

## Contribution of Sheikh Muhammad Wahid Rashid Al-Hasani Al-Nadwi to the development of Arabic journalism in India

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### Abstract:

*There is no doubt that the Arabic Journalism in India has a prestigious place in the field of international Arabic Journalism. Its journey began from 1871, when the newspaper "An- Nafa' al A'zim Li Ahli hadhal Eqleem" was published in Lahore. It is considered the first Arabic newspaper in undivided India. After that many other newspapers and magazines appeared, the most famous of which were Al-Bayan magazine, Al-Jamia magazine, Al-Dhiya magazine, and Da`wa Al-Haq magazine. Many scholars have made every effort to develop and upgrade it. And pioneer of them are Abu Al-Kalam Azad, Masoud Alom Al-Nadwi, Wahid Al-Zaman Al-Kiranoi, Mr. Muhammad Al-Hasani, and Abu Al-Hassan Al-Nadwi. Over the days, the circle of Arabic journalism expanded in our country, India. More than one hundred religious, cultural or literary newspapers and magazines are now published from various schools, universities, councils, and organizations. The most important of which are Al Baas el Islami, the Da'i, ThiqafulHind, Satul Ummah, Mujalla Rabitha al Qalamia, At Timeez, al Jeel al Jadeed, the Calicut magazine, Mujallah an Nasiha, An Nahdha, Ar Raid, Mujallaul Aqlam al Hindia, and others. Among its pioneers nowadays are Saeed Al-Rahman Al-A'zami, Noor Al-Alam Khalil Al-Amini, Sayyid Rabe Al-Hasani Al-Nadwi, Dhikr Al-Rahman, Mr. Muhammad Farman Al-Nadwi, Dr. Maraj-Din Al-Nadwi and others. By their sincere efforts and effective activities, the Arabic Journalism is advancing day by day. Now this article focuses on the contributions of Sheikh Muhammad Wahid Rashid al-Hasani al-Nadwi in the development of Arabic Journalism in India.*

**Key Words: An- Nafa' al A'zim Li Ahli hadhal Eqleem, religious, cultural, literary newspapers, Arabic Journalism.**

Muhammad Wadeh Rashid Nadwi (1935 -2019) was an eminent Arabic writer and journalist of contemporary India. He was born in a well-known and highly educated family of Rai-Bereli, Uttar Pradesh. His lineage belongs to the family of Shah Alamullah, which was famous in India and abroad for its distinguished services and inimitable children in various fields. He got his early education from Ilahia School at Rai-Bereli and studied Islamic sciences and Arabic language and literature at Darul Ulum Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow. He obtained his graduation with English honours from Aligarh Muslim University and started his professional life as an Arabic translator and presenter in All India Radio, New Delhi and worked there for twenty years; from 1953-1973 to be exact. In 1973, he joined Darul Ulum Nadwatul Ulama as a teacher of Arabic Language and literature and was promoted to the post of Dean, school of languages. He became the secretary for education of Darul Ulum Nadwatul Ulama in 2006 and till death he was doing this prestigious job actively and efficiently. Apart from this, he was associated with many academic organizations, and educational institutions in India and Abroad and worked with full of honour and dignity.

Sheikh Al-Nadwi began his journalistic career while he was in All India Radio, New Delhi. During his stay in New Delhi, Al-Nadwi translated a number of scientific, literary political and research articles, and stories into Arabic that were relayed from Delhi and other radio stations of the country. It should be noted here that the Arabic section of the radio station, New Delhi at that time was seized by Arab broadcasters and translators who were from Arab countries such as Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and Palestine. Among them were writers and storytellers, and some of them were

journalists. Al-Nadwi took full advantage of them and gained full experience in journalism and Arabic literature.

This is one side of his journalistic life, and the other side is his joining to newspapers and magazines. Sheikh Al-Nadwi grew up in a period when the Arab journalism in India was going through an era of development. And that he witnessed the activities of Abul Kalam Azad, Masoud Alom Nadwi, Muhammad Al-Hasani, and Abul Hassan Ali Al-Hasani Al-Nadwi in the field for the betterment of Arabic journalism from near. He was influenced by them, and their passion for journalism encouraged him to become an ideal journalist with an excellent style.

