

## About Gamal Al-Banna

**G**amal Al-Banna was born In Al-Mahmoodiya, a town at around 50 Km from Alexandria, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1920. He was born into a family known for its dedication and achievements. His father, Sheikh Ahmad Abdel Rahman Al-Banna, single-handedly compiled the 24 parts “*Masnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal*” - The biggest encyclopedia in “*Hadith*” (the sayings of the Prophet); and his older brother is the Martyred Imam Hassan Al-Banna, the founder of the “Muslim Brotherhood”.

From his early childhood Gamal Al-Banna became fascinated with reading and study. So much so that his goal in life was to be a writer. He published his first book, (“A social study of Egypt and the effects of poverty, ignorance and disease on its backwardness<sup>1</sup>”), in 1945.

Gamal Al-Banna writes in a refined style, in terms of both subject matter and content, in three different: spheres. He writes on Islam and has so far published thirty books dealing with various topics, especially the contemporary Islamic movements. His two books (“*Post the Muslim Brotherhood*”) and (“*Letters from the Young Hassan Al-Banna to his Father*”) are considered among the best material written on the Muslim Brotherhood. He opened a very important and sensitive new area when he published his (“*Towards a new Islamic Jurisprudence*”), in three parts, edited from 1995 to 2000, This is seen as the most daring project in the 1300 years since Al-Imam Al-Shafei wrote his book “*Al-Risala*” (“*The Message*”) in 200 AD with which he laid down the origin or references of Islamic Jurisprudence. Gamal Al-Banna’s works have presented a new understanding of Islam those delis with the challenges of the age. After have publishing this book Gamal Al-Banna launched the Islamic Revival Call.

The second sphere that Gamal Al-Banna writes in is workers and trade unions. He lectured in the Cairo Institute of Trade-Union Studies for thirty consecutive years from 1963 to 1993. This Institution is for the education of syndicate leaderships. He also lectured in the Workers University from its opening in 1990 to 1993.

Gamal Al-Banna has provided The workers library with Its references such as the three-parts, 750 pages, (“*Freedom of Associations*”), (“*The History of the Egyptian Trade-Union Movement over one Hundred Years*”). (“*Comparative Trade-Union History*”), (“*The Birth and Development of the*

*Trade-Union Movement*”), (*The Trade-Union Organization*”), (*The Trade-Union Structure*”), (*The International Labor Movement*”) and (*The Trade-Union Movement is a Humanitarian Movement*”). He also wrote about “Workers opposition in the time of Lenin”, something that little is known about internationally. He has also translated from English for the International Labor Organization its recommendations and conventions into three huge volumes. He also translated the constitution of the Organization and some of its books, such as the books presented by the Committee for the Freedom of Association on the state of trade-unions in Britain, the USSR, the US, Sweden, Malawi, Burma and workers management in Yugoslavia.

It is also of note that In 1981 Gamal Al-Banna founded and became President of the International Islamic Confederation of Labor, which was established in Geneva and Includes a number of Trade unions and Unions from the Islamic world.

The third sphere that Gamal Al-Banna writes in is the political one. His first book in this sphere was (*A New Democracy*) that was published in 1946, in 1957, he published (*The Stance of the Arab Intellectual on the New Political Ideologies*); in 1970 he published the 600 pages (*The Rise and Fall of the Republic of Weimar*). This was published in the aftermath of the Egyptian defeat of 1967 and he wanted it to be the first of three books on the Soviet Union, Germany and Turkey - the three countries defeated in the World War one - but the second two books were never published.

Gamal Al-Banna has looked at the Issue of government from an Islamic point of view in several of his books. These Include (*The Theoretical Roots of the Islamic State*) and (*The Five Fundamentals of the Islamic State*). Gamal Al-Banna’s writings have exceeded a hundred in number.

It is also of note that Gamal Al-Banna founded The Egyptian Society for the Care of Prisoners and their Families in 1953. It was the first of its kind and a leader in the provision of social services in this sphere.

Along with his sister Fawziyya he established the *Fawziyya and Gamal Al-Banna Foundation for Islamic Culture and Information*, in 1997, The foundation has a library that includes a Number of rare volumes, be that in terms of publication In India a hundred years ago or in terms of the subject matter. The library also contains a number of documents and books on the Muslim Brotherhood movement and original hand-written manuscripts and letters. This is a unique source of information for researchers. The library also contains nearly five thousand books on trade unions and politics, as well

as Britain, the US, the Soviet Union the countries about which Gamal Al-Banna has published some books.

The years from 2000 to 2005 were full of activity. Gamal Al-Banna published some of his most important works such as:

- (“*Al-Higab*”) “*The Veil*”.
- “*Islam as religion and community and not religion and state*”.
- “*Al-Jihad*”.
- “*Islam and Plurality*”.
- “*Our stand towards secularism, socialism and nation*”.
- “*Islam as presented by the Islamic Revival Call*”.
- “*Revolutionarization of Quran*”.
- “*Interpretation of Quran*”.
- “*Reconstruction of Islam*”.
- “*Girls circutncision is a crime*”.

Nevertheless this activity, the Islamic Revival Call does not aim at establishing an association or a foundation. It wants to be a free vision, everyone who believes in it can consider himself as a partner.