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Early Mashq and Kufic Scripts: A Historic and Typographic Introduction

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Although we commonly speak today of Kufi as the earliest Arabic Calligraphy style, the early beginnings of this style have nothing to do with the city of Kufa, located less than 30 miles south of ancient Babylon. The oldest documented Arabic calligraphy style derived from Jazm was called Mashq (from Arabic root word Mashaga, to extend or stretch). This writing style was invented by the early Muslims in Mecca and Medina, exclusively for scribing the Quran and other Islamic religious texts. The earliest evidence of Mashq can be seen in the inscription of Mt. Sal' in Medina, dated back to around 625 CE (4 Hijri). Creating an eye-catching, unique style to write holy books was a common practice by religious groups in the Near East. Christians, Jews, Manicheans, Mandaeans, Zoroastrians and others, all dedicated specific script styles to write their holy books. Mashq was not the only style that the early Muslims experimented with. Another short-lived style, with visual similarity to both Ḥijāzī and Mashq, was also used to write the Quran. This style is commonly referred to as the Mā'il (slanted) script. Although the overall look and feel of Mā'il seems significantly different than Mashq at first glance, a deeper examination of individual shapes will reveal that the two share important significant features.

The above historical summary was eloquently documented by the important Islamic scholar, Ibn al-Nadīm (d.999CE), in the introduction to his "al-Fihrast". He wrote: "The first of the Arab scripts was the script of Makkah, the next of al-Madīnah, then of al-Baṣrah, then of al-Kūfah. For the Alifs of the scripts of Makkah and al-Madīnah, there is a turning of the hand to the right and lengthening of strokes, one form having a slight slant." (The Fihrest of al-Nadīm. Translated and Edited by Bayard Didge. New York: Columbia University Press. 1970). Note that by script, Ibn al-Nadīm was referring in his remark to the first Arabic calligraphy style, not the first Arabic writing script. The ancient Arabic language that was eventually documented by the Quran was written with many different scripts, including Cuneiform! Incidentally, the first time the Kufi Calligraphy style was explicitly named "Kufī", was by Ibn Ibn al-Nadīm in the same book, "al-Fihrast".

It is clear that Mashq was introduced, at some point of time later, to the cities of Basra and Kufa in Iraq, where it went under significant development. New, key scriptural features were introduced. Kufic Mashq was a more simplified and dynamic version adhering, more or less, to one baseline. This simplification was the key factor why the Kufi style became the more popular one. However, one should not exclude another significant factor: the relocation of the capital city of the newly formed Islamic state to Kufa, around 656 CE (35 Hijri). The original Mashq style continued to coexist with the Kufic Mashq style and even developed independently for some time before fading away and merging with it. The two styles formed what was eventually referred to as the Kufic Calligraphy with its varied flavors. Kufi became the official Arabic script style for centuries before it was replaced by the more developed Naskh.

Although some scholars believe, today, that the Kufi and Mashq styles were

invented independently, none had introduced any evidence to support such hypothesis. Regarding Mashq, frequently quoted Safadi wrote the following contradictory statement: "Early Mashq was first developed at Mecca and Medina during the first century of Islam (7 Century CE) when the town of Kufa was also developing its own Kufic calligraphic style. The complex rules which governed the early Mashq were gradually simplified until the developed Mashq came to resemble the Kufi Script" (Yasin Hamid Safadi. Islamic Calligraphy. Boulder: Shambhala Publications. 1978. pg: 40). Early Mashq and Kufi were very identical and can only be identified after careful analysis. They could not have been coincidently and independently invented, at the same time. The key common feature of both styles, the exaggerated stretching of certain letters, must have been a unique invention by one specific group, during one specific time period, and at one specific geographical location. Besides, the city of Kufa was founded by the Muslims in 639 CE (17 Hijri), 30 years after the first words of the Quran were revealed to Prophet Muhammad, in Mecca, on December 22nd, 609 CE, and 14 years after the Mashq inscription of Mt. Sal'.

Some scholars argued that the Kufi style was independently invented in Iraq because it was influenced by the Syriac 'Estrangēlā script, one of the Aramaic scripts presumably used in writing Arabic in Iraq before Islam. The 'Estrangēlā script used for Arabic is usually referred to as the Karshuni script. This is possible; however, the earliest manuscript evidence of an Arabic-resembling 'Estrangēlā script belongs to the 11th century, the century marking the start of the crusaders war. This can indicate the 'Estrangēlā script itself was influenced by the Arabic Kufi script used for centuries earlier! In fact, the 'Estrangēlā script resemblance of Kufi, at first glance, is misleading, because this script slanted letters prominently to the left, unlike early Arabic Jazm of Ḥijāz which slanted letters prominently to the right. Besides, even if the Mashq Kufi of Iraq was influenced by the Aramaic 'Estrangēlā script, so can early Mashq of nearby Ḥijāz.

