

## **Prof. Abdul Aziz Maimani: Life & Works**

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The Indian Muslims have made tremendous efforts in nurturing the Islamic culture in this country with Arabic Language occupying pride of place with them. India produced a galaxy of scholars in various Islamic sciences while the Indian science got there way to the Arab world through Arabic translation. One of the Indian scholars whose work on Arabic Language and Literature earned them recognition in the Arab Islamic World was Abdul Aziz Maimani. He spent about four decades of his life in the service of this language and its literature through his voluminous works.

Despite the above mentioned fact, most of the biographical books compiled in India do not contain a detail biography of this globally renowned Indian scholar.

Abdul Aziz Maimani was born in Rajkot, Gujarat in 1988. He got his early education in Junagadh and thereafter moved to Delhi for higher education which was an important centre of learning and a favorite resort for scholars. Maimani attended the classes of eminent scholar like Deputy Nazeer Ahmad, Bashir Sahsawani and Mohd. Tayyeb Makki etc.

After completing his education, Maimani started his teaching career from Edward Mission College, Peshawar followed by his service as a lecturer in Arabic at Oriental College of Lahore. After sometime he joined Aligarh Muslim University as a reader in Arabic and served this great institution for over twenty five years during which he played an important role in the development of the department.

After retirement from A.M.U. he migrated to Pakistan and settled in Karachi where he breathed his last at the age of 90 on 27<sup>th</sup> October in 1977.

Abdul Aziz Maimani is credited to have written and edited a number of books. His most celebrated work is his book known as "Abul Ala Wa Ma Ilaih", which contains an account of the life as well as the thought and philosophy of the well known Syrian poet and philosopher Abul Ala Ma'ari. Maimani has pointed out several mistakes, major and minor, committed by some writers while dealing with this topic specially Dr. Taha Husain, Margoliouth and Nicolson etc. The second most important book of Maimani is known as "Simtul La'ali" which shows the remarkable memory of author. While commenting on the poetry of any poet he mentions with full confidence that this or that verse is not found in his poetic collection. No one can make such statement unless he has memorized the whole collection of a poet.

Other worth mention scholarly works of Maimani are as under:

- Life and Poetry of Ibn Rasheeq Qairwani
- Edited version of the collection of some famous poet as Humaid Bin Sur Al Hilali, Kaab bin Zuhair, and Suhaim
- Collection of the verses of Al Mutanabbi and Ma'arri
- Editing of three books of Al Mubarrad
- Editing and compilation of the poetry of some famous poet named as "Al-Traif Al Adabia"
- Majalisul Maimani: It is a collection of his lectures which he delivered on the history of Arabic Language and lexicons, in which he rediscovered some interesting aspects of the language and literature.