

## **THE KANAAN FAMILY (KANAAN is also spelt CANAAN) Translated by Eugenia and Said Kanaan**

*The Lebanese Kanaan family (originally BOU KANAAN) is an old family descendant from its highest grandfather MOUSSA GHANEM, son of Lieutenant Colonel SAADEH EL LAHFADI who, in the year 1303 A.D, Won fame in a great battle in JBEIL from which he came back victorious, as related by Bishop TADROS EL AJKOURI and Bishop GABRIEL EL KALAAI EL LAHFADI a relative of the said MOUSSA. He was born in the year 1449 and died in the year 1516. The descendant of the said MOUSSA, son of the said Lieutenant Colonel, was GIRGIS who emigrated from HADATH EL JIBBI and settled in LEHFED. He had four sons' SERGIUS, ASSAH YUHANNA and GHANEM.*

*SERGIUS fathered SAADEH, MOUSSA, FARIS, IBRAHIM, KHALIL and GHANEM and a daughter named SUSSAN who was extremely beautiful. A Tax Commissioner in LEHFED descending from YOUSSEF PASHA CIFA, Governor of Tripoli, asked her hand from her father who refused to give her. The Commissioner Spoke harsh words to SERGIUS and hit him. SERGIUS hit back. It was fatal. He was forced to flee with his children and brothers to JOURAT BADRAN in KISSIRWAN that was in the year 1600. He wanted to escape the wrath of YOUSSEF PASHA CIFA, the Governor.*

*When Prince FAKHR EL DEEN EL MAANI assumed the government in Tripoli in 1627, some of the brothers of SERGIUS and his sons GHANEM and KHALIL returned to LAIFED. Those who remained in JOURAT BADRAN dispersed in different places: SAADEH lived in the village of GHBALEH, MOUSSA in AJALTOUN and his family was called BEIT FADEL (The Family of FADEL); EL HAYEK family in BEIT SHABAB descended from him. FARIS lived at BASKINTA and his descendants had three branches, namely the KETTANBH family, the BOU ZIHNI family and the GHANEM family, IBRAHIM settled in AINTOURA village and was blessed with two sons named GHANIM and KHALIL, who enrolled in the service of prince FAKHR EL DEEN EL MAANI The Great. This GHANEM is the grandfather of the GHANEM family in BEKASSEEN, The Prince granted him the yield of this village and one of the grandsons who became famous was EL SHEIKH ABOU SAMRA GHANEM the renowned knight. His brother KHALIL was appointed by the Prince as the steward of his property in Beirut. He lived in this city and his family was surnamed BEIT ZEINOUN GHANEM, of which Khalil GHANEM who died in 1903 became famous. He spent 33 years as an employee of the Ottoman Bank and was a member of the Beirut Trade Council and a translator to the Governor of the City. Thereafter, he became a translator to the Ottoman Foreign Ministry in EL ASITANAH (capital of the Ottoman Empire at that time and presently Istanbul) and later an Official of the Great Porte and later a delegate of Syria in the House, of Deputies in 1877, He helped the renowned MIDHAT BASHA in translating AND COMPOSING THE basic law of the Ottoman Empire. He was the founder of several papers such as "El Baasir" which he published in the Arabic language in Paris, and "El Hilal " in the French language and later "La France Internationale". He wrote the book*

*"Political Economy" in Arabic and "the History of the Ottoman Sultans" in French and a book on the life of Christ. He was awarded several medals and WAS famous for his self pride and for refusing great amounts of money and medals offered by Sultan ABDEL HAMEED through his Ambassador in Paris to refrain from continuing his press campaign against his unjust orders and despotic acts. He refused these offers and resumed his nationalistic campaign to the very end. Famous in this family was SHUKRI IBN IBRAHIM GHANEM a known politician and able French writer who resided in Paris. He was above recognition for his prominent position and high spirit. He was awarded several medals for his defense of the Lebanese Cause before and after World War I. He is THE writer of the play "Antara El ABSSI " in French and publisher of Lewa El Majd EL Arabi" in the French capital.*

