

Unveiling the Tapestry of Arab American Writings

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Abstract:

Arab Americans living in the United States are represented in the intriguing and varied body of Arab American Literature. It is a diverse and significant body of writing that reflects the experiences and perspectives of Arab Americans in the United States. It explores powerful examples of how difficult it is to deal with identity, heritage, and belonging concerns in a diverse community. Arab American writers, from Ameen Rihani to Naomi Shihab Nye, have made creative contributions with their viewpoints, illuminating the rich tapestry of life in Arab America in everything from provocative novels to tender poetry and perceptive essays. However, Arab American authors have faced numerous challenges, including prejudice, stereotypes, language barriers, and limited publishing opportunities. Despite these obstacles, they have persisted in using their literary works as a means of self-expression, cultural preservation, and empowerment. To promote the visibility and acknowledgment of Arab American voices, readers, institutions, and literary communities must actively support and endorse Arab American authors and their work. Arab American Literature contributes to a more inclusive and interconnected society, dispelling myths and fostering empathy and understanding across cultural divides.

1. INTRODUCTION

The fascinating and diverse corpus of writing known as Arab American Literature brings together the views and experiences of Arab Americans who reside in the United States. It is a potent illustration of the difficulties of navigating identity, heritage, and belonging issues in a heterogeneous society. Arab American authors have contributed to the literary landscape with their unique perspectives, shedding light on the rich tapestry of Arab American life in everything from thought-provoking novels to heartfelt poetry and insightful essays. In Arab American Literature, readers discovered topics that appeal to them personally and socially. Deep insights into the human experience are provided through the attentive exploration of issues related to identity, cultural heritage, and the conflicts between tradition and assimilation. These works also address the difficulties experienced by Arab Americans, such as prejudice, stereotyping, and the effects of Islamophobia following the 9/11 attacks. Arab American Literature dates back to the twentieth century with Ameen Rihani and Khalil Gibran's writings. These pioneers created the foundation for a developing literary movement that is still alive and well today, despite the challenges they faced. Arab American Literature has evolved

throughout time, embracing a number of genres and demonstrating the ever-expanding diversity of the Arab American population.

This article examines the varied Literature produced by Arab Americans, emphasizing eminent writers and their noteworthy accomplishments. It also examines the evolution of this literary heritage and its impact on the Arab American community. It is crucial to look at the challenges that Arab American authors confront as well as the promise that lies ahead in order to properly appreciate how writing may reduce cultural gaps and foster understanding in a world that is growing more linked.

2. Literature Review

Key Contributors to Arab American Literature

Arab American Literature has a rich literary history that dates back to the early 20th century when pioneering authors laid the foundation for this vibrant and active body of work. Ameen Rihani and Khalil Gibran emerge as notable figures within this group of pioneers due to their innovative contributions and enduring influence.

Ameen Rihani (1876-1940), a prominent figure in the realm of Lebanese-American Literature and intellectual discourse, significantly influenced the development and formation of Arab American literary traditions. The novel "The Book of Khalid," published in 1911, is considered the first Arab American novel. His book is regarded as one of the earliest examples of Arab American Literature, making it a significant and influential contribution to the genre. Rihani delves into the themes of cultural identity, assimilation, and the clash between Eastern and Western cultures by narrating the experiences of Khalid, a young Arab immigrant who grapples with the intricacies of life in New York. Rihani's articulate writing style and profound examination of the immigrant experience established a solid foundation for subsequent cohorts of Arab American writers. The individual in question actively contested prevailing stereotypes and presented a nuanced depiction of Arab Americans, thereby contributing to fostering a more comprehensive comprehension and heightened appreciation of their culturally diverse heritage (Hassan, 2008).

The figure of great importance is Khalil Gibran (1882-1931), an individual of Lebanese-American descent who excelled in the fields of poetry, philosophy, and the visual arts. The aforementioned author's literary work titled "The Prophet" (1923) is widely acclaimed globally due to its eloquent aesthetics and enduring philosophical insights. "The Prophet" surpasses cultural boundaries and maintains its resonance among readers from diverse backgrounds through its profound contemplations on love, life, and spirituality. Gibran's exceptional poetic skills and profound philosophical insights propelled Arab American Literature to unprecedented levels, establishing his position among the esteemed figures of his era. Gibran's poetic compositions explored universal truths, providing profound observations on the human condition that surpassed cultural and religious disparities (Al-Khazraji et al., 2013). The author's capacity to eloquently depict the fundamental aspects of the human condition, coupled with profound insight, established him as a lasting presence in the realm of Arab American Literature.

