

Al-Rab'a al Magribia Which Preserved in Jerusalem: Historical and Artistic Study

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Abstract

The study of Qur'anic manuscripts is one of the most important studies that shed light on the research of the art of making copies of scriptures, its materials, calligraphy, in addition to analyse the geographical and historical context, along with the way the Qur'anic manuscripts were produced. This thesis aims to produce an academic study and documentation for "*al-Rab'a al Maghribia*", which was written by the Sultan of Morocco, Abu Hassan Ali bin Othman ibn Yaqoub ibn Abd al-Haq al-Marini (693-751 H / 1293-1350 CE). It had been written in (1344 CE), and then it was made as *Waqf* for the Dome of the Rock. Later it became among the collection of the Islamic Museum inside al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The study includes all its parts and its preservation box.

The research paper commenced by reviewing the available literature published on the history of Muslims' interest and care of the Holy Qur'an, and the care in making copies of it. It also reviewed the extent of its arts and writing development during the Islamic history. It tracked the most famous early copies of the *mushaf* attributed to Khalifa Othman bin Affan which were preserved in the libraries and museums located in Arab countries as in the other libraries and museums too.

The study sheds light on the Moroccan Qur'anic manuscripts of the Marinid period (668-896 H/ 1269-1465 CE), the Moroccan calligraphy, and the extent of interest of the Sultans of Bani Marin in the copying of the Holy Qur'an. The thesis includes information on the technique of the Qur'anic manuscript makeup and its basic components.

For the essential part of the study, it comprises a historical and technical study of "*al-Rab'a al Maghribia*" by collecting information about *Rab'a* reproducer and uncovering the political and religious conditions that led to its copying and presenting to Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The thesis gives details about the place of its preservation, *waqf* and a general description of its parts, physical components, arts and decorative elements, in addition to the analysis of some of its geometrical scheme. It provides photographs and drawings for the first pages of all parts, margins, dividers and the decorative divisions in the folds of its parts. The study also showed the importance of " *al-Rab'a al Maghribia*"in Jerusalem and the relations that brought the people of Jerusalem and Morocco together.

The researcher disassembled part of the *Rab'a* in the laboratory (Manuscripts Restoration Center), since she works as an expert in the restoration of paper materials and manuscripts, to uncover its components and material details, and how its folios were bound, and to facilitate the analysis of leather decoration ways on their parts.

It is the hope that such study will increase knowledge in the field of the study of Qur'anic manuscripts, due to the lack of studies stemming from this subject; especially in Jerusalem.