*The Lebanese Government rewarded him by granting him a monthly salary. He was also awarded the Lebanese Order of Merit. The barracks of the Lebanese Snipers in FYADIEH WAS named after him and is presently known the Barracks of SHUKRI GHANEM " in commemoration of his memory. From MOUSSA GHANEM son of Lieutenant Colonel SAADEH EL LAIDFADL there descended EL SHEIKH ABI KARAM YACOUB son of the Hadathi Chief who governed JIBBET BECHARRE from 1635 to 1640 and was then murdered by MOHAMMED BASHA EL ARNA'OUTI, Governor of Tripoli, His son KARAM was thereafter forced to abandon EL HADATH and moved with his people in 1641 to LEHFED. Later, in 1679. He lived in BASKINTA. One of his grandsons, BOUTROS IBN ABDALLAH KARAM LIVED IN 1790 in BURJ ABI HAIDAR IN Beirut. EL KARAMEIOUN who now lives in Beirut is his descendants. One of these is ANTOUN KARAM who served the SHIHABI princes in KFARSHIMA. He lived in this village at the close of the 18th Century. His family bore the name of BEIT EL KALARHI. In the year 1700, EL FLEIFEL family left LEHFED and lived in JDEIDET KESSEROUAN. This family is a branch related to the said Lieutenant Colonel MOUSSA GHANEM EL LAHFADI. From this family, a branch took the name MOURAD family from whom descendant Bishop NICOLA MOURAD whom Patriarch YOUSSEF HBEISH appointed as his representative at the Holy See. In 1845, The Synod in Rome delegated him to participate in the efforts to reconcile relations between the Vatican and the Spanish Government. In 1847, he was privileged to visit the King of France Louis Phillippe. In 1860. He was received by Napoleon III. In 1850. He visited the Sultan of Turkey ABDEL MAJID KHAN. From all three, he received several medals.*

*From MOUSSA GHANEM son of Lieutenant Colonel SAADEH EL LAHFADI descended Lieutenant Colonel GHANEM who left LEHFED to HADTOUN, He had three sons: SULEIMAN, MENASSA and ANTONIOS and a daughter named MARIAM who WAS strikingly beautiful. When her news reached him, the Governor of Tripoli was so enchanted by what he heard about her that he asked her father to marry her but his request was turned down with regret. The Governor did not accept any excuses and became so angry that he personally came to HADTOUN with some of his troops to take the girl by force. Her youngest brother ANTONIOS, who was as pretty as she was, DECIDED to wear her clothes and ask his father to deliver him to the Governor in place of his sister and to flee with her and his brothers and the family to NAHR IBRAHIM where they were to wait for him for two days in case he was successful in escaping. Their minds made up to deliver ANTONIOS to the Governor in lieu of his sister. They left for NAHR IBRAHIM to wait for the outcome. The Governor, when he saw ANTONIOS in the clothes of his sister, had no doubt that he was the desired girl. He put him ON a horse and took him back with him to Tripoli in jubilation. Night fell before they reached their destination. They were too tired to continue the journey. They*

*camped outside the city and the Governor was alone with his bride. ANTONIOS took this opportunity to slay the Governor and escaped under the cover of darkness without being noticed by any of the soldiers who were in deep sleep, exhausted from the wearisome journey. He made his way to his parents and family who were waiting for him at NAHR IBRAHIM. As a consequence, the followers of the Governor burned down the village of HADTOUN that was in 1605.*

*Following the departure of the Lieutenant Colonel and his sons from HADTOUN as described above, they did not settle IN the places where their offspring were known. SULEIMAN, the eldest son, lived in DLEBTA and his offspring became known as BEIT AL HADTOUNI He had two grandsons, one YOUSSEF who was ordained priest in 1779 and his sons became known AS BEIT EL KHOURI (family of the priest); some of them lived in Beirut. The other grandson was NIMR who departed in 1795 to HARET HREIK and his offspring become known as BEIT NIMR From this family came the priest AZAR AL HADTOUNI who lived in ARAMOUN (KESSEROUAN). His descendants became known as BEIT AL AZAR after him. He had two brothers: one of them immigrated to Europe and the other lived IN Beirut. From this branch, some lived in SEBEEL and became known as BEITFARAH, another part lived in JEZZINE and became known as BEITALAZAR. From this family came the priest*

