

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter one there are background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study benefit of the study, and thesis organization.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

*A Daughter of Isis* is a memoir, which is written by Nawal El Saadawi which consists of 354 pages. *A Daughter of Isis* was first published in 1999 by Zed Books Ltd, 7 Cynthia Street, London NI 9JF, UK and Room 400, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, USA this edition was first published in 2009 in website [www.zedbooks.co.uk](http://www.zedbooks.co.uk).

*A Daughter of Isis (1999)* was written Nawal El Saadawi was a visiting scholar at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, in the mid-1990s. She tells a captivating, attractive story, taking us through her childhood, early childhood, medical school and her first years working as a doctor. She is memoirs her feminist activism. She was written to inspire improvement reformation and the correctness of a scientist this memoir is a star trope if the understanding observations of a child, the public statement of a young aggressive revolutionary, and the focused understanding of women's human rights activist.

The memoirs of the book, is *A Daughter of Isis*. Nawal El Saadawi, in her book is showing that Nawal El Saadawi own attentions and concerns regarding the condition of Egypt at this time. Nawal El Saadawi efforts to find to underwrite them in the activism during the Egyptian Sadat. Through his book is by making the figure characters of the goddess Isis as a form of reflection, contemplation and correspondence in the analysis of the text in context. Nawal El Saadawi seeks to express, beliefs, values, and thinking of her. In the context of the history of Nawal El Saadawi able to prove the struggle against the government of Anwar Sadat that make women as

something that is not useful and is restrained as an object. Nawal El Saadawi is actively in accompanying awareness to women with her struggles. The Goddess of Isis through Nawal El Saadawi interconnects to the people.

The authenticity of the happening of Egyptian women in the context of the governance cruel and Nawal El Saadawi able to make the goddess Isis awareness figures as a basic power as women. Goddess Isis in a lift in awareness Nawal El Saadawi as a great power Goddess Isis able to break down the system patriarchy contained in Egyptian culture. Egyptian culture has been opened by Nawal El Saadawi as form awareness to all communities. Nawal El Saadawi undertakes a journey of life by writing and awakens with the resistance regime. Daughter of Isis, goddess figures whom Nawal El Saadawi admires and imaginatively inhabits, symbolizes a role model, embodying power or resistance complement in achieving an autonomous self. Indeed, the authors constructed self-image, free image, aptly reflects her numerous struggles against social injustices and other forms of social constrains, including the power of language and discourses that legitimate oppressive practices in religion, cultures and politics.

*A Daughter of Isis (1999)*, in which she describes the determinative influential experiences of her early childhood, and her struggles as a political activist in Egypt. Written with communicative stylishness and the faithfulness of a scientist this chronicle is a treasure trove of the perceptive interpretations of a child, the proclamations of a young revolutionary, and the concerned appreciative of a women's human rights activist. Nawal El Saadawi, as the performer in the novel *A daughter of ISIS (1999)*. According in (Royer, 1959) says Nawal El Saadawi foundations her views in moving personal stories that produce these same developments and disagreements. Her life, her work, and her speech, like that of novelist Valclav Havel can be seen as a medium for more appreciative of the effects of the unpredictable forces of globalization on individual lives and on views for the coming.

An introduction from Bettina Aptheker in the book, Dr. Nawal El Saadawi expresses represents the international fight for women's

emancipation. Activist, Autobiographer, journalist, novelist, and among the first women physicians, medical practice in her country, Saadawi has been translated into twelve languages and her books are existing all over the world. Born in Kafr Tahla in Egypt's lower delta in 1931, she reached medical school at the University of Cairo with a pressure of other women, and expected her degree in 1955. Her works medical practice was at the rural in village health center in Tahla, where she perceived the suffering of its depressed families. Until the early 1970s, she was general director of public health education in the Egyptian Ministry of Health. Then her feminist declarations and writings ended in her notification, and later in her imprisonment and deportation (Saadawi, 1999).

