**Tales Of the Ancients’**

The present research is an attempt to introduce a literary from that pre-Islam Arabs Knew as ‘tales of the ancients’, a form especially associated with the mane of Al-Nadhr ibn Al-Hareth. The designation ‘tales of the ancients’ occurs several times in the Qur’an, in the context of refuting the charges of the Quraishi people, and especially rebuking Al-Nadhr ibn Al-Hareth, the story-teller who claimed that the tales of the Qur’an are not different from the ones he was telling.

In the absence of representative specimens, the present research attempts to reconstruct the above-mentioned from, to illustrate and reveal the part played by Al-Nadhr ibn Al-Hareth in founding this art in the pre-Islamic era. A definition of this art is presented here with reference to three perspective: Qur’anic hints, semantic elucidation as met with in dictionaries, and insights from other sources.

The research presents a sketch of the story-teller and some features his tales, the nature of his reports, their relation to Persian heroic narratives, to such legendary champions as Rustum and Ispendiar. It also stresses the presence of narrative as a constituent the ‘challenge’, frequently handled by old Arab scholars, but invariably associated to poetry, to the neglect of narrative.

A side-light will be directed at the narrative-related questions posed by Al-Nadhr ibn Al-Hareth to the Prophet, and to the reply in the Chapter of the Cave in the Qur’an (the stories of ‘the Companions of the Cave’ and ‘the two-horned Man’), putting forth a functional report of Al-Nadhr’s questions, which leads the researcher to further elucidate the narrations of Al-Nadhr.

Special attention will be given to linking Al-Nadhr’s musical and singing talent to his narrative experience, inquiring about the tone of his narration, whether he fell back on his musical ability to beautify his narration, to combine a dramatic and narrative elements in one situation.

In the conclusion, the research will inquire about the fate of Al-Nadhr ibn Al-Hareth, whose hostile attitude led him to be a military commander in the Badr Battle, in which he was put to death by the sword of Ali ibn Abu Taleb. It appears that his execution was taken to be a condemnation of the art of narrative, which contributed to the neglect of this art, while in fact the Qur’anic position was not hostile to narrative as an art, but to Al-Nadhr’s employment of narrative to assault Islam.

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**Publications**

**First: Books**  
- Alqaws Walhanin (The Bow and Lusting), a Study of Short Stories in Jerusalem Al-Ufoq Al-Jaded Journal, Published by the Ministry of Culture in the Palestinian Authority, Ramallah 2001.  
- Short Story in Palestine and Jordan, Published by the Ministry of Culture in Jordan, Amman 2001.

**Second: Papers**

- "Amroa Al-qais in Modern Literature", in *Al-Aadb Journal*, No. 6, Qasandina University, Algeria 2003, pp 181 – 201.
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