



SHAYKH ABDULRAHEEM AMEENULLAHI ONIWASI AGBAYE

HIS ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARABIC,
ISLAMIC STUDIES AND DA'WAH

Edited by:
Abdul Kabir Hussain Solihu
Salih M. Jum'ah Alaso

Shaykh AbdulRaheem Ameenullahi Oniwasi Agbaye

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Arabic, Islamic Studies and Da‘wah**

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Editorial Note

It is with great honour and profound respect that we present this Festschrift, a collection of scholarly articles and reflections dedicated to celebrating the rich and inspiring legacy of Shaykh AbdulRaheem Ameenullahi al-Adabi Oniwasi Agbaye. A renowned disciple of Shaykh Kamalu-deen al-Adabi, the second National Missioner of Ansarul Islam Society of Nigeria and the grand Oniwasi Agbaye (the Gblobal Preacher/Admonisher), Shaykh AbdulRaheem Oniwasi Agbaye has been a beacon of knowledge, faith, and inspiration in Ilorin and across the Yoruba Muslim communities in Nigeria and abroad for over six decades. His unwavering commitment to the propagation of Arabic and Islamic studies has left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of countless individuals.

In 1949, Shaykh Oniwasi Agbaye founded “al-Madrasat al-Layliyyah li-Mahw al-Jahl wa-al-Ummiyyah (the Night School for Eradicating Ignorance and Illiteracy) which later metamorphosed into “al-Ma‘had al-Kamālī al-Adabī lil-Dirāsāt al-‘Arabiyyah wa-al-Islāmiyyah” (Kamal School of Arabic and Islamic Studies), Ilorin. The Kamal School has since become a cornerstone of religious and academic excellence. Through his visionary leadership and tireless efforts, the school has nurtured generations of scholars, researchers, practitioners, preachers, proprietors and chief imams who continue to uphold and disseminate the values of Islamic education and Da‘wah at local, national and international levels.

This Festschrift is a testament to Shaykh Oniwasi Agbaye’s enduring influence and the profound impact he has had in the field of Arabic and Islamic education. Scholarly articles and reflections in this collection were written by the esteemed alumni of Kamal School and those whose works have been influenced by or aligned with the themes and areas of interest that Shaykh Oniwasi Agbaye had championed throughout his life. These contributions reflect the depth of gratitude and admiration held for the school founder whose life’s work has been dedicated to the service of knowledge, faith and community development. The collection was titled *Shaykh AbdulRaheemAmeenullahi Oniwasi Agbaye: His Role in the Development of Arabic, Islamic Studies and Da‘wah*, and it was initiated to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Kamal School’s establishment (1949-2024).

As we celebrate Shaykh Oniwasi Agbaye’s remarkable achievements, we also look to the future with hope and determination, inspired by his legacy to continue the pursuit of knowledge and the promotion of Islamic values. May this collection serve not only as a tribute to a great scholar but also as a source

of inspiration for the present and future generations. May Allah (SWT) accept Shaykh Oniwasi Agbaye's deeds as an act of *'ibādah*, forgive his shortcomings, and grant him Jannat al-Firdaws.

The collection is divided into two sections. Section One contains papers written in English while Section Two covers papers written in Arabic. Section One is subdivided into two parts. The first part features papers dealing with Islamic studies and Da'wah while the second part explores Oniwasi Agbaye's works from linguistic and literary perspectives. Section Two written in Arabic is subdivided into seven parts. The first part deals with Shaykh Oniwasi Agbaye's biography and method of Da'wah while the second part addresses his characteristics, scholarly integrity, and impact on society. The third, fourth and fifth parts explore the contributions of Shaykh Oniwasi Agbaye to education, Shaykh Oniwasi Agbaye's literary and poetic innovations and Shaykh Oniwasi Agbaye's poems on Da'wah, respectively. The sixth part addresses elegy and human values in the poetry of Shaykh Oniwasi Agbaye. The last part contains congratulatory poems and elegies composed by some poets for Shaykh Abdul Rahim Aminullah.

We thank all contributors to this volume. We expect that their contributions will enrich our understanding and appreciation of indigenous contributions to Arabic and Islamic scholarship in the fields of Da'wah, open-air sermon, community engagement and the confluence between religion and culture.

We are also grateful for the support we received from Shaykh Oniwasi Agbaye's family, members of the Adabiyyah Kamaliyyah Society of Nigeria, editors, editorial boards and Kamal School alumni at home and abroad.

We thank Allah (SWT) for guiding us to this project, and we ask Him for success in our words and actions. "Praise be to Allah, who has guided us to this (felicity): never could we have found guidance had it not been for the guidance of Allah" (7:43).

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