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Al-qahira Al- Jadida: A Novel of Najib Mahfouz

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ABSTRACT

Among the major figures in the development of Arabic fiction, none has received higher international acclaim than Najib Mahfouz (1911-2006), who in 1988 became the first Arab writer to win the Noble Prize for literature. He was an inspiration to all writers, not just on account of his genius but also through the example of his determination and dedication. Mahfouz pushed the Arabic novel and particularly *al-Qahira al-Jadida* forward by leaps and bounds, in terms of structure, characterization, and in its temporal dimensions. He created an intricate pattern of verbal irony which he weaved into the very texture of the novel and maintained throughout his writings. But above all Mahfouz was an Egyptian lover of the River Nile and one with endless quests. His special concern was the grassroots in people, life and facts. In this brief article efforts will be made to highlight his writing about the novel with lucid style.

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