

A Psychological Analysis of Ahmad's Character in the Novel *Al-Shawk wa al-Qarnafal* Based on the Ninefold Enneagram Model

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Introduction

Yahya al-Sanwar's novel *Al-Shawk wa al-Qarnful* stands as a significant work within Palestinian resistance literature, offering a multilayered portrayal of personal and collective experience under occupation. At the center of the narrative is Ahmed, a character whose behavioral complexity and shifting motivations render the text unsuitable for analysis through single-disciplinary literary approaches. While previous studies have largely focused on the social and political dimensions of the novel, its psychological layers—particularly the internal mechanisms shaping Ahmed's actions—have received limited scholarly attention. This gap underscores the need for an interdisciplinary perspective capable of addressing both the narrative structure and the psychological foundations of character formation. Positioned at the intersection of resistance literature and personality psychology, the novel provides fertile ground for examining how emotional dynamics and contextual pressures shape Ahmed's responses. Accordingly, this study employs the Enneagram typology to identify Ahmed's dominant and secondary personality types, explain the contextual factors influencing his behavioral shifts, and demonstrate how an interdisciplinary approach can yield a deeper and more nuanced reading of *Al-Shawk wa al-Qarnful*. Through this lens, the research aims to illuminate interpretive layers that remain inaccessible through purely literary analysis.

Methodology

The findings of this study demonstrate that applying an interdisciplinary analysis to *Al-Shawk wa al-Qarnful* through the Enneagram framework reveals concealed dimensions of Ahmed's character and enables a more refined understanding of his motivational and behavioral mechanisms. Alongside this dominant type, indicators of Types One, Three, Six, Eight, and Nine also emerge, reflecting the fluidity of his personality and his

responsiveness to situational pressures and interpersonal interactions. The psychological analysis further indicates that Ibrahim's presence plays a decisive role in redirecting Ahmed's motivations, shifting him from individual reactions toward collective-oriented actions—an axis that shapes one of the central dynamics of the narrative. Viewing the text through the lens of personality psychology uncovers narrative layers that remain inaccessible through purely literary readings, including Ahmed's defensive mechanisms, emotional cycles, and his movement among interconnected types through the Enneagram's directional arrows. Ultimately, addressing the research questions through concrete textual evidence confirms that Ahmed is not a fixed personality type but rather a dynamic, multilayered character whose structure becomes fully intelligible only at the intersection of resistance literature and personality psychology.

Results and Discussion

The findings of this study show that applying an interdisciplinary analysis based on the Enneagram theory to *Al-Shawk wa al-Qarnful* reveals hidden layers of Ahmed's personality and provides a deeper understanding of his behavioral dynamics. The Enneagram, one of the most modern approaches to personality typology, identifies nine core types and emphasizes that no individual embodies a single pure type; rather, each personality is shaped by a primary type and one of its adjacent types, known as "wings." Mapping Ahmed's behavioral traits onto this model demonstrates that his personality displays a combination of multiple types, shifting across several patterns throughout the narrative. The strongest alignment appears with Type Two, the Helper, as his actions consistently reflect care, empathy, and a willingness to sacrifice for others. Alongside this dominant tendency, evidence also points to traits associated with Type One (the Reformer), Type Six (the Questioner), Type Eight (the Challenger), and Type Nine (the Peacemaker). This diversity of responses indicates that Ahmed reacts differently—and sometimes contradictorily—depending on the situation, a pattern that corresponds to the circular and dynamic structure of the Enneagram. The psychological reading further shows that Ibrahim's influence plays a significant role in reshaping Ahmed's motivations and emotional orientation, marking one of the central axes of the narrative.

Conclusion

The findings of this study indicate that employing an interdisciplinary approach to *Al-Shawk wa al-Qarnful* provides a deeper understanding of both the narrative and psychological mechanisms shaping Ahmed's character, revealing layers of meaning that remain inaccessible through single-disciplinary analysis. Integrating resistance literature with personality

psychology demonstrates that Ahmed embodies a dynamic and multilayered structure, with his actions emerging from the interaction between internal motivations, situational pressures, and interpersonal influences. This approach further clarifies that Ahmed's movement among different Enneagram types is not a sign of inconsistency but rather an expression of psychological adaptability and his gradual orientation toward collective-driven action. The interdisciplinary contribution of this research lies in showing how psychological models can enrich the study of characterization in Arabic narrative writing and open new pathways for advanced narrative analysis. In this sense, the study contributes to the development of interdisciplinary scholarship and offers a model for analyzing Arabic fiction through the integration of literary theory and personality psychology.

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