Other Arab American authors made substantial contributions to the literary scene in the early years, in addition to Rihani and Gibran. A writer of Lebanese-American descent named Mikhail Naimy wrote the novel "The Book of Mirdad" in 1948. This literary work delves into spiritual and philosophical concepts by employing an allegorical narrative structure. Naimy's literary oeuvre explores profound inquiries pertaining to the nature of human existence, the concept of unity, and the relentless quest for truth (Swanson, 2017). "The Book of Mirdad" garnered global recognition due to its profound philosophical insights and eloquent writing style, solidifying Naimy's position as a prominent figure in the realm of Arab American Literature.

Only one of the numerous literary works Mikhail Naimy (1889–1988) produced during his lifetime includes all his poetry. Hams al-juftin's book *Eyelid Whisperings* the book was released in Beirut back in 1945, thirteen years after the author returned from the US in 1932, where he had lived as an immigrant from 1911. It includes thirty Arabic poems that were published in America between 1917 and 1928, as well as fourteen prose translations of his English poetry from Arabic that were produced between 1925 and 1930, some of which were also published in America. Naimy's verse is definitely a small part of his overall literary production because it appears that he thought that prose would allow him to more creatively contribute to Arabic letters—especially as his interest in philosophical ideas and spiritual matters expanded. But his verse has nonetheless been a significant part of his literary production and, in fact, a driving force behind innovation in contemporary Arabic Literature (Boullata, 1993).

Early Arab American authors defied social conventions and deftly navigated the challenges of their day, using writing as a platform for self-expression and preserving their cultural heritage. The literary works created by Arab American writers serve as an example of the community's tenacity and inventiveness. Moreover, these works play a crucial role in inspiring upcoming generations of writers to delve into their individual perspectives and personal encounters. These pioneering authors laid a solid groundwork for Arab American Literature by means of their intellectually stimulating novels, profound poetry, and insightful essays. The authors' works established the foundation for a varied and flourishing literary heritage that persists in its development, encapsulating the core of Arab American identity and enhancing the wider literary panorama.

3. Challenges Faced by Arab American Authors

Beyond their creative achievements, the literary works of these early Arab American authors had a wider influence. They played a pivotal role in cultivating a collective identity and facilitating the empowerment of individuals of Arab descent residing in America. They created opportunities for cultural conversation and promoted a higher level of understanding by amplifying Arab voices and dispelling prejudices. The literary contributions of these authors have catalyzed inspiration and a source of pride among future generations, encouraging a sense of cultural identity and motivating emerging Arab American writers to embrace their ancestral roots and convey their distinct narratives.

These pioneering Arab American authors created a route despite challenging conditions and the influence of social conventions, demonstrating the power of writing as a vehicle for cultural expression and transformational effect. Their groundbreaking efforts aided the growth of Arab American writing, creating a rich and diverse literary environment that is still evident today.

The works of Arab American authors have greatly enriched the rich tapestry of American Literature. However, they frequently encounter particular difficulties that impact their literary careers and make it more difficult to express their experiences and points of view with a larger audience. The trajectory of Arab American authors' creative pursuits, however, has been substantially impacted by the many challenges they have faced throughout history. Historically, individuals encountered substantial challenges stemming from cultural prejudices and stereotypes and a dearth of available avenues for publication (Abraham et al., 2011). The representation of Arab Americans in mainstream media frequently propagated unfavorable stereotypes, thereby impeding the acknowledgment and embrace of their literary contributions (Orfalea, 1989).

Arab American writers frequently run with discrimination and preconceptions in the literary community, which hinders their potential to succeed and become well-known. One persistent myth about them is that the only subjects that pertain to their work are either their Arab origin or the political unrest in the Middle East, which severely restricts the range of subjects that may be attributed to them. This categorization could result in misunderstandings of their tales and damage their literary worth. Additionally, since the events of September 11, negative perceptions about Arab Americans have gotten worse, frequently leading to more suspicion and surveillance. Some authors have had trouble getting publishing deals because of erroneous worries that their writings would support terrorism or reinforce stereotypes. Their access to literary outlets is restricted by this unjustified prejudice, which also feeds the cycle of marginalization (Semaan, 2014).

