

The Aesthetics Values of Arabic Calligraphy Within Islamic Art: An Analytical Study

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Abstract: *Arabic calligraphy is full of aesthetic and artistic values that express the manifestations of Islamic thought in its abstract value. Moreover, this calligraphy is the core and heart of Islamic art. There are many types of Arabic calligraphy, such as the Thuluth script, the Diwani script, and the Kufic script. These fonts, in particular, were characterized by high plastic artistic characteristics and characteristics and their ability to form. This study aimed to reveal the total aesthetic values that represent the art of Arabic calligraphy within an analytical vision. one research question applied in this study, namely, what are the aesthetic and artistic values that express the manifestations of Arabic calligraphy art? The method used in this study is the content analysis method, as it is consistent with the research trends. The study concluded that Arabic calligraphy contains many artistic aesthetic values that distinguish it from other arts. The study also concluded that the Arabic letters represent an inexhaustible source of aesthetic values from the premise that the capital letters and their beginnings take a strong form and change according to the course of the word and its formations: these elements are very rich, art and diversity in the art of Arabic calligraphy.*

Keywords: Aesthetic, Arabic calligraphy, Islamic art

1. Introduction

The Arabic calligraphy is a symbol of civilization that glorified the Islamic nation. In addition, the art of calligraphy occupied a great place and a great place among Muslims. The art of calligraphy has been closely related to its spread in decorating and beautifying mosques, minarets, books, and the Holy Qur'an. Since Arabic calligraphy was linked to the Islamic faith and Islamic thought, it carried with it many values and virtues (Al-Jubouri, 2005). In addition, the Arabic calligraphy is resplendent with its cultural, artistic, aesthetic, heritage, and historical importance and the supreme religious values, which are translated by its radiant letters through manuscripts and historical documents whose content expresses the sophistication of cultural and artistic values. Therefore, this study came to identify the values and aesthetic dimensions that characterize calligraphy.

2. Literature Review

Even though many writers have written extensively about the history of Arabic calligraphy, in my research, we will try to reveal the aesthetic values that characterize the art of Arabic calligraphy. Calligraphy contains many cultural values unique to the art of calligraphy, including spiritual values, historical values, educational values, and aesthetic values, which are the focus of the current study. Iyad Al-Husseini (2003) says, "We find that Arabic calligraphy

has enjoyed within it the existence of values and concepts that are reflected in its multiple functions in various fields throughout the ages and times. The aesthetic, artistic values, as well as the spiritual values, in addition to the educational, heritage and other values are manifested in the ramifications of the Arabic calligraphy."

One of the most important previous studies that dealt with shedding light on the cultural values of Arabic calligraphy is the Study of Arawi Wafaa (2012). Her study was entitled "Civilizational Values of the Arabic Kufic Calligraphy as a Model". The study aimed to highlight the various cultural values of the Kufic script as the main element that requires investigation, as it is linked to the Islamic faith and thought through its letters and meanings. In addition, the study aimed to reveal the artistic and aesthetic values stemming from the Islamic artistic heritage of Kufic calligraphy. The study reached several results, the most important: Arabic calligraphy is one of the essential Islamic arts. In addition to the artistic aesthetic values represented in the beauty of the word form with sacred content, the religious meaning blends with creative culture. The current Study and this Study are related to the importance of identifying the aesthetic values of the art of Arabic calligraphy of its different types.

3. Methodology

The method adopted in this study is the content analysis method because it is used in scientific research. The content analysis method is descriptive; that is, it targets the descriptive way. The process was used to collect information and data for the study, including publication research and presenting and historical information.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

Arabic calligraphy is replete with aesthetic values that express the manifestations of Islamic thought in its abstract value. Arabic calligraphy is the heart of Islamic art. There are many types of Arabic calligraphy, such as the Thuluth calligraphy, the Diwani calligraphy, and the Kufic calligraphy. These lines, in particular, were characterized by high aesthetic characteristics and features. The Arabic calligrapher's genius was manifested in Arabic calligraphy, as he took it as a decorative element devised by his creative mind. In general, Arabic letters have a high capacity for extensions, merging and inflexions, which adds a unique aesthetic character.

