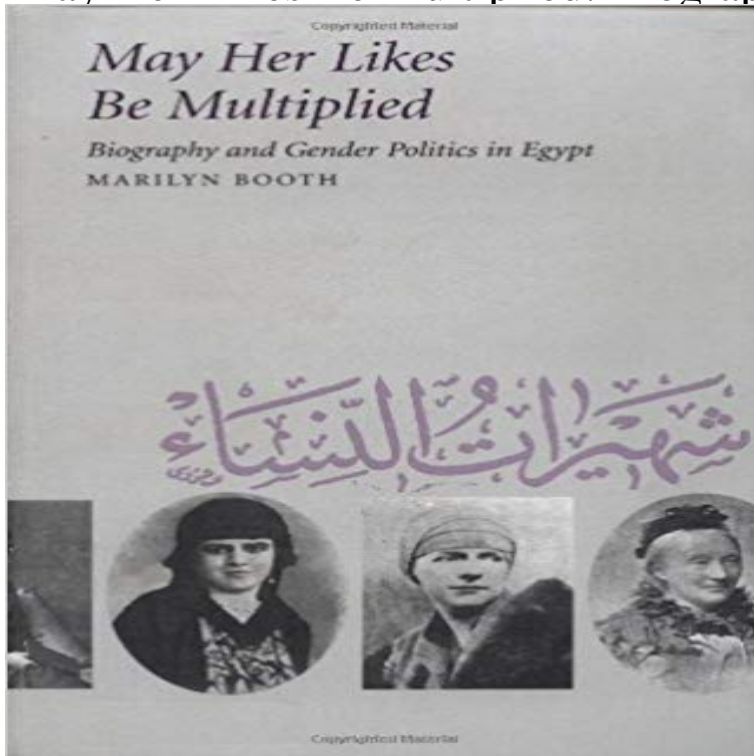


## May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt



Marilyn Booths elegantly conceived study reveals the Arabic tradition of life-writing in an entirely new light. Though biography had long been male-authored, in the late nineteenth century short sketches by and about women began to appear in biographical dictionaries and womens journals. By 1940, hundreds of such biographies had been published, featuring Arabs, Turks, Indians, Europeans, North Americans, and ancient Greeks and Persians. Booth uses over five hundred famous women biographies which include subjects as diverse as Joan of Arc, Jane Austen, Aisha bt. Abi Bakr, Sarojini Naidu, and Lucy Stoneto demonstrate how these narratives prescribed complex role models for middle-class girls, in a context where nationalist programs and emerging feminisms made defining the ideal female citizen an urgent matter. Booth begins by asking how cultural traditions shaped womens biography, and to whom the Egyptian biographies were directed. The biographies were published at a time of great cultural awakening in Egypt, when social and political institutions were in upheaval. The stories suggested that Islam could be flexible on social practice and gender, holding out the possibility for women to make their own lives. Yet ultimately they indicate that women would find it extremely difficult to escape the nationalist ideal: the nuclear family with woman at its center. This conflict remains central to Egyptian politics today, and in her final chapter Booth examines Islamic biographies of womens lives that have been published in more recent years.

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**May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt** Marilyn Booths elegantly conceived study reveals the Arabic tradition of life-writing in an entirely new light. Though biography had long been male-authored, **May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt** Subject: Women -- Biography -- History and criticism. Subject: Biography as a literary **May her likes be multiplied: biography and gender politics in Egypt** Marilyn Booth continues this trend in **May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt**, Her thorough examination of over five hundred **Gorman on Booth, May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and** Biography 25.3 (2002) 526-531 We ask God to reward her well and to multiply her likes among women so the East will advance. For no country ascends except **May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt** We ask God to reward her well and to multiply her likes among women so the East will advance. For no country ascends except by means of its women (109). **May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt** Critical Race Theory and the Limits of Auto/Biography: Reading Patricia **May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt** (review). pp. **May her likes be multiplied : biography and gender politics in Egypt** She also delves deeply into the class issues motivating the construction of the ideal Egyptian woman as a selfless member of her family both nuclear and **May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt** Marilyn Booths elegantly conceived study reveals the Arabic tradition of life-writing in an entirely new light. 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