Moreover, the pervasive climate of prejudice and xenophobia had to be faced by Arab American authors. Individuals of Middle Eastern descent, particularly those with an Arabic surname such as Eid, encountered discriminatory treatment and obstacles hindering their ability to achieve success due to prejudice rooted in their ethnic heritage and perceived affiliation with the Middle East. In the book *Arab American Literary Fictions, Cultures, and Politics*, Steven Salaita elaborates on the notion of a limited range of publishing options, defined by a dearth of venues that are open to and supportive of Arab American viewpoints (Boullata, 2011).

Arab American writers encountered supplementary challenges in the form of language barriers and cultural disparities. Numerous individuals encountered difficulties in discovering their literary voice within a non-native language, grappling with the formidable task of articulating their experiences and viewpoints with efficacy. The presence of cultural disparities presented a predicament for Arab American writers, who endeavored to find a harmonious equilibrium between acknowledging and respecting their ancestral traditions while simultaneously embracing and participating in their American identity (Alcalay, 1993).

Since English may not be their first language, it might be difficult for many Arab American authors to understand the subtleties of literary expression. While being bilingual might help writers create original stories, language constraints can make it harder for speakers to convey their experiences and cultural quirks. It might not be easy to convey ideas and feelings in English from Arabic or other local languages while keeping authenticity. The conflict for cultural portrayal also adds a level of complexity. When writing about Arab Americans, authors frequently try to balance correctly capturing their culture and experiences and staying away from reinforcing stereotypes or minimizing their identities to one-dimensional representations. This precarious balance can occasionally lead to self-censorship, which diminishes the authenticity of their distinctive viewpoints (Nazri & Azmi, 2013).

Finding publishing possibilities in the mainstream literary sector is difficult for Arab American authors. Since a Western-centric viewpoint has always dominated the publishing industry, it may be difficult for authors from underrepresented backgrounds to enter this market. Because of this, their experiences are frequently underrepresented in popular Literature, and their voices are frequently silenced. In addition, literary agencies and publishers could believe that Arab American stories have little market potential, further marginalizing and obscuring them. The authors' careers are hampered by the lack of representation in popular Literature, and readers are prevented from obtaining different and culturally enlightening viewpoints.

Furthermore, the historical backdrop of political upheaval and confrontations in the Middle East frequently looms over the works of Arab American writers. The individuals in question faced the challenge of dealing with the weight of being misrepresented and the ongoing necessity to question and contest the dominant narratives and stereotypes linked to their cultural heritage (Abushihab et al., 2021). The task necessitated the display of bravery and fortitude in directly addressing misinterpretations and offering a more intricate and genuine depiction of the experiences of Arab Americans. Arab American writers encountered internal conflicts within their respective communities in addition to the external obstacles they confronted. Certain individuals faced opposition from conservative factions that viewed their writings as excessively progressive or straying from established norms. The presence of this conflict, which involves preserving cultural values and exploring new literary paths, introduced an additional level of intricacy to their artistic endeavors (Ludescher, 2006).

Unfortunately, Arab Literature did not have the same opportunities as English Literature or Spanish American Literature. As early as 1610, when the Spanish explorer Gaspar Pérez de Villagr  wrote his epic poem *Historia de Nuevo M xico* (History of New Mexico), there was American Literature published in Spanish in the United States. While Arab American Literature dates back to 1911's Ameen Rihani's "The Book of Khalid,." Even though Arab American writers work to be more visible and well-represented in literary environments, it is still hard to compete in a world where white people predominate. They must overcome preexisting barriers. Meanwhile, the early history of Spanish history cannot be a solid justification for its popularity (Lis Majaj, 2008).

Notwithstanding these obstacles, Arab American writers exhibited resilience by employing their literary works as a potent means of self-expression and advocacy. The literary works produced by Arab Americans played a significant role in reclaiming narratives, challenging stereotypes, and highlighting the diverse experiences of this community (Khalil & Khan, 2020). Through their literary pursuits, the individuals endeavored to establish connections, construct bridges, and cultivate a more profound comprehension among diverse cultures.

