

Nada Chahadi

A Writer within ALDAR

ALDAR has many talented people working for them. Not only do they put in a hard day's work but some spend the evenings applying themselves into others areas. Nada Chahadi is one example of these people. Nada is an architect during the day and an author and mother by night. She co-wrote with two other people a novel based on a true story. Samira Mohyuddin (Senior Research Manager) sits down to find out more:

Tell me what you do for ALDAR?

I am a member in both the Projects Department and the Architecture, Design and Engineering Department, particularly the Design Review Team. The team has formulated a magnificent and very exciting agenda related to design review processes, design guidelines and support etc. I work on reviewing the consultant's proposal against the design guidelines, brief & requirements and what was written in the

This book explores the conversations one has with one's self. The journey from ignorance to understanding, the experience of disorientation and discovery, the search for meaning in suffering and the accumulation of wisdom through experience.



RFP (Request for Proposal). I also review the design against the allocated budget and suggest solutions to minimize the cost without jeopardizing design (aesthetics) or quality.

You wrote a book. Can you give a brief synopsis of it?

The book which is entitled "EVENTUALLY, HOPE REALISED..." is considered a breakthrough in the world of Arabic contemporary novels. Its story delves deep into the intricacies of a woman's self who had messed with love and ethics, thus drowned by her foolishness in severe chaotic conflicts scattered with ignorance, pain and disorientation... till she eventually reverted anew and found love in a fresh beginning. She knew love as a true happiness in the heart of every day's reality, a happiness that revolves around everything to acquire consciousness... to realize at last that only love fills the gap of incompleteness in the self. The heroine of the novel discovered the meaning of love and its practical importance in everyone's life – conforming to one's consciousness. Excellence in life cannot be attained without love, on the basis that the "will of love realizes the will of life!"

This book explores the conversations one has with one's self. The journey from ignorance to understanding, the experience of disorientation and discovery, the search for meaning in suffering and the accumulation of wisdom through experience – these are all themes that are probed and examined with great sensitivity. One completes the book having experienced an often fierce trek into the inter catacombs of the human soul, a journey of discovery and, at its best, transcendence.

The full English (and Arabic) synopsis of the book can be read on the following link: <http://www.esoteric-lebanon.org/synopsis.htm>

What is unusual about this particular book is that you wrote it with 2 other friends. Is that correct?

Yes, that is true, and it is for the first time in the history of the Arabic literature that three ladies join efforts against traditional norms to bring forth this one unprecedented novel, synchronized in solidarity, collaboration and equipollence, also harmonized in methodology, style, narration, and skilfulness. I am proud to say that my two co-writers (Haifa El-Arab & Lubna Nuweiyhed) and I have collectively tailored with eloquent diction a genuine world which only the readers could internalize and vivify... and is offered to their own judgment. The book was published last year. To date,

tens of articles analyzing, introducing, exploring and/or evaluating the book were published in different magazines and newspapers all around the Arab world. Until 2 months ago, we have been interviewed on-air 3 times in different TV stations and 4 times, also on-air, in different radio stations. Also, we have 3 offers to make a movie of the book.

What motivated you as a co-writer to write such a book?

Firstly it was the moral of the story that motivated me and then came the 'temptation' of the challenge. Actually none of us are professional writers. Haifa and I are architects, and Lubna is an educationist. However, the three of us study what is called "Esoteric Sciences" (or the Science of Consciousness) that teaches the

us her story and read to us from her diary. After that each one of us compiled her own notes and wrote her own version of the book. Then we had extensive workshops and melted the three versions into one single version that cycled between the three of us for correction, editing and fine-tuning. It took us 3 years of hard work to realize this wonderful project as I may call it. Now, Lina's wish from us was not to publish the book until she departs this earth, and her wish was of course granted and the book was published just last year.

Is this your first book?

It is my first published one... however; I regularly publish articles on diverse topics in various magazines and newspapers.

Do you have plans of writing another book?

Of course... there are lots of plans ahead...

Where can we purchase this book? What is the price of the book?

The book will soon be available in the UAE but is available in Virgin mega stores all around the Arab world. Whoever wants the books can also buy it from the internet bookstore www.neelwafurat.com. Or you can contact me and I can get you a copy. The price of the book is 44 dirhams.

What did you learn from this experience?

I have indeed learnt so much. This experience encompasses a very unique level of team work that taught me the "art of listening" (not hearing) with a totally advanced and new color of communication because one has to work in a great extent on the ego.

From the writing experience, I learned precision, patience, and the fine-tuning exercise sharpened my sense of beauty and elegance of expression in a rhetoric parlance...

By virtue of Lina's story, I learned that true love is not the ideal love. For idealism is an illusion weaved by all that is theoretical in the self, all that is incapable of confrontation and far from practical application, and also incapable of confessing at least inwardly. I also learned that "He, who lacks love, misses the humane aspect residing within." ■



Principles of Self-Knowledge. And we owe the realization of the book to the founder of the First Esoteric Science Center in Lebanon and the Arab World, Dr. Joseph B. Majdalani (JBM), who has so far published 41 books in Arabic plus two books in English, on this thought-provoking subject, the ESOTERIC...

How did it work in practical terms?

As I mentioned earlier, the book depicts a true story. Lina, the prime character, the heroine of the book, (of course this is not her true name) approached Dr. Majdalani to tell her story so that it can be written in a book to be as "lessons learnt" to the coming generations. Dr. Majdalani then turned her to the three of us because he trusts our ability to materialize it. Then we sat with Lina for long hours during which she told