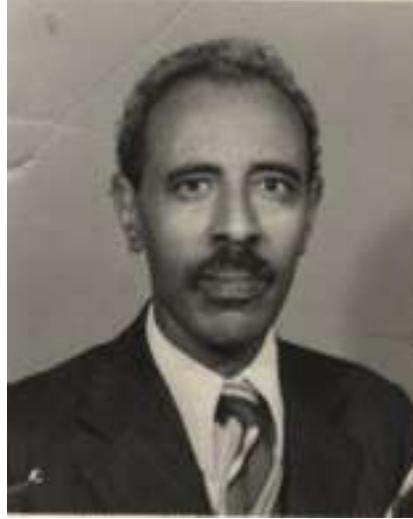


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



In memory of Ahmed Abdo Amin

Ahmed Abdosh Amin was born in the historic city state of Harar in 1928 and grew up as the only child to his parents in the Asadenburry neighbourhood. He died May 24, 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Survived by his wife Nesrah Ahmed, his ten children and several grandchildren, all residing in Ethiopia, except Nabil Ahmed who currently lives in Toronto, Canada and Aida Ahmed in Maryland, USA. His late mother, Zainaba Ibrahim Bomba (my aunt) is among several children of the prominent Bomba family known in Harar for introducing the first domestic tap water delivery system to the Harari Islamic State decades before the imperial palaces in Addis Ababa were equipped with such amenity.

Growing up in Harar, Ahmed started his early education as a young school boy learning the Quran and the primary Islamic educations at Madressa, which at the time was located near the

Arab Masjid, south of Magalla- the main market place of the city. His senior schoolmate Abdulkader Ahmed (former financial director of ELPA) recalls the centre as one of the prestigious schools run by the renowned Sheik Hashim al Harari, Haji Abdella Wazir and a number of instructors from Egypt who came to the city to assist in the education system of the state.

Ahmed married his wife Nesrah Ahmed in Harar in the early fifties. Later, they moved to Addis Ababa as part of the exodus of Harari elites and commoners who decide to leave the city in search of a stable life away from the brutal and systemic economic, political and religious discriminations of the invaders, who forcefully occupied and absorbed the state permanently into Ethiopia in 1887.

These first wave of Harari immigrants were scattered mainly in Addis Ababa and also in some major cities around the country in an effort to find relative freedom and to explore an opportunity to live in dignity and respect. During this challenging journey on foreign land , the uniquely structured education system formulated by local Sheiks and Kabirs in Harar played a major role in providing tools and mechanisms as to how to navigate through the new society while recreating a new community that parallels the values and images of life inside the walled city.

The imperial domination endured under the foreign rulers and the daily grinds of life under christian occupation also made Harari people politically charged and socially very active with regard to all the affairs related to the homeland. Such collective consciousness among Hararis were instrumental to a great extent to uphold Harari identity, language and traditions while resisting dilutions from exterior elements. As such, the group is always remembered as exemplary citizens for their invaluable contributions to the larger Muslim society of Ethiopia. They

were also pioneers in establishing new neighbourhoods, mosques and Islamic schools avoiding the risk of assimilations by forming exclusive and vibrant communities in many cities they choose to settle as their second home.

The Amins were one of those families who on arrival to Addis chose to settle in the Sebategna neighbourhood. Later joined by numerous families developing closely knit friendships through Afocha and Jamaa networks. The Sebategna local, because of its proximity to the downtown, where most of the Harari businesses were established becomes the favoured destination for a number of new comers from Harar. Subsequently, the neighbourhood flourished by the newly settled Hararis and others forming a vibrant community where personal ties and comradery remain strong even today among the second generation.