His journalistic writings are found in various magazines and newspapers, but we find most of them in the magazine "Al-Baas Al-Islami" and "Al-Raid" newspaper, both of which are published by Dar Al-Uloom Nadwatul Ulama. He published his first article in "Al-Baas Al-Islami" in the ninth issue of the fifteenth volume, entitled "Memory of Habib and his House". And after that he published dozens of articles on various topics such as belief and worship, advocacy and guidance, education, Islamic literature, Islamic and Western civilization, colonialism, the Arab and Islamic world, and men of history. Here are the names of some of the well-known articles published in the Al-Baas Al-Islami:

Title	Issue	Vol.	Month	Year	Page
Memory of Habib and his House	9	15	May	1971	81-86
Islamic Education Movement and Curriculum Development	10	21	July	1977	60-71
Who are the persecuted: Muslims or Christians?	10	23	June	1979	89-90
Between experience and experience, Britain under foreign rule	5	24	December	1979	79-84
From making death to making decisions	1	25	July	1980	87-91
The Value of Creed in Self-determination	6	26	January	1981	91-93
The new system and new standards	6	43	July	1998	88-93
Islamic Leadership facing New Challenges	5	55	Jan	2008	90-94
Western media and its deviation from its required role	6	56	Oct	2010	91-95

In Al-Raid newspaper, he published more than six hundred articles, the first of which was published in the eighteenth issue of the ninth volume, under the title "The fate of the world: total annihilation or complete survival." The following are the title of some articles that were published in this prestigious newspaper.

Title	Issue	Vol.	Month	Year	Page
The arrival of man to the moon does not achieve happiness on the earth	9	10	1st November	1968	First
Freedom in Human Society	6	15	16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	1973	First
The Islamic Revolution between Ideal and Practice	11	21	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	1979	First
The Indian Republic and the Role of Muslims	15	25	1st February	1997	5
Sayyid Sulaiman Nadawi	16	43	1 <sup>st</sup> March	2002	5

When we study his articles in the magazines and newspapers, we find that he dealt mostly with issues of the Islamic nation and the Islamic world. Sometimes, by his writings, he tried to awaken the religious feeling in Muslims, and sometimes he spoke about the challenges facing the Islamic nation, alerting its members to these challenges, and sometimes he searched for the causes of conflict in the Islamic world, and sometimes he offered his appropriate advice to solve problems, and sometimes he mentioned the characteristics of the Islamic system of government. We mention some paragraphs, for example, from his articles published in the "Al-Baas Al-Islami" magazine and "Al-Raid" newspaper.

Discussing the challenges facing the Muslim Ummah, he said:

“The Muslim Ummah is going through the most difficult periods, it has no parallel in history, considering the general problems and their coverage, and in clearer terms the pain of the rest of its body and the disintegration of the rest of its structure, its problems and sufferings pervade the whole world, and its effects are felt in all parts of which there is an Islamic presence.

These problems or tribulations start from belief, to social, cultural, political, and economic life, as they are comprehensive to all aspects of life.”<sup>1</sup>

He further says:

“Muslims today face intense propaganda against Islam and Muslims, and they cannot respond to this propaganda, despite their powers and capabilities, and despite the fact that the truth is with them, they are far from what is rumored about them in the media, because they do not have powerful media, and their enemies have closed all possibilities. The governments of the Muslims themselves support them in this, because they have submitted to the desire or fear of the global powers that experience Islam, and these governments help in implementing these plans.

The most dangerous thing is what is being implemented in educational curricula, and the materials that occur in students are produced with Islamic awareness, as it leads to stripping Muslims of the distinct Islamic feeling and awareness, and the feeling of what is being hatched against them of conspiracies.”<sup>2</sup>

Sheikh Muhammad Wahid Rashid al-Nadwi was a great analyst of different issues of Islamic and Arab world and had extensive information in its history. He was considered one of those few persons who understood the long-term intellectual threat of the West and in many of his articles; he dissected the intellectual threat of the West, analyzed Western thought and its philosophy, revealed the true goals of the West, and colonial plans that exert all means, talents, and energies to eliminate human values.

In an article he published in Al-Raid, Year: 31, Issue: 3, August 1st, 1989, he talked about the foundations of Western civilization, saying:

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<sup>1</sup> ) Al-Nadwi, Muhammad Wadhah Rashid al-Hasani. "Islamic leadership faces new challenges". Al Baas el Islami, Muharram - Safar 1431 AH: 85

<sup>2</sup> ) Al-Nadwi, Muhammad Wadhah Rashid al-Hasani. "Islamic leadership faces new challenges". Al Baas el Islami, Muharram - Safar 1431 AH: 85

"But if someone studies the history of Western civilization, and the contemporary regimes affiliated with it, he finds that they are totally dependent on terrorism and extremism, and all sources of terrorism are in Europe, and they are the ones that train terrorists, distribute weapons to them, finance terrorist gangs, support their activities, and support separatism movements," And the war with the existing regimes, and it is no secret to anyone familiar with contemporary circumstances, and whoever reads newspapers knows reports of international terrorist organizations in "Italy", "France", "Germany" and "Cuba", represents a pioneering role in training terrorists, They are infiltrated in various parts of the world, "Mazni" and "Machiavellian" were Italians, and they have an influence on contemporary thought, and terrorism in the contemporary world is due to their ideas, and that the spread of a mafia gang and its leadership of terrorism in the world today is well known, as are the Masonic movements based in the countries of European Union, which manages terrorism in different countries".<sup>3</sup>

In addition, Sheikh Al-Nadawi used to write the editorial for Al-Raid newspaper. In these articles, according to the characteristics of the editorial, he interpreted and dissected burning contemporary events and commented on them.