*YUHANNA AZAR who was sent by Patriarch YOUSSEF HBEISH to Europe in connection with interests pertaining Maronite Sect. One of them is SHAHDANAZAR who was honored by the Egyptian Government during the reign of MOHAMMED ALI PASHA and his son IBRAHIM PASHA, the KHEDIVE of Egypt MENASSA, son of the said Lieutenant Colonel lived in Beirut then in the village of GHBALEH, thereafter one of his sons named ELIAS lived in the village of ARAMOUN (KESSEROUAN). His grandson lived in YAHSHOUSH and was known as ELYAHSHOUSHI and his other sons and grandsons lived in MAZRAATELROWEIS, NAHR EL DAHAB, HADSHAT and HAYYATA.*

*ANTONIOS, the third son of Lieutenant Colonel GHANEM was nicknamed EL NAKHOUSI because of his slaying the Governor of Tripoli as mentioned above. EL NAKHOUSI is a Syriac word meaning "The Slayer" He lived in SALIMA when he owned property. His sons and grandsons dispersed in several places. His descendants outnumbered the descendants of his brother SULEIMAM and MENASSA. From these ancestors developed many branches one of which was the FARIS family in SALIMA, ATTAYAN in BEIRUT, KARAM in BROUMMANA, AKL SHDEED in EL MATEN, KANAAN in ABEY MAROUN in SAHELALMA. SAWMA in JDEIDBT GHAZIR and EL GHINEH. One of the NAKHOUS's in SALIMA is the Faris family from whom became famous HABB IBN FARIS (son of ANTOUN son of MUKHAIL son of FARIS son of FARZAN son of SAWMA BARTAA EL NAKHOUSI) because of his many writings. Famous also was his son FELIX the great orator and proficient Jurist who was seldom equaled in oration and quick wit. At the beginning of the 17th Century, MIKHAIL son of SAWMA son of BARTAA EL NAKHOUSI came to Beirut with a flock of sheep to trade. In a bloody encounter NEAR NAHR BEIRUT, he killed a group of people who attacked him to rob him of his sheep. He became known as EL GHANEM (meaning "the conqueror ") thus reinstating the original name of his family. He named his eldest son GHANEM. His sons and grandsons lived in Beirut in EL JIMMEIZEH, EL RMEILEH and EL KEERAT. They grew in number until the plague of 1799 when the greater part of them perished. The plague came to be known as 'The Plague of BEIT GHANEM". Only ADU NASSIF and YOUSSEF sons of MIKHAIL GHANEM*

*survived. No sons survived ABOU NASSIF. YOUSSEF brought KHATTAR and the later brought YOUSSEF the writer, the great poet and author of "AL Rasael Al Ghanemia" (the Ghanem Letters) and founder of the Legion of St Maroun He was the founder of the great part of this family history and to him goes the credit in collecting scattered information about this family and recording it in the "Ghanem letters". He had no offspring and with his death this branch came to extinction. At the beginning of the 17th Century. ABOU KANAAN EL NAKHOUSI and His sons left SALIMA village to EL SHAHHAR territory and lived in ABEY. His eldest son called ATTAYAN left for Beirut where he settled. To him were born three sons: ESTEFAN, IBRAHIM and SAAB. They grew in number and in wealth. From them became famous Patriarch YOUSSEF ATTAYAN. He was FADDOUL, son of ESTFAN son of KANAAN ATTAYAN who was born in Beirut in 1760 and died in 1820. Another one from this family was MANSOUR son of BOUTROS son of IBRAHIM KANAAN ATTAYAN who was a Commissioner in the Egyptian Government. Later a Scribe for SHEREEF PASHA EL MASRI Governor of EL SHAM (Syria), later a member in the Beirut Management Council. His cousin was KHALIL, grandson of SAAB, son of KANAAN ATTAYAN who was appointed by Prince BASHIR AHMAD EL SHIHABI as District Commissioner of Christians in Beirut. He continued to hold this office until the end of 1855. Of them two is MANSOUR son of BOUTROS SON of MANSOUR son of BOUTROS ATTAYAN who established the "AL Hurriyah" paper in French in Beirut in the year 1908 and his brother JOSEPH who edited for some time the papers "Journal de Beirut" and "La Syric" both in French in Beirut, and his brother MICHEL the President of the Primary Court of Beirut who died in 1958 and his brother JEAN-PIRRRE ATTAYAN the renowned lawyer who was elected by the Lawyers Syndicate in Beirut as their President for three consecutive terms which rarely happened in any part of the world and was awarded several Governmental, National and Foreign medals.*