4. Persistence and Resilience of Arab American Authors

Arab American writers' unwavering resolve and capacity for overcoming adversity over time gradually removed social barriers. The achievements of these individuals have played a crucial role in fostering a heightened level of acceptance and acknowledgment for the field of Arab American Literature. According to Abraham and Shryock, the expanding diversification of the publishing industry and the emergence of multicultural voices have facilitated an opportunity for these writers to exhibit their skills and disseminate their narratives to a wider range of readers (Abraham & Shryock, 2000).

The historical obstacles encountered by Arab American writers have not solely molded their personal experiences but have also exerted a significant impact on the overall development of Arab American Literature. The unwavering resolve and dedication demonstrated by these individuals in their artistic pursuits have played a significant role in cultivating a multifaceted and dynamic literary milieu, which persists in its transformative nature and serves as a wellspring of inspiration for upcoming cohorts of Arab American authors. As it was mentioned above, Arab American Literature explored different themes such as cultural heritage preservation, which created a clash between Eastern and Western culture; immigration and diaspora experiences that solved the problem of Arab assimilation into American culture; and stereotypes, which gave a negative image to Arab Americans in American society.

First, the examination of identity and the sense of belonging is a prevalent motif within the realm of Arab American Literature. Arab American authors frequently confront inquiries regarding their cultural heritage as they navigate the intricate dynamics of their dual identities (Fadda-Conrey, 2006). Abraham and Shryock explored the intricacies associated with the Arab-American identity, navigating the interplay between two distinct cultural frameworks and the accompanying sentiments of affiliation. These authors present compelling narratives that illuminate the hardships, obstacles, and successes of individuals endeavoring to reconcile their Arab heritage with their encounters in the United States (Abraham et al., 2011).

Arab American writers delve into various themes, such as the quest for cultural identity, the complexities arising from the juxtaposition of assimilation and cultural preservation, and the profound importance of community and heritage (Ludescher, 2006). Abraham and Shryock explore the notion of being in an intermediate state, engaging with the inquiry of one's authentic sense of belonging. Characters frequently encounter the intricacies of simultaneously belonging to and reconciling their position within both Arab and American societies, as depicted in their narratives (Abraham et al., 2011).

The exploration of identity and belonging within Arab American Literature holds significance not solely for Arab Americans but also for individuals who have encountered the complexities of reconciling various facets of their personal identity. According to (Khalil & Khan, 2020), these narratives offer a distinct viewpoint on the inherent human pursuit of self-exploration and the endeavor to establish a feeling of inclusion. The aforementioned statement serves as a reminder to readers regarding the multifaceted nature and intricacy that arise from the convergence of different cultures, as well as the significance of embracing a wide range of identities.

Second, Arab American Literature frequently delves into cultural heritage and traditions, emphasizing the diverse array of Arab customs, values, and practices (Nelson, 2005). Abraham and Shryock explore the intricacies associated with conserving cultural heritage within a dynamic and ever-changing cultural milieu. (Alcalay, 1993) illustrates the cohesive nature of Arab communities by portraying their rich traditions, festive events, and ceremonial practices in their literary works. Arab American writers, in their narratives, express a profound appreciation for the significance of language, music, cuisine, and folklore as means of fostering a sense of cultural belonging and connection among individuals (Ludescher, 2006).

The texts provide insights into the wide array of Arab cultures and the importance of these customs in influencing individual and communal identities. The depiction of cultural heritage functions as a potent reminder of the enduring strength and abundance found within Arab American communities. The examination of cultural heritage and traditions within Arab American Literature highlights the significant impact of ancestral customs on the lives of individuals, emphasizing the significance of safeguarding and transmitting cultural knowledge to subsequent generations (Khalil & Khan, 2020). These literary works extend an invitation to readers to cultivate an appreciation and acceptance of the diverse and aesthetically pleasing aspects of Arab traditions, thereby fostering a more profound comprehension and admiration for the experiences of Arab Americans.