Some of his articles also was in memories of great men of the history. He spoke in an article about Sheikh Abi Al-Hassan Ali Al-Hasani Al-Nadwi, his approach to advocacy and his role in solving issues and problems. We mention some parts of this article here:

Al-Nadwi said about his advocacy approach:

"He started his life after completing the education, as a teacher, but he left his job and released himself from its bonds, to carry out the burdens of advocacy and reform freely, and chose a special approach to work, and expanded the circle of his activities from the framework of Muslims to all humanity in a manner that inclines hearts, and attracts souls with books, sermons, and letters In the meetings and dialogues, he addresses the rulers, leaders, intellectuals, and the general public. Each class has a style, and each environment has a special way. "<sup>4</sup>

In addition to that, literary topics also occupy a not trivial part of his journalistic writings. In Al-Raid newspaper, a series of articles were published for him under the title "Literature for People of Hearts." In these articles, he worked on searching for those notables from the people of the heart who were honoured with literary talent and fertile thought, and he mentions quotes from their words that are the truest representation of the Arabic language and its high literature, and a wonderful example of high literary writings.

It has already been mentioned that Al-Nadwi is the editor-in-chief of Al-Raid newspaper, so he wrote the editorial for most of its issues. It is known to all that the editorial of any newspaper or magazine is considered the spirit of this newspaper or magazine, and its objectives are reflected in it, as well as the position of its owners towards any religious, social, political, economic or other fact or issue. Sheikh Nadwi performed his responsibility in this regard actively and efficiently. . And his editorials testify to his valuable experience in journalism. Likewise, his articles in Al-Baath Al-Islami magazine under the title "Pictures and Conditions" are liked by readers a lot. In each article, Nadwi used to choose one of the hot issues facing the contemporary

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<sup>3</sup>) Al-Nadwi, Muhammad Wadhih Rashid al-Hasani. "Europe is the source of terrorism in the world." Al Raid, 1st August 1989 AD: 1

<sup>4</sup>) Al-Nadwi, Muhammad Wadhih Rashid Al-Hasani. Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Ali al-Hasani al-Nadwi and his approach to advocacy and his role in solving issues and problems. Al Baas el Islami, Shawwal 1430 AH: 41

world, especially the Arab and Islamic world and then analyze it, criticize it and after that present its solutions in light of the Islam.

The journalistic writings of Sayyid Muhammad Wahid Rashid al-Hasani al-Nadwi are mouthpiece of the Islamic preaching; express the belief-based foundations of faith and original intellectual approaches. His articles prove the universality of the Islamic nation and the inevitability of its eternal message, combating false propaganda, combating false slogans, criticizing materialistic Western civilizations, and the clash of destructive movements, and reveals deceptive and destructive doctrines such as atheistic socialism and deviant communism and calls for the right Islamic approach, and calls for 'constructive, good and good ideas.

We can say that Sheikh Al-Nadwi proved himself an exemplary journalist with his relentless effort, wonderful style, and enlightened thought. And his contributions to the development of the Arabic journalism in India are neither ignorant nor denied at any time. We present here some quotes of his contemporaries regarding his recognition of his honour and his position in Indian Arabic journalism:

Dr. Saeed Al-Rahman Al-Azami Al-Nadwi acknowledges his high position in journalism saying: "And he has a great skill in the field of Arabic journalism and a unique experience in it for a long time. No one in India today equates him with that."<sup>5</sup>

Ashfaq Ahmad Al-Nadwi, a professor and the chairperson of the Department of Arabic, Banaras Hindu University and former editor-in-chief of Al-Shorouk Al-Hindi magazine, acknowledges his expertise in Arabic Journalism, Saying: "He is an expert in the art of journalism and has extensive experience in the field of Arab journalism. He takes an excellent modern style for his journalistic writings, and provides analysis".<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> ) Al-Azami, Dr. Saeed Al-Rahman (2009). The Arab Journalism: Its Origins and Development. Lana'a: Press and Publication Foundation, Colloquium of Scholars, p .: 69

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