



The Sini Script

Cultural Diffusion Through Calligraphy

Shabbir Naqvi | EAST 1200

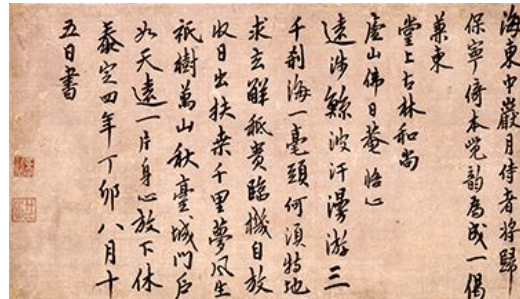
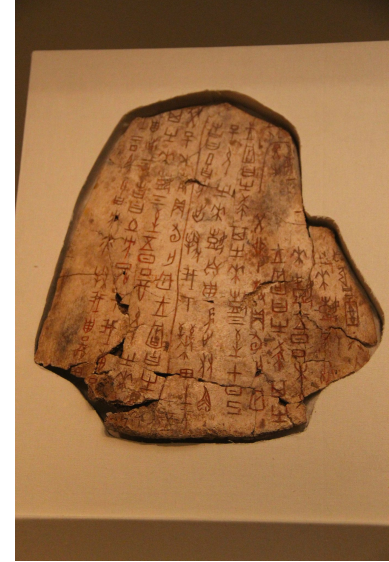
What is the Sini Script

- Calligraphic style used in China for the Arabic script
- Written in Arabic but with thick and tapered effects similar to that in Chinese Calligraphy
- Contemporary Calligraphy style with historic origins
- Used extensively in Eastern Chinese mosques
- Not a cohesive or consistent style



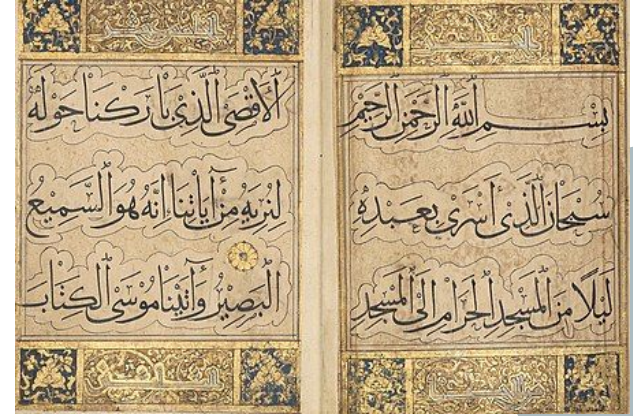
Significance of Chinese Calligraphy in Religion

- Serves as a bridge between earthly and spiritual realms
- Preserves and transmits sacred texts
- Conveys deep spiritual meaning
- Embodies cultural and spiritual heritage
- Influence in art, temples/architecture, and ritual



Calligraphy in the Islamic World

- Immense importance in the islamic world
- Visual representation of sacred texts
- Key element of Islamic art
- Considered a revered skill and profession
- Art that transcends language and culture



Islamic Calligraphy Overview

Styles

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Naskh

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Reqaa

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Thuluth

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Nastaliq

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Dewani

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Kufi

Tools



Sini Script Origin

- Silk Road and Maritime traders during the Ming and Yuan dynasties
- Based on the Naskh script rather than the more commonly used Kufic script
- Primarily used on tombstones or mosque entrances
- Transition to brush tools
- “opening -up” and renaissance of the script