How Arab American Literature Dispels Myths and Stereotypes

Arab American Literature frequently explores and confronts the detrimental stereotypes that have historically afflicted Arab Americans within American society, thereby actively contesting and debunking prevalent misconceptions. Abraham and Shryock argue that these writers address the detrimental depictions that contribute to the perpetuation of prejudice and misconceptions. (Erickson & Al-Timimi, 2001) highlights the detrimental effects of stereotypes and emphasizes the intricate and varied aspects of Arab American experiences in their literary works. Arab American writers engage with Orientalist narratives that have historically depicted Arab Americans as terrorists, exotic beings, or eternally foreign individuals (Salaita, 2011). According to (Alcalay, 1993), the works in question provide nuanced and authentic representations of Arab American individuals, thereby humanizing their experiences and highlighting their valuable contributions to American society. Arab American Literature serves as a means to challenge prevailing stereotypes, prompting readers to critically examine their preconceived notions and fostering a more precise and compassionate comprehension of Arab American identities (Khalil & Khan, 2020). These literary works

function as a compelling alternative narrative, encouraging readers to acknowledge the multifaceted and intricate nature of Arab American experiences while also urging them to reject the detrimental stereotypes that have contributed to ongoing discrimination.

Apart from the early Arab American Literature, which is more poetic, philosophical, and evolutionally spiritual, modern Arab American Literature is more prosaic, as is the remarkable work of Naomi Shihab Nye. The poetry authored by the individual in question functions as a lyrical, melodic, and expressive examination of one's cultural ancestry and the inherent influence wielded by language. The author's emotionally charged lines encourage readers to reflect upon the convergences of individual and communal identity, thereby cultivating a heightened recognition of the varied encounters of Arab Americans (Salaita, 2011). The literary works authored by the individual in question, including *"Words under the Words"* and *"19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East,"* delve into the profound subjects of heritage, belonging, and the influential role of language within the context of Arab American identity. Indeed, the most recent Arab American writing relied on the storytelling technique, as in *The Moor's Account* by the Moroccan-American writer Laila Lalami, which gained recognition. Many Arab American authors draw on oral storytelling traditions, preserving the art of storytelling within the community. Through Literature, they pass down narratives of resilience, survival, and identity, ensuring that these stories are not lost with time (Abraham et al., 2011). This captivating piece of Literature offers a fresh perspective on the historical expedition of an Arab explorer in the United States, thereby illuminating the presence of Arab Americans during the early stages of American history (Abraham & Shryock, 2000).

Lastly, modern Arab American Literature witnessed a heavy use of borrowing. The idea of using Arabic words in English Literature may reflect the preservation of Arabic culture within American Literature written in English as well as the difficulties of assimilation into English. One remarkable example is *"The Hakawati"* by Rabih Alameddine. Within the pages of this literary work, the author researches the intricate realm of oral storytelling, examining its significance within the context of an Arab American family. The narrative incorporates Arabic words, thereby enhancing the depth and authenticity of the storytelling. The title of the novel itself is in Arabic. Arab American Literature incorporates Arabic words, phrases, and cultural references, contributing to the preservation of the Arabic language within the Arab American community. It serves as a bridge between generations, helping to maintain linguistic connections and cultural identity (Suleiman, 1999).

The literary technique and themes painted a beautiful Arabic culture that symbolizes the struggle of its community to have a voice, which had a huge impact on the Arab American community. It helped preserve the cultural heritage, empower and represent the community, and construct and promote understanding. Arab American Literature plays a crucial role in preserving and transmitting the cultural heritage of Arab Americans to future generations. It captures the experiences, traditions, and values that are significant to the community (Salaita, 2011). It helped explore historical events, customs, and traditions, enabling the community to reconnect with its roots and maintain a sense of cultural continuity. It provides insights into the rich heritage and diverse backgrounds of Arab Americans (Purnell & Fenkl, 2019).

Fostering Empathy and Understanding Across Cultural Divides

The Literature of Arab Americans offers distinctive viewpoints and insights into the lives of Arab Americans in the United States. Readers can better comprehend the difficulties, achievements, and cultural diversity of this unique community by engaging with this work. Readers may help make the voices of Arab Americans more visible and recognized by actively reading and enjoying works by Arab Americans.

