the end of fourth Islamic century. In addition to these books, he has written many other books, some of which are mentioned below:

1. Kitab Al-Akhlaq(The Book of Ethics) - 1920
2. Faidul-Khatir (The Abundance of Thought) – 1940
3. Ela-Walidi(To My Son) –1951
4. Yawn-Al-Islam (The Day of Islam) – 1952
5. Al-Sharqwal-Gharb(The East and the West) – 1955
6. Zu'maAl-Islah fil-AsralHadith ( Leaders of Reform in the Modern Era) – 1948
7. Al-NuqdulAdabi (Literary Criticism) – 1952
8. Qamusl-Adad (Dictionary of Egyptian) –1953

#### 4. CAREER

There were three main stages in the development of Ahmad Amin's career. Firstly, since his father had a library at home, books on various subjects were within his reach in library collected by his father. As a result, in his spare time, the author carefully studied various books in the home library, and as his father was educated, he received a lot of help and advice from his father. The second stage is the Sharia Judicial School where he was educated and taught a number of subjects including religious knowledge, modern science, literature, history, philosophy and law, due to which the writer became endowed with various knowledge. The author completed form the Sharia Judicial School in 1911, and received Alimiyat's degree. Then in 1912 he was appointed as a teacher in the same school and remained in that post till 1921. The third stage of the author's life began in 1921 when he became a judge. He then graced the posts of judges of various courts. In 1926 he was appointed professor of Arabic literature at Cairo University and in 1939 was promoted to dean of the Department of Arts. He taught at this university till 1948. It was during this period that the genius of his writing was properly developed.

Then, he was appointed a member of the Arabic Language Council in Damascus in 1947, and same year was appointed director of the Arab League's cultural development. Also, he was elected a member of The High Council of the Egyptian Language Council and the National Library. For a time, he was director of Cultural Bureau at the Egyptian Ministry of Education in 1945 and director of the Cultural Bureau of the language of Arab States in 1945-1952. In 1948, the University of Cairo awarded him an honorary doctorate. He was also, a founding member of the writing, translation, and publishing committee. For 30 long years he was the caretaker and president of this organization. Notwithstanding, he also found time give talks on the radio and public lectures in various clubs, and he also travelled to Europe officially delegated twice to the international Congress of orientalist in Leiden in 1931. He then attended the Brussels conference in 1938 and the Palestine conference in 1946.

#### 5. PERSONAL LIFE

Ahmad Amin married an Egyptian women in 1912. He was the father of ten children. Two of his children died in childhood. Eventually he arranged modern education for his six sons and two daughters. Jus as the author's father facilitated the education of his children, so he, facilitate the higher education of his children. He nurtured the

children through strict discipline and well-educated the children in modern education. Among his children famous were Hossain Ahmad Amin and Jalaluddin Ahmad Amin. Hussain Ahmad Amin was a famous lawyer in modern Egypt and the second secretary of the Egyptian embassy. Another of the author's children, Jalaluddin Ahmad Amin was a professor of economics at Shams University and the American University's Faculty of Law. In addition to being an economist, he was a well-known writer of the modern age. Jalaluddin Ahmad Amin was fluent in both Arabic and English language. Researching the achievements of his children it is very easy to understand that he was succeeded in raising children in his personal life.

## 6. CONCLUSION

It is clear from this article that this famous author is well-known to people all over the world because he has been writing on various topics till last day of life. As well as being a renowned professor, he was also a researcher, writer, literary and historian. His writings cover a wide range of topics, including history, philosophy and literature. In addition to his writing, he was invited to various countries to give lectures on various subjects. He used to lectures in front of various clubs and public, including radio stations. As a result, he was left us information about history, including Arabic literature. He was a judge, author, historian and religious thinker. One of his sons was a prominent Egyptian lawyer and other sons was a professor of economics and a well-known author. So in word it can be said that a father is a son. This great author, historian and religious thinker died on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1954 in Cairo capital of Egypt.

In light of his discussion, it's necessary to review the life character of his famous Egyptian historian and author and various aspects of his writing. Because he has gifted us with huge collection of Arabic literature. So, I think it's very relevant to discuss and review different aspects of his life or writing in the present age. As a result, contemporary Arabic literature students, researchers and literary lovers many benefit somewhat from this short article of mine. So, I think it's necessary to discuss and review different aspects of his life and literature not only Arabic language but also in different languages of the world. So that the positive aspects of his literature and life are observed by the students of Arabic language as well as the students of other languages.

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