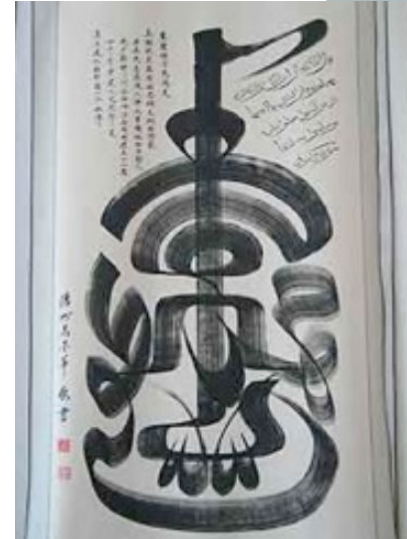
Yuan Period Tombstone



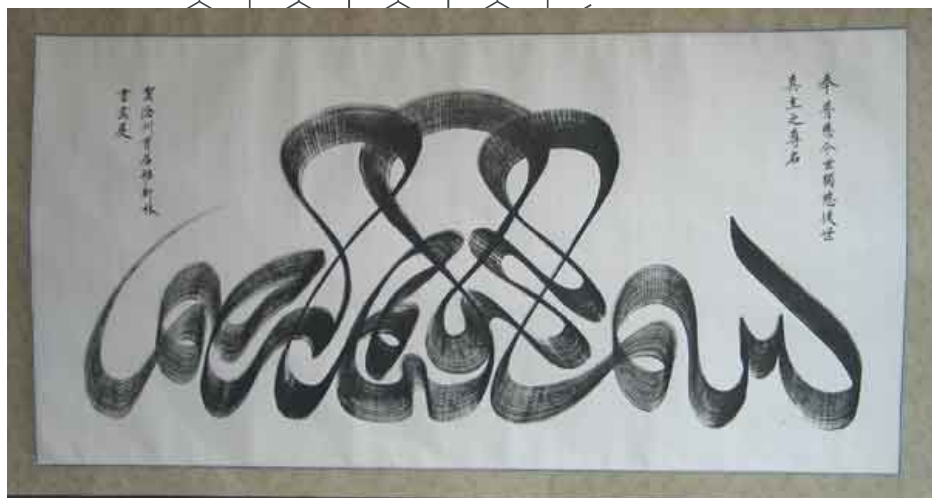
Ming dynasty porcelain

Technical Description

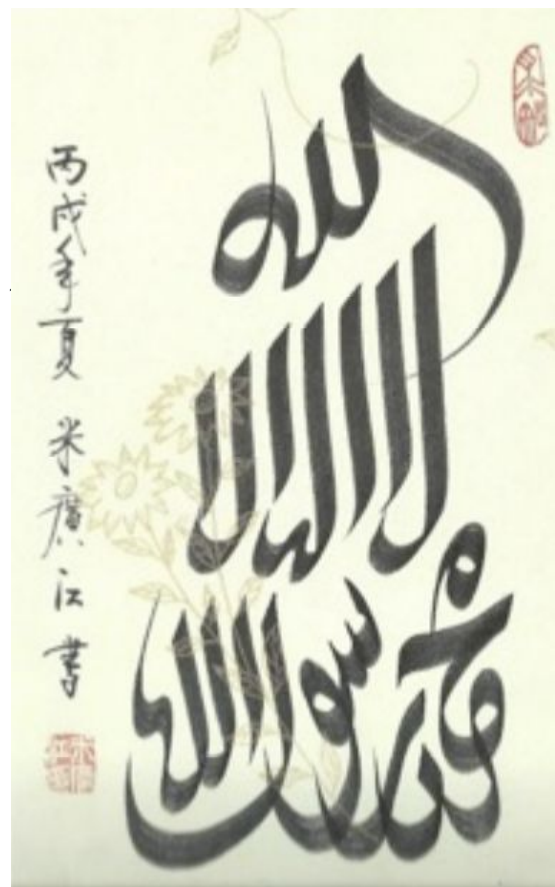
- Prominent calligraphers attribute the script to the tools and techniques rather than a specific look
- Exaggerated curves and strokes
- Flowing script with thick and tapered effects
- Elongated vertical elements
- Wrapping around a central vertical element



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله

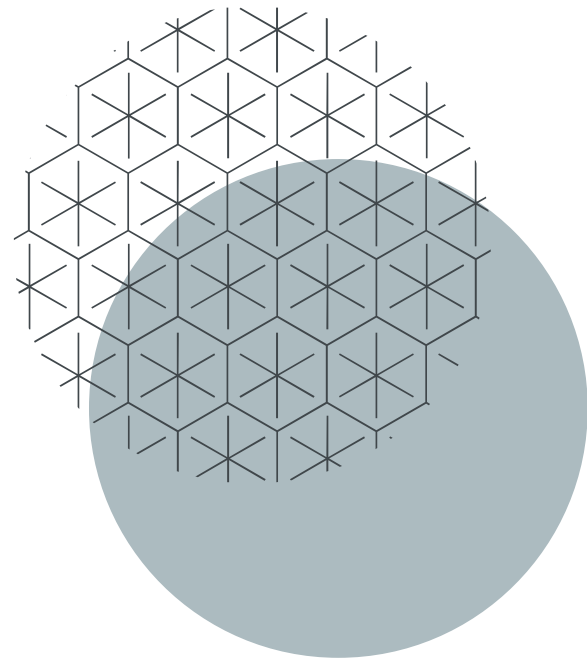


Calligraphy as a Cultural Connection

- Connection to heritage
- Preservation
- Developing a unique identity
- Culture as an organic concept

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ





Thank you!