To empower and represent Arab American culture, it amplifies the voices and experiences of individuals within the community. It challenges stereotypes and misconceptions, showcasing the diversity of Arab American identities, experiences, and perspectives (Salaita, 2011), which makes it a tool for self-expression. The writings reclaim narratives, challenge societal expectations, and shape the Arab American identity, providing a platform for personal growth and empowerment. The new identity could also break with some cultural preservations. It could break down barriers by providing a platform for marginalized voices within the community. It highlights the experiences of Arab American women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those with intersecting identities, fostering inclusivity and challenging societal norms (Eid 176). Randa Jarrar is one instance of an Arab American author who examines LGBT-related topics. Famous Palestinian-American author and academic Jarrar's writing explores a range of facets of Arab and Arab American identity, including sexuality and gender. Her first book, *"A Map of Home,"* is about a young girl named Nidali who struggles with her sexual identity while navigating her identity as an Arab American. The novel discusses cultural expectations, familial dynamics, and the difficulties of being queer and Arab at the same time (Albakry & Siler, 2012).

In addition, Jarrar's collection of short stories titled *"Him, Me, Muhammad Ali"* examines a variety of subjects and characters, including some who identify as LGBTQ+. Jarrar challenges social norms and advocates for inclusivity by highlighting the intersections of Arab and LGBT identities through her moving tale. It is important to remember that Arab American writing draws on a variety of viewpoints and life experiences and that each author may have a different angle on the LGBT community. However, dressing this issue up contributed to building bridges to Arabic culture as it goes against its values. LGBT is still, until now, a taboo topic in all Arabic countries and a forbidden discussion specifically in Muslim Arabic countries (Alberto Fernández Carbajal, 2019). Such a topic promotes cross-cultural dialogue by providing insights into the Arab American experience. It also invites Arab American readers who are intolerant of the LGBT topic to step into the shoes of Arab American characters, fostering empathy, understanding, and tolerance. By engaging with diverse narratives, readers gain insights into the challenges, joys, and complexities of Arab American lives (Abdulrahim, 2013). As the US is a mosaic of ethnicities and cultures, Arab American Literature serves as a catalyst for connections between Arab American communities and other cultural groups. By sharing stories and experiences, Literature facilitates conversations, collaborations, and mutual respect, building bridges and fostering meaningful relationships (Abraham & Shryock, 2000).

Accordingly, Arab American Literature has a profound impact on the Arab American community. It plays a crucial role in preserving cultural heritage, empowering individuals, and

fostering understanding between communities. Through its role in cultural preservation, representation, and promoting dialogue, Arab American Literature contributes to a more inclusive and interconnected society.

5. Recognition and Endorsement of Arab Literature

It is essential for literary organizations and communities to encourage and promote Arab American authors in order to further the development and appreciation of Arab American Literature. All these ongoing challenges may help Arab American writers create new opportunities to promote their writing and give it a voice inside and outside the US. American authors can take part in institutions and events that honor Arab culture and Literature, especially now that Academic establishments and writing programs have started to acknowledge and promote Arab American authors. Arab American authors are welcome to submit work to anthologies and publications that highlight various viewpoints. The publications offer venues for them to communicate their experiences, viewpoints, and tales to a larger audience (Hassan, 2014). Opportunities for developing talents, getting mentorship, and getting exposure include scholarships. These gatherings provide venues for displaying their works, interacting with the public, and building relationships with other writers (Khalil & Khan, 2020).

It is also essential to make literary works by Arab Americans accessible and understandable in English. Translation initiatives present chances to break down cultural barriers, connect with Arab readers and Arab Americans all over the world, and encourage intercultural dialogue. Arab American authors should be more diligent in translating the Arabic words they borrow in their English writings. It helps them give a more linguistic understanding of the publishing industry where they submit their works. Meanwhile, they have to consider more opportunities for independent publication, which provides them with more control over their works and the chance to connect with a larger audience. Diverse voices can be featured through self-publishing and small independent presses (Hassan, 2011). Online literary communities have given Arab American authors a place to interact with one another, share their work, and interact with readers. Online channels that promote networking, visibility, and teamwork include literary blogs, social media, and digital periodicals (Hassan, 2014).

