

Chapter 9

Arabic Language as Arab Characters Related to Arabic Language Alphabet

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ABSTRACT

All languages in this universe have a rich history behind them and culture among the people who speak them. Arabic calligraphy is a timeless craft that has resounding relationship with the Arabic culture and Islamic heritage. The word calligraphy originated from Greek words, namely kallos and graphos, which mean beauty and writing, respectively. Many calligraphic works may seem effortless at a glance, but that is not the case as calligraphy requires keenness and the final piece is as a result of accurate and measure brushstrokes. This chapter is going to look at and analyze the different artwork and calligraphy works related to the Arabic language that have significance to the Arabic world and Muslim culture.

INTRODUCTION

The Arabic calligraphy is an art that entails the Arabic alphabet or script and it has a meaningful message in it that the artist wants to pass. It acts as a means of expressing beauty, moral values, integrity and ethics. The Arabic language is a widespread language among the Arab speakers in North Africa and Middle East. This language is written from right to left with its alphabet containing 28 letters. The Arabic language contains more letters than the English language but all these letters are pronounced in the same manner. It is written not only with the letters but also with a number of characters, which are not considered as part of the alphabet. This chapter focuses on the characters which are related to the alphabet in the Arabic language.

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BACKGROUND

All languages in this universe have history and cultural background. Arabic language belongs to the Southern-Central Semitic group. The Arabic language is associated with Quran and Islam as well as the rich multidimensional calligraphy. Arabic language has a rich history and is connected deeply to calligraphy as it has made the Arabic letters be twisted in to elegant calligraphy artwork. Arabic language history dates back to ninth century BC but its development began about the second BC. The Arabic tribes formed a uniformed code which was used in the Middle EAST, Arabian Peninsula and North Africa. Today, Arabic language is very vital as a language in this world.

Anesthetic Arab Calligraphy (Jazm)

The anesthetic Arab calligraphy represents the Arab and Islamic culture and heritage. It started as a tool of science but later became a manifestation of beauty. Calligraphy is used as a method of writing Koran, the hadith or any other writings that is in tandem with the teachings of Koran or Islamic culture. Many scholars such as al-Qalqashandi, Ibn Hayyan al-Tawhidi, and others disagreed as to where this Arabic calligraphy originated. As history has it, Arabic calligraphy was seen even before Islam began, for example; the inscription (Harran Lajja) of 568 AD, and the inscription (Zabad) of 511 AD. They named this ancient calligraphy Jazm and they composed it of arabic letters organized in a special way to come up with the calligraphy. The special arrangement of arabic letters was called the weighted lines. This formed the basis of arabic calligraphy with the aim of preserving the Islamic and Arabic culture using the weighted lines and some incentives which were tactical additions.

Figure 1. Arabic calligraphy



HORSES AND ISLAM

The calligraphy below is an Islam artwork that represents a horse (Figure 2). In the Muslim culture and the Arabic nations horses have a very high status and they are deemed very important. Their prominence and importance prompted Allah to make an oath and made them decorations for Arabs and Muslims.

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