Nawal El Saadawi is legendary and famous Egyptian activist, writer, essays novelist and fighter for the rights of women and the employed poor. She happening writing in the 1944 when she was 13 years old. She has in book form over forty books, reproduced and reprinted in Arabic, and is commonly read in her country and all Arab countries. She has realized well-known by identifying internationally after the translation of her work into over thirty literature. *The Hidden Face of Eve* was her first book to be interpreted to English by her husband Sherif Hetata, and was published by Zed Books in 1980 (Newson-Horst, 2010). From 1963 until 1972, Nawal El Saadawi Saadawi functioned as director universal for public health education in the Ministry of Health. In 1972 she nowhere to be found her job in the Egyptian government because of her book *Women and Sex* (1972), which was after that disqualified. In this book she interconnected health to economics, to politic, to social, to educate, to religion, to history, to sexuality and to culture. She was the first medical doctor to fight against the cutting or female genital mutilation (GTM) of children under religious cultural slogans mottos. Her books were censored in Egypt and she had to publish in Lebanon. Her famous novel, *Women at Point Zero*, was published in Beirut in 1973. It was followed in 1976 by *God Dies by the Nile* and in 1977 by *The Hidden Face of Eve: Women in the Arab World*.

In 1981 Nawal El Saadawi in public critiqued President Anwar Sadat's programs and was in prison and captive. She was unrestricted one month after his killing. In 1982, she established the Arab Women's Solidarity Association (AWSA). The Egyptian Branch of AWSA was illegal in 1991 by the government. Her name give the impression on a fundamentalist death grade, after she in book form her novel *The Fall of the Iman* in Cairo in 1987. She was appreciative to authorization her country, teaching at Duke University in Durham, and Washington State University in Seattle. She repaid to Egypt in 1997 to revive writing and organizing women. In 2004 she tolerated as a aspirant in the presidential appointments in Egypt, but was forced to take out her candidacy in the face of government oppression. She confirmed that her action was symbolic, to representation the nonexistence of democracy (Newson-Horst, 2010)

In 2001 a court case was important in contradiction of Saadawi, critical her of defector and hard her separate by force from her husband. She achieved the illustration with the support of human rights organizations in Egypt and internationally. She acquired other court cases against her and her daughter Dr. Mona Helmy, a poet and a writer living in Egypt, through accumulative provision inside and outside of their country, the last of which, in 2008, commanded the taking out of her Egyptian population after her play *God Resigns at Summit Meeting* was published by Madbouli in Cairo in 2007 (Newson-Horst, 2010)

In this memoir, researcher focus in two issues, there are myth, and activism. In this study, tries analysis myth in this memoir by Nawal El Saadawi, with the analysis Goddess of Isis. And then focus analysis about Myths of the Goddess Isis, to be represented with this condition and situation in problem in the memoir. And finally, the researcher analyzes activism incident and context of the novel, Nawal El Saadawi as the author of the memoir and analysis political activity Saadawi in thememoir.

## **B. Limitation of the Study**

This study only concerns in the novel *A Daughter of Isis* by Nawal El Saadawi, analyzes the novel on its nature of literary, nature of the author, and nature of society to Saadawi's view of the world.

## **C. Problem of the Study**

Based on the research background, the researcher formulates the problem of the study into:

1. What are the values derived from the myth of the Goddess of Isis?
2. How are the values of the myth related to Nawal El Saadawi?
3. Why Nawal El Saadawi employed the from ideas of myth to deal with its real problem of the Egyptian-society?

## **D. Objectives of the Study**

This study is aimed to reveal the problem of Myths, and Activism reflected in Nawal El Saadawi *A Daughter of Isis*. The objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the values derived from the myth of the goddess of Isis.
2. To describe the influence of the values of the myth on the activism of Nawal El Saadawi.
3. To review the reason with Nawal El Saadawi used the identify the myth to deal with the real problem found by the Egyptian-society.

## **E. The Related Literary Review of the Study**

The result of this study is accepted to give benefits as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribution the development of the knowledge, an academic reference by another researcher to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

The study is expected to improve knowledge, understanding, information, involvement and experience of the writer and another student

of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another University who have a concentration with literary study on the novel from a Specific Approach.

#### **F. Research Paper Organization**

The organization of this study is explained in order the reader to be able to understand the content of the paper easier. They are as follows:

Chapter I is introduced, which consists of the background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, the benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II is previous study, underlying theory, which presents the notion of using sociological Approach. Chapter III is research methodology. Chapter IV is analysis Myths of Goddess Isis, Value derived from the myth of the Goddess of Isis, analysis of the poem and the influence of the myth on memoir. Chapter V is Analysis, conclusions and suggestions