Mystical Origins of Persian Calligraphy
Kourosh Beigpour
Mysticism

Interpretation

Based on Bekkashi woodcarving, Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Religion

Law

Fear

Love

Interpretation

Rewarded & Punished
Later

Rewarded & Punished
Every Moment

Keep The Temple (Body) clean
Fażl Astarābādī

Founder of Ḥurūfiyyah
• 700 hundred years ago in Iran (movement against regime). As a consequences of the Mongol’s attack.

As an example: سربداران head on gallows movement → Youth of Fażl Astarābādī which later became the founder of Ḥorūfī.

Fażl was a poet, mystic, Sufi and he knew Farsi, Archaic dialect of Astarābād, Arabic, and he was familiar with Quaran, Torah, and Gospel.

• At the same time Kabbalah has bee introduced to the Iranian community.

• Fażl shaped his doctrine based on Kabbalah and Abjad to create his world and his interpretation of the religion → New religion.

• In both (Kabbalah & Abjad) each letterform has a numerical value, therefor each word.
**Hurūfī and Nuqtawi movement**

**Doctrine**

- There is hidden meaning behind each words and he (Fażl) is the one who has the ability to decode it.
- God is not perceptible and word is the only tool that helps to know the creator whether by speaking or writing.
- Speaking is the most advanced form of the communication and it consists of letters.
- The connection between word and their numerical value.
- Human is book of god and letterforms are the main reality of existence.
- God can be known through his attributes and his names indicate those attributes and letterforms are his most important of them.
If you want to visualize the Creator or انسان كامل (over-human), you have to draw a letters.
If you build your doctrine based on the letterforms and you can’t ignore the shape and static of the letters.
Maḥmūd Pasīkhānī

Founder of Nuqṭawiyyah
Chelle-neshīnī
Retreat

Forty days meditation in solitude and austerity. In these 40 days seeker or mystic sits in a small area, he/she doesn't speck, eats a little, recite mantras and probably Guru is present to help the seeker thru the journey.
خور ۲۱ صبح

درکلمه، لغت، ول معنی

خور ۱۱ شب می

خور ۱۱ شب می
Numerology
Numerical value of letters
Sacred Geometry

Numerical value of letters
Numerology

Architecture, Symmetry, the Sense of unity
The Shah Mosque, Isfahan, Iran. Completed in 1629
The influence of Hurufism/Mysticism

Aesthetics and point of view
Zoomorphic

Zoomorphic Calligraphy and Virtuous Qualities

Calligraphic composition in the form of a lion. Ottoman Turkey, 1913. The Khalili Family Trust.

Bektaşi Art. Ottoman Turkey, 19th century.
The Wonders of Creatures

Ajrāh al-makhlūqāt (Wonders of Creation) of Qanunī. c. 1650-1700. South Asia, India. Harvard Art Museums
Zodiac

Connecting dots to create another realm


Constellation Virgo. Manuscript of As-Sufi’s Treatise On The Fixed Stars, 1809 A.D. Granger Collection
Garment

Protection by power of the words

Talismanic shirt. Ottoman Turkey. 16th century. The Khalili Family Trust.

Talismanic shirt on green ground. India. late 18th - 19th century, or earlier. The Khalili Family Trust.