Ahmed Abdosh was a man of many talents and hobbies and always remembered for his elite work ethic that includes drawings, photography, philanthropy, gardening, Ayat and Quran inscriptions. His drawings focus on culture and nature reflecting on the Harari society and the untold pain the community endured under the imperial rulers. Ahmed made his best mark when he took up to inscribe a copy of the Quran. A note found inside his collections indicates that the inspiration to write the Quran has been derived from the calligraphic skill and talent he observed on the hand written copy of the Quran he inherited from his mother. His lifelong dream was finally accomplished when he completed his first copy successfully in the early nineteen eighties. Beside the numerous school teaching texts he wrote, he managed to accomplish six copies of the Quran in his life time.

Quran inscriptions and book bindings are the integral part of Harari tradition since the foundation of the city as an

independent islamic state at about the tenth Century. This unparalleled traditional asset is represented by a wide collection of manuscripts currently on display in Harar , Addis Ababa and also in many museums around the world . Ahmed is the latest Quran inscriber in the present day Ethiopia and an epitome of the proud and well known Harari islamic culture.

Sadly, the first master piece was once borrowed by Libyan government ambassador to Ethiopia of the time promising to mass produce and to distribute it all over the country and abroad. Unfortunately for reasons unknown until now, the original manuscript nor the printed copies have never been delivered or seen again. Nonetheless, all the works of Ahmed including the first copy belong to the Amins, Harari society and to all Muslims because his intent to write the Quran and Ayats was solely done in the name of Allah. May Allah reward his good deeds.

It is hoped one day in the future, when the political instability and violence that engulfed Libya since the early days of Arab spring come to an end, the Amins in cooperation with the Harari Regional State cultural and Heritage office will pursue a diplomatic request to return the original copy to its rightful owners. Such corrective measure eventually will bring a closure to the unlawful and unethical transgression of the rogue ambassador into the works of Ahmed Abdosh Amin. Secondly, it will also help to clear the conscience of the friend who in good faith became instrumental in passing the copy to the unprincipled ambassador.

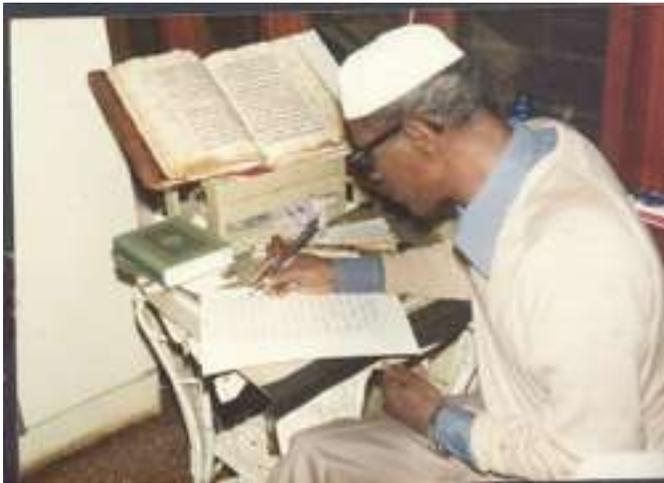
Ahmed Abdosh Amin, self trained artist and Quran inscriber is no longer with us in physical presence, but his legacy will remain infinitely in those of us who remember his natural gift and the invaluable contributions he made to the Muslim society in decorating mosques with his elegant Ayats and Quran

inscriptions. Ahmed is always remembered as a legendary Harari Quran inscriber and his work will always be treasured all throughout Ethiopian Muslim communities and beyond.

Ahmed Abdosh Amin's Qurans and Ayat Collections

1. The first Quran manuscript

- Under Libyan government ambassador's possession



2. Succeeding Five manuscripts

- Under Amin's proprietorship





3. Ayats

- All family members and friends of Ahmed who had an opportunity to receive a gift from Ahmed's work are kindly requested to post pictures of the Ayats and drawings so that a complete set of his talent and skills be documented properly for the future reference.



4. Galmasherah Mosque (Harar)



5. Imam Hussien mosque Kolfe ,Addis Ababa





MAY ALLAH REWARD HIM JANATUL FURDOWS.

Zuber Abdurahman Ottawa, Canada