

THE EPIGRAPHS FROM THE MIAN GHULAM SHAH KALHORA'S MAUSOLEUM

☆Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Bhutta

Abstract:

The article in hand is important due to its nastaliq inscription as well as its poetry which is attributed to the Mian Sarfraz Shah Kalhora son of Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhora. Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhora is the founder of present Hyderabad city. The calligrapher of the inscriptions under studied is unknown but inscribed with master's hand in classical traditional style with its compositional frame work. Although the traces of the thulth inscriptions are visible and evident that the traditional thulth under the central Asian influences were practised in all over the Sindh including Thatta and Hyderabad as well. The mausoleum is not well maintained and the fragile condition of the inscriptions demanded its preservation in record as well as its structure. So the article in hand is more helpful to preserve its calligraphic inscriptions along with the poetry of Mian Sarfraz Kalhora.

There are three forts in the city of Hyderabad Pucca Qila, Kacha Qila, and Ghulam Shah Kalhora Qila. Four years after the construction of Hyderabad fort Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhora died in 1186 AH/1772 A.D.(1)

☆Deputy Director (Devlution Cell) Cabinet Division.Islamabad.

References

- * Professor of Arabic & Principal Punjab University
Oriental College, Lahore, Pakistan.
- 1. Encyclopedia Britannica, Volume 20, P.208
(Semitic Languages).
- 2. H.A.R. Gibb: Arabic Literature, London, Oxford
University Press, 1963, P.6.
- 3. Encyclopedia Britannica, London, Volume 1, P.182
(Semitic Languages).
- 4. Al-Quran, Surah Alaq, Verse 1-5.
- 5. Al-Quran, Surah al-Qalam, Verse 1.
- 6. Al-Quran, Surah al-Baqara, Verse 1-2.
- 7. See for details of evolution of Arabic script "Tarikh
al-Khat al-Arabi" by Salah al-Din al-Munajjid .
- 8. See al-Bukhari: al-Jami al-Sahih (Bab Jam'al -Quran).
Volume 3, P. 343-344, Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyyah, Beirut
2002/1423.
- 9. R.A. Nicholson: A Literary History of the Arabs,
Cambridge University Press, 1969, P.xxiv.
- 10. R.A. Nicholson: A Literary History of the Arabs,
P. xxiv-xxv.
- 11. See for details Asr-e-Jadid Mein Arabi Zaban, Chapter-3
(Language of Arab, Muslim & African World), P.101-220
(Miscellaneous), al-Faisal Publishers, Lahore.

Central Asia and Arabic (Ottoman) script along with Pinyin script to a certain extent, in Xinjiang (Eastern Turkestan) an autonomous region of China, while Azari Turkish is written in Arabic script in Iran and Latin script in Republic of Azerbaijan and Cyprus. In Tatarstan and some other Muslim republics of Russian Federation, old Arabic script (Osmanli) is now being revived without abandoning the present Russian script (Cyrillic).

Bengali language in Bangle Desh is written in modern Bengali script which has been derived from Sanskrit letters but it was also written in Arabic script during the era of Muslim rulers till 18th century. ⁽¹¹⁾

Conclusion

Keeping in view all these facts and factors, it can be concluded that Arabic is the common language of the contemporary Muslim world and Arabic script is the common script of more than a billion and a half Muslims in more than sixty (60) countries being used for writing a majority of important languages of the Muslim world and contributing a lot to promote, disseminate and preserve the art of calligraphy, in all its ancient and modern forms in the Muslim world and abroad.

* * * * *

for many centuries until the occupation of a large number of Muslim countries by British, French, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch and other European nations in the 18th and 19th centuries. Then the Arabic script of many languages of the Muslim countries was replaced by Latin script with official status for relevant European languages.

Thus the languages of the Muslim World adopted Latin script in many cases including Indonesian, Malaysian, Swahili, Hausa, Fulani and other African languages.

However Persian, Urdu, Dari, Pashto, Sindhi, Punjabi, Balochi, Balti, Shina, Kashmiri, Kurdi and many other languages have preserved so far their Arabic script up to 21st century providing a sound base for different calligraphic pursuits.

Bahasa Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei are the national names of almost the same language (Malay) which are the official languages of Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam. The official script is Latin but it is also written in old Arabic script on a large scale and newspapers, magazines etc. are published in the old Arabic script (Naskh).

Turkish language with all its dialects from Xinjiang in China to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmanistan, Kirghizia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Bulgaria, Cyprus and to a certain extent in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, is a bi-scriptural or rather multi-scriptural language in the modern times with domination of Latin script in Turkey, Greek-oriented Russian script (Cyrillic) in

of the Muslim World being taught in millions of Islamic Madrasas attached to Mosques and also being taught in other Islamic Schools and Universities. It is also a compulsory educational subject in majority of the Muslim countries including Arab states directly, or as a part of Islamic studies including Arab countries, Pakistan, Iran, Senegal and other Afro-Asian countries. Moreover Arabic is, practically second or one of the three major languages in almost all the non-Arab Muslim countries along-with national languages e.g. Iran etc.

Arabic is also an official language of “Organization of Islamic Countries” (OIC) along with English and French, embracing about sixty Muslim countries as its members (57) or observers (more than 3). It is also an official language of African Union comprising more than fifty (50) member countries, along with English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and K.Swahili. Last but not the least, it is one of the six official languages of U.N.O. along with Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Thus Arabic language and Script enjoy, Arab, Islamic, African and International Status in the 21st century.

Arabic Script is one of the two universally used Scripts along with Latin Script, first one basically belonging to Muslim world and second to the Western world. In addition to Arabic, all other languages of the Muslim world were also written in Arabic script or its slightly modified forms, with some additional letters,

“During the middle ages, it was spoken and written by all cultivated Muslims of whatever nationality they might be, from Indus to Atlantic; it was the language of the Court and the Church, of Law and Commerce, of Diplomacy and Literature and Science. When the Mangol invasion in the thirteenth century swept away the “Abbasid Caliphate” and therewith the last vestiges of political unity in Islam, classical Arabic ceased to be “Kolvn” or common dialect of the Muslim World.”⁽⁹⁾

Then after referring to the present status of Arabic Language in Arabian Peninsula, Syria, Egypt and other Arabic speaking countries, Nicholson endorses the words of Prof. Morgoliath regarding renaissance of Arabic language in the modern times:

“We are told on high authority that even now it is going a renaissance, and there is every likelihood of its again becoming a great literary vehicle. And if for those Moslems who are not Arabs, it occupies relatively much the same position as Latin and Greek in modern European Culture, we must not forget that the Koran, its most renowned masterpiece is learned by every Moslem when he first goes to school, is repeated in his daily prayers and influences the whole course of his life to an extent which the ordinary Christian can hardly realize.”⁽¹⁰⁾

So it does not needs much evidence that Arabic language and script belong to every Muslim, essentially learnt wholly or partially, by every Muslim to recite Quran, to offer daily prayers and to increase knowledge of Hadith and other Islamic Sciences.

Arabic language in the contemporary Muslim World is the language of at least twenty two (22) Arab states with more than 350 million peoples, having membership in “Arab League” (جامعة الدول العربية) as well as it is an official language of Chad, Eritrea and some other countries. It is also the religious language