

## **English Summary**

### **Escape to the Realm of Imagination in the Selected Works of Tawfik Al-Hakim and Jack London**

The thesis tackles the influence of Arabic literature on the western literature as a whole including English and American literature because that influence is the main cause of the similarity in thoughts and ideas among the different writers from different cultural backgrounds. This influence is also the main reason for the emergence of comparative literature between the East and the West. Both Al-Hakim and London, for example, seem to be affected by the same ideas and thoughts and it is clear to find out these similarities such as the use of symbols, animal figures, and imagination in their writings in addition to the common themes they used like the search of self, love, and travel. All these similarities will be fully covered in the following pages of the thesis.

Tawfiq Al-Hakim (1899 – 1987) was one of the great formative figures of twentieth-century Egyptian literature. Immensely prolific, he was the first Arab to acquire a literary reputation as a novelist and a dramatist. He wrote more than seventy plays of remarkable variety, as well as a number of novels, short stories and essays. Very few of his plays have a contemporary setting. His novels, on the other hand, all have a strong autobiographical content.

Jack London (1876-1916) “was a legendary folk writer, born only fourteen years before the 1890 marked the closing of the frontier, coming of age during that decade called the watershed of American history and dying less than a year before the United States entered World War I, London personified the most crucial transition in this nation’s cultural development.”(Earl Labor: Jack London 19)

This study has several justifications: first, it aims at making a judicious and thorough study of allegory, romance, imagination, philosophy, autobiography, search of self and symbolism in Jack London's major works and some of Tawfiq Al- Hakim's works. It will trace their technique of adopting animal figures in their writings and how both of them were directly affected by the ancient treasures of Egyptian and Greek classics. Both of them were known to use symbols and employ their philosophical views in conveying their messages. Tawfiq Al- Hakim's life and some of his works will be studied and traced to determine points of similarity and difference in his works and Jack London's. Though they come from different cultures, this doesn't mean a complete difference. This study aims to prove the unity of sources behind human thinking, whether in America or in Egypt.