*From the branch AKL SHDEED became famous KHALIL BEK AKL SHDEED who was a member of THE Board of Management of JABAL LIBNAN before and after the Great War From the KARAM family there became famous Bishop NEHMATALLAH KARAM who resided in ROUMIEH, who was well renowned, and the author of the book "Balance of Justice" and the translator of "The Philosophy of Cardinal Mercier" and others. The family KANAAN*

*(originally BOU Kanaan akin to ABOU KANAAN EL NAKHOUSI) originally lived in ABEY which was the Center of the former EL SHAHHAR Province, part of ALEY district in JABAL LIBNAN. As from the beginning of the 17th Century. The family multiplied and dispersed into different places; The greater number in Beirut, others in Jounieh, Abey, Harit Hreik and El Tahwita (Furn El Shebbak), Egypt, London, America, Australia and the Sudan. At the beginning of the 18th Century, there became famous of them KHALIL, son of GHANTOUS SON of the priest HANNA son of NASSIF son of MANSOUR BOU KANAAN, for his true services to Prince BASHIR EL SHAHABI The Great who bestowed gifts on him and exempted him and his descendants from government taxes by an edict dated Zul Hijja the year 1245 Hijriya, signed and sealed by Prince BASHIR himself. His son DAOUD. The commercial writer, who was appointed by the Egyptian Government in 1867 to manage their accounts at the request of KHEDIVE ISMAEL PASHA, was the first to introduce the double entry accounts in Beirut. He was famous for his good handwriting. He was assassinated (said to be by mistake) by MAHMOUD BEK EL YOUSSEF in EL SHAM (Syria) in agreement with the Turkish Governor of that city. That took place in 1873. He left some valuable manuscripts which he could not afford to publish and eventually most of them were totally lost. One of those manuscripts was on the rules of commercial accounting. Another one was on the history of Beirut which was published recently (i.e. in the latter part of the 19th Century) at the expense of his nephew IBRAHIM NAOUM KANAAN author of this family tree. There came from this family GHALEB son of WAKIM son of EL KHOURI HANNA BOU KANAAN, who faithfully served the Lebanese Government for more than forty years in the Districts of EL MATN, KESSEROUAN and EL SHOUF and was famous for his articulate work and his honesty. He had two sons: Dr. SAID BEK who served the Sudanese Army for twenty years and was promoted to the rank of Major Colonel and won several medals from the Government of Egypt and the Sudan. the other RASHEED BEK, who was the head of the KESSEROUAN Court, served the Lebanese Government for twenty years faithfully and honestly, was appointed several times the District Commissioner of EL SHOUF and was famous for his good handwriting and extreme loyalty. Another descendant was KHATTAR son of SALLOUM BOU KANAAN who accompanied the Sudanese campaign to open OMDURMAN and DARFUR; he served so well that the Sudanese Government rewarded him by appointing him Head of the Translation Department in Khartoum and by awarding him several medals. From this family there were also the two journalists ELIAS and YOUSSEF SADER BOU KANAAN owners and founders of the paper "El Sayyar" in Egypt which was famous for its characteristic severe criticism of the Government of Lebanon and the spread of bribery at the time of Governor WASSA PASHA and for its persistent campaigns against the policy of the Turkish State and its SULTAN ABD EL HAMID and oppression of his citizens. From them came the writer and playwright NAJIB DARWISH BOU KANAAN who was correspondent of the paper "El Bassir" in Egypt. He was the founder and editor of the paper "Mujamaa El Durar".*