By actively searching out their works, attending their readings, and participating in debates about their writing, it is crucial to support and promote Arab American authors. Readers can help to promote the visibility and acknowledgment of Arab American voices in this way. The creation of spaces and initiatives for Arab American writers should continue at academic institutions and literary groups. Emerging voices can be strengthened, and their literary abilities can be nurtured through scholarships, workshops, and mentorship options (Khalil & Khan, 2020). By including Arab American authors in their reading lists and hosting events that spotlight them, book clubs, libraries, and community organizations can play a significant role in promoting Arab American Literature. This promotes communication and mutual understanding in the neighborhood. It is possible to increase accessibility and gain international recognition by encouraging the translation of Arab American Literature into many languages. The act of translating can promote intercultural communication and close gaps across literary

traditions (Abraham et al., 2011). Arab American writers can get the resources they need to follow their creative ambitions and create influential works with the help of grants and fellowships. A more diversified and inclusive literary scene results from financial support for the growth of Arab American Literature (Ludescher, 2006).

As a result, a more open society and the promotion of cultural variety are greatly aided by Arab American Literature. It dispels myths and provides a more complex knowledge of Arab culture and identity by highlighting the experiences and viewpoints of Arabs (Abraham et al., 2011). Introducing distinctive perspectives and storylines that could be missed otherwise adds to the literary landscape's depth and variety. The literary canon is widened by Arab American writing, giving readers access to a wider variety of narratives and viewpoints (Ludescher, 2006). Overcoming cultural divides and fostering communication promotes empathy and understanding. Arab American writers encourage readers to discover various cultural experiences and cultivate a feeling of humanity via their writings (Salaita, 2011). Arab American Literature tackles social and political concerns, giving voice to underrepresented groups and putting light on crucial subjects like identity, prejudice, and belonging. It increases understanding and sparks conversations on social justice and equality (Noman, 2020). It provides a forum for dispelling myths and battling Islamophobia. To promote a more realistic and comprehensive knowledge of Arab and Muslim populations, Arab American writers dispelled myths and provided alternative narratives.

6. Discussion

Arab American Literature, a diverse collection of writings, showcases the experiences and perspectives of Arab Americans in the United States. It highlights the challenges faced in navigating identity, heritage, and belonging in a diverse society. Arab American authors like Ameen Rihani and Khalil Gibran offer thought-provoking novels, poetry, and essays, addressing topics like identity, cultural heritage, and assimilation. The genre has evolved over time, showcasing the diverse Arab American population and its impact on the literary landscape. Arab American writers faced continued obstacles. They encountered marginalization in the publishing world as the industry's emphasis on popular narratives frequently silenced diverse voices (Abraham et al., 2011). They also face prejudices and preconceptions that restrict how and by whom their works are read and understood. Preconceived notions about the culture, identity, and religion of Arab writers can make it difficult to understand their creative contributions (Ludescher, 2006). Authors of Arab American descent frequently struggle with the complexity of their own identities. They struggle to explain the subtleties of their cultural background while balancing their American experiences with their Arab roots (Abraham et al., 2011). The narrow line between discussing their culture and experiences honestly and avoiding cultural appropriation or distortion is something that they must learn to negotiate. They must overcome the difficulty of authentically representing their cultural background while also telling their story (Salaita, 2011). The difficulty of explaining the Arabic culture goes along with the language barrier. English may not be the first language for some Arab American authors. They struggle to properly communicate their views and uphold their cultural authenticity when writing in a second language (Hassan, 2014). Once we consider the literary style of *borrowing*, it would be even

more difficult to introduce the Arabic culture to other American ethnicities or even the second and third Arab American generations who are not familiar with their ancestors' language. To explain more, Arab American authors come from different Arabic countries, which makes their dialects different. A reader who is unfamiliar with the Arabic language may hear one word in different Arabic dialects. It's crucial for Arab American writers to describe the variations between their dialects or to use the language's proper name in their writing. It would help the reader differentiate between Tunisian borrowing, Syrian borrowing, Palestinian borrowing, etc. Each country has its dialect, and the indication of it can have an impact on approaching the reader (Almubayei, n.d.).