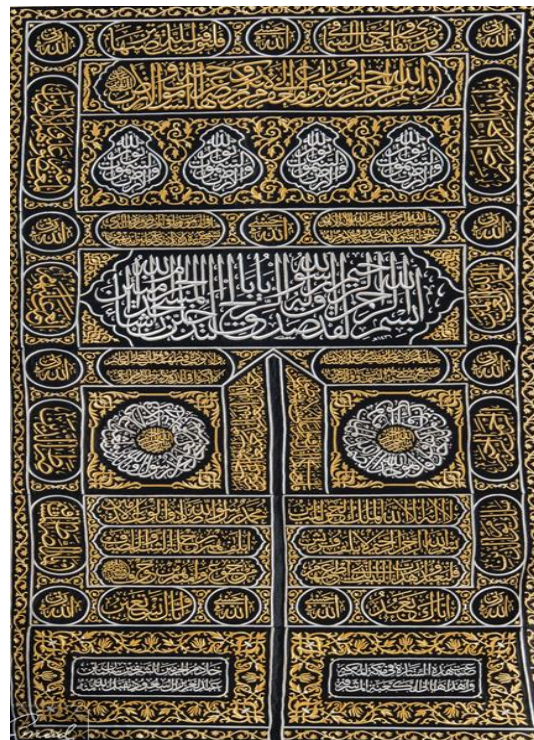
Al-Jubouri (2005) says that "Arabic calligraphy has taken a great place in the Arab and Islamic culture, and the writings of his imams were written in calligraphy, in addition, that an Arabic calligraphy is a form of plastic arts, which has an important role in guiding emotions and elevating the aesthetic vision. The evidence for this is embodied in the Islamic buildings of the various Arabic calligraphy and Islamic motifs. The beauty and spirituality of Arabic calligraphy are evident, which is considered a miracle in itself. Iyad Hussein Abdullah (2003) says: "Aesthetic values in Arabic calligraphy are not related to material images in life that are subject to perishability, because they are temporary images or linked to life circumstances that begin and end. Rather, it depends on absolute aesthetics that extends in time, since writing is the highest stage of human expression. in abstract thought."

One of the most prominent aesthetic values of Arabic calligraphy is that the artistic formation of this calligraphy extends to reach the human spirit imperceptibly. Because through the calligraphic painting that you build on the use of Arabic letters, it becomes not essential to read each letter accurately or clearly understand the meaning of the words. Instead, the painting

takes you with the magic of letters and the way they are weaved, overlaid, and intertwined in a plastic art framework to a dimension more than just understanding words (Al-Husseini, 2003). One of the aesthetic features of Arabic calligraphy, which is rarely found in any of the lines of the world, is straightness, continuity, overlapping and interlacing on the horizontal axis. And the secret of beauty in calligraphy lies in the point because it is the measurement element for all types of Arabic calligraphy. Al-Jubouri (2005) noted the influential role of the dot in the artwork, where he says, "The dot is one of the elements of art in the plastic painting and that an Arabic calligraphy is a form of plastic arts. Plasticity is achieved through the decorations he loves, and some artists are directed through calligraphy, achieving special aesthetic rhythms."

Calligraphy plays a prominent role in most Islamic artworks due to its versatility and its many types, as well as the fact that it carries an applicable linguistic content and an artistic value that is embodied through the movement of its harmonious letters that spread on the surface of the creative painting (Al-Husseini, 2003). One of the aesthetic features worth mentioning is that Arabic calligraphy with its aesthetic value has been linked to ideological values that made it distinct from any other artwork in terms of being a formative element that helps the calligrapher to design his subjects closer to perfection (Al-Jubouri, 1994)

The Arabic letter has an aesthetic value and an artistic effect that cannot be denied or belittled. It has an unusual nature in line with most architectural purposes and products of applied arts, whether glass, wood, metal, etc. and even textile. In the past, examples of decorations from the Kufic writings were embroidered with royal clothes to highlight the extent of the aesthetic values that characterized the Arabic calligraphy. It took an aesthetic decorative element to decorate the fabric and give it an Islamic imprint. In addition, calligraphy was used on dishes, doors, shelves, and windows (Al-Judi, 2007). An example representing a unique Arabic calligraphic art on textile can be found on the Kiswah of the Kabah (Figure1).



**Figure 1: Detailed picture of the Arabic calligraphy display on the curtain of the door of the Kaaba, made of textile 2014 (Photo by Imad Al-Husseini)
 (Source: <http://www.emadphoto.com/#/makkah/>)**

The value of Arabic calligraphy lies in creating an unparalleled aesthetic world on the various surfaces that it occupies most of its space. The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem can be considered one of the earliest examples of the aesthetics of Arabic calligraphy within Islamic architecture (Figure2). Arabic calligraphy does not mimic nature but rather has its unique signature, which is the sure evidence talent of the Arab Muslim calligrapher. The art of Arabic calligraphy conveys to us the vision of the Muslim artist and his perception of life and the afterlife by reflecting on the depth of the experience and the dimensions of his calligraphic works with a spiritual aesthetic aspect in a symbolic way that transcends contemporary poetry and philosophy (Judy, 2007).



Figure 2: A mosaic combination of calligraphy and ornament at the preface of the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem. (Source: <https://mtidry.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/exterior-dome-of-therock>).

From the preceding, the study concluded that the art of Arabic calligraphy with all its types had taken its place in a high degree of perfection because it is an art that addresses the feeling and high taste, So most Islamic buildings are decorated with it, even artworks on various wooden, metal and textile surfaces. Muslim Artists have realized that the letters of the language represent an inexhaustible source of aesthetic values: the letters' head and beginnings take on a solid form and change according to the course of the word and its formations: these elements are vibrant, artistic, and diverse. There is no art on the face of the earth that has used calligraphy in most of its fine artworks as much as it used Islamic art. Arabic calligraphy is an authentic and ancient root that expresses the spirit and philosophy of Arab-Islamic civilization. In addition to the above, it becomes clear to the researcher what is unique to the art of Arabic calligraphy on many artistic aesthetic values that distinguish it from other nations.

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