*He wrote the play "The Ottoman Constitution and others. HIS brother MAJEED was the Egyptian Exchequer for more than thirty years. From them came JIBRAIL EL KHOURI BOU KANAAN who was famous for his knighthood and valor in the incidents of 1845 in the District of EL SHAHHAR. There was NAKHLEH SHAKER KANAAN who was a distinguished leader of the Youth of Beirut. There was BOUTROS son of TANNOUS BOU KANAAN who was famous for his wise policy towards the Beks of ABOU NAKAD in ABEY and for his management and Leadership of his villager. Than his son ASSAAD who was famous for his generosity and his influence in his village of DARB BL SEEM near SAIDAH (Sidon). His house was a great house for the leader in JABAL AAMEL. There was also BOUTROS son of YOUSSEF son of LAHHOUD BOU KANAAN, head of the Rules and licensing Department of the Alexandria Government. He was awarded the medal of the Nile 4th class. (His branch in Alexandria is known by the name of Beit LAHHOUD.) He served the Egyptian Government for 41 years. One of them was HALIM LOUIS BOU KANAAN an employee of Alexandria Government. Another was ASSAAD son of HABIB GHANTOUS BOU KANAAN who several times became the Commissioner of EL SHAHHAR Province. His son was ISKANDAR, A writer and a poet. One of them was EL KHOURI HANNA son of NASSIF BOU KANAAN to whom the famous Prince KAADAN EL SHAHABI donated in 1793 properties in KHALDEH near EL DAMOUR where he built the famous SAYDET KHALDEH church which he gifted to the KANAAN family as a private*

endowment. This church which is visited by many people from all parts of Lebanon stands in a Roman Cemetery which the donor enlarged and improved. This church became famous through its many visitors and their firm belief in the truth of its miracles. It is a family treasure and is considered to be a symbol of the affection the fathers hold for their sons. There was also YOUSSEF son of MUBARAK son of YOUSSEF son of MANSOUR BOU KANAAN who extended financial support to MOHAMMED ALI PASHA, Khedive of Egypt, enabling him through this financial support to overthrow the Turkish Government and to establish Khedivial Egypt at the beginning of the 19th Century.

From the family of BOU KANAAN EL NAKHOUSI there existed a branch of relatives who used to live in HADTOUN known by the name of ADI SLEIMAN then resided in AIN DRAFEEL village. Their numbers increased and they dispersed in North and South America, Australia, Egypt and other places. Another branch known by the name of ABI MOUSSA lived also in AIN DRAFEEL, a village near ABEY from the Northwest. A third branch is known as BEIT EL MALIC KANAAN, one of whom is called ABDALLAH IBN GIRGIS EL MALIK who moved to BINBAL village where he settled.

### **Historical Background**

On scrutinizing this tree one can perceive that, though the great grandfather MANSOUR BOU KANAAN had three sons from whom the family branched according to the outlines of the tree, he had a fourth SON named KANAAN ATTAYAN, the grandfather of BANI ATTAYAN family mentioned above. Because the said KANAAN ATTAYAN established a family independent from the ancestry of his father and settled in Beirut with his family that became known by his name and whose generation maintained the name ATTAYAN, they developed a private independent tree particulars of which may be found in the Arabic book "The Related news about the History of Eastern Families" by the famous Lebanese historian EISSA ISKANDAR EL MAALOUF. As this tree is dedicated solely for the KANAAN family and was made to concentrate on this branch only and no other branch, enabling the conservative members maintaining the name to identify the degree of relationship between themselves, it was thought unnecessary to merge it with other relatives especially that all the basic particulars are included in this narrative.