Arab American Literature provides unique perspectives on the lives of Arab Americans in the United States, empowering and representing their cultural diversity. It challenges stereotypes and misconceptions, showcasing the diversity of Arab American identities, experiences, and perspectives. Randa Jarrar, an Arab American author, explores LGBT-related topics, such as sexuality and gender, in her books "A Map of Home" and "Him, Me, Muhammad Ali." Jarrar's writing challenges social norms and advocates for inclusivity, highlighting the intersections of Arab and LGBT identities (Alberto Fernández Carbajal, 2019). Arab American Literature serves as a catalyst for connections between Arab American communities and other cultural groups, fostering empathy, understanding, and tolerance. By engaging with diverse narratives, readers gain insights into the challenges, joys, and complexities of Arab American lives.

Arab American Literature is crucial for the development and appreciation of Literature in the US. Literary organizations and communities should encourage and promote Arab American authors to create new opportunities for their writing and gain a voice. Participating in institutions and events that honor Arab culture and Literature, such as academic establishments and writing programs, helps Arab American authors develop talents, mentorship, and exposure.

Translation initiatives can help break down cultural barriers, connect with Arab readers and Arab Americans worldwide, and encourage intercultural dialogue. Arab American authors should be diligent in translating Arabic words into English, allowing them to better understand the publishing industry. Independent publication opportunities, such as self-publishing and small independent presses, can also help Arab American authors connect with a larger audience. Online literary communities, such as literary blogs, social media, and digital periodicals, provide a platform for Arab American authors to interact, share their work, and engage with readers. Supporting and promoting Arab American Literature can help create a more open society and promote cultural variety. By overcoming cultural divides and fostering communication, Arab American writing contributes to a broader literary canon, fostering empathy and understanding.

In conclusion, Arab American Literature plays a vital role in promoting a more diverse and inclusive literary scene in the US. By actively seeking out and supporting Arab American authors, they can create a more inclusive and diverse literary landscape.

7. Conclusion

The experiences and viewpoints of Arab Americans in the United States are highlighted in the broad collection of writings known as Arab American Literature, which also highlights the difficulties in navigating one's identity, heritage, and sense of belonging in a diverse culture. Novels, poems, and essays by authors like Ameen Rihani and Khalil Gibran explore issues like identity, cultural legacy, and assimilation. The genre has developed over time, demonstrating the diversity of the Arab American community and how it has influenced Literature.

Arab American writers confront obstacles such as publishing industry marginalization, racism, and language limitations. They try to reflect their cultural background accurately while reconciling their American experiences with their Arab backgrounds. The language barrier exacerbates the difficulty of understanding Arabic culture since some Arab American authors struggle to effectively articulate their points of view while maintaining cultural authenticity when writing in a second language. Arab American Literature bridges the gap between Arab American populations and other cultural groups, promoting empathy, understanding, and tolerance. By connecting with various narratives, readers gain an understanding of the difficulties, joys, and complexity of Arab American lives.

The growth and enjoyment of Arab American Literature depend on its promotion. In order to expand opportunities for exposure and connection, literary communities and organizations should actively work with Arab American authors. Arab American authors can strengthen their skills, get mentorship, and gain exposure by taking part in organizations and occasions that celebrate Arab culture and Literature. Initiatives for translation can serve to bridge cultural gaps, connect with Arab readers and Arab Americans around the world, and promote intercultural communication. Self-publishing and tiny independent presses are examples of independent publishing options that provide Arab American authors more control over their works and a wider audience. Arab American authors have a platform to showcase their work and engage with readers through online literary groups.

By actively seeking out the writing of Arab Americans, going to readings, and engaging in discussions about it, readers may help increase the visibility and respect for their voices. Academic institutions and literary organizations should keep developing venues and programs for Arab American writers, providing opportunities for mentorship, workshops, and grants. To promote communication and understanding between people, book clubs, libraries, and community organizations can be pretty helpful.

The more open society and the promotion of cultural diversity are strongly supported by Arab American Literature. It dispels stereotypes, offers a more nuanced knowledge of Arab identity and culture, and broadens the canon of Literature. Through their writings, Arab American authors inspire readers to learn about other cultural experiences and develop a feeling of compassion. Arab American Literature encourages discussions on social justice and equality, busts myths, and fights Islamophobia by tackling social and political issues.

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