According to the manuscript evidence from the oldest and most complete early Quran available to us (currently in the Tobkabi Museum in Turkey), the original Mashq style employed three complex, multi-level baseline shifting rules, triggered by any of the medial or final Ḥāʾ letter group, or the final isolated Yāʾ letter group. According to the first rule, when freely-connecting letters (i.e. Sīn, Bāʾ, ʿAyn, Ṣād, Ṭāʾ letter groups, and the Mīm, Kāf and Hāʾ letters) are followed by a middle Ḥāʾ group member (Ḥāʾ, Jīm, and Khāʾ), their baseline would be shifted above the common baseline. Consequently, the left-pointing sharp angle of the medial Ḥāʾ group letter would be extended leftwards, under the upward-shifted baseline, to compensate visually for the breaking of the uniform baseline. According to the second rule, a final Ḥāʾ group member must shift downwards, below the common baseline, when preceded by any freely-connecting letter. Again, the left-pointing sharp angle of the final Ḥāʾ group letter must extend leftwards, under the upward-shifted baseline, to compensate visually for the breaking of the uniform baseline. According to the third rule, a final Yāʾ group letter,

in its isolated form, must be shifted downwards, and extend leftwards below any preceding restrictedly-connecting letters (i.e. Alif, Wāw, Rā', and Dāl letter families). Unlike its parent Jazm script, the original Mashq style was limited to one shape for the final and isolated $Y\bar{a}$ ' letters: the Retroverse $Y\bar{a}$ ' ($Y\bar{a}$ ' Barri).

The most important feature introduced by the Kufi Mashq style was its elimination of the awkward baseline breaking associated with the Haa group medial shapes. Except for the Ha' ligatures formed with the initial shapes of any freely-connecting letter, all other Hā' ligatures involving baseline shifting were effectively eliminated. The second important feature involved the elimination of any downward shifting of the isolated Yā' Bari when following any restrictedlyconnecting letter. However, the Kufi Mashq simplification process introduced two significant complications of its own, when it eliminated the usual one final and isolated Yaa' shape of early Mashq. According to the rules of the first complication, the final letter Yā' was given one distinct shape when following any restrictedly-connecting letter: the classical Jazm Yā' Battah shape. In some cases it was given the Yā' Barri shape with the long retroverse stem sitting on the baseline. According to the rules of the second complication, the final letter Yā' was given the Yā' Barri shape when following any of the freely-connecting letters 'Ayn, Ghayn, Mīm, Hā' and Hā', but an alternative Yā' Battah shape when following the freely-connecting letters of the Sīn, Bā, Ṣād, and Ṭā' group letters. However, the rules of the second complication did not seem to be mandatory. In the early Quranic Kufi manuscripts, one can observe a mixed final Yā' shapes in similar words on a single page. Calligraphers, it seems, were given the freedom to use whatever shape makes more sense for visual appeal. Openness was an instrumental factor in the magnificent evolution of future Islamic Arabic calligraphy.

Sometime after the reformed Mashq Kufi style became the most prominent style to write the Quran, a vocalization marking system was introduced to make sure words were pronounced uniformly. Most scholars believe this was in Kufa between 656 to 661 CE, during the ruling of the third Islamic Caliph, 'Ali bin Abi Ṭālib. This system involved placing prominent-sized Niqāṭ (round dots) adjacent to letters to represent the sounds of the three Arabic short, soft vowels (Fatha, Kasrah, Dhamma), Maddah, and Hamzah. These dots should not be confused with the dots of Tashkīl (Iʿjām), which were initially marked in the Mashq style as minor slashes closely integrated with letters, as clearly evident in the samples of the Māʾil style, but were eventually given smaller round dot shapes. Although the new vocalization system, called Tanqīṭ, was not a perfect system, it was good enough to preserve the key features of the Arabic language of the Quran until a new precise vocalization system was introduced in Naskh.

The most interesting feature of Tanqīṭ was its handling of the important Arabic Hamzah. Even today, in the age of advanced typography, Hamzah is the most challenging and unstable feature of the Arabic script. Still, it is a key feature of the Arabic language and was even represented in the ancient Akkadian Cunei-

form script. The Arabic Hamzah can assume the personality of both, an independent letter and Ḥarakah (soft vowel). The name Hamzah is derived from the Arabic root word Hamzah. It was called that way, because it presses (influences) the pronunciation of a consonant letter (i.e. it behaves like Ḥarakah!). Therefore, in the early Kufic Tanqīṭ system, it was literally treated as Ḥarakah.

Generally speaking, Hamzah was given one shape, a large dot, but three adjacent positional forms: a Hamzah Fathah which was positioned above the letter, a Hamzah Kasrah which was positioned below a letter, and a Hamzah Dhamma which was positioned on the baseline to the left of a letter. These dots were most of the time colored, particularly in red. In the early Mashq and Kufi, the Sukūn Ḥarakah was not specifically accounted for. However, when it was associated with Hamzah it assumed one of the three default representations of Hamzah. In another words, Hamzah was always pronounced with a settled soft Fatḥah, Dhamma, or Kasrah sound. When Hamzah came in the beginning of a word, it was always combined with the Alif letter. When Hamzah came in the middle of a word, it was always combined with an Alif, Yā', or Wāw letters. This logical designation is not surprising, since the sounds of Fatḥah, Kasrah, and Dhammah short vowels correspond, respectively, to these long vowel and consonant letters.

It should be emphasized that the early Tanqīṭ system was not always an exact consistant process. For example, the dot for Hamzah after Alif was either placed on the left or right side of the vertical stem. Similarly, the dot for the Fatḥah was either placed on the left or right side of the vertical stems of the Ṭāʾletter group and final and isolated Kāf letter. The two dots for Tanwīn were either stacked vertically or horizontally. In some old Quran manuscripts, additional prominent-sized dots of various colors (i.e. green, white, yellow) were also used along with the red ones. These likely represented one of the additional Arabic Ḥarakat (i.e. Shaddah, Sukūn) or even Hamazah itself. Because the use of these additional dots was never standardized, they were not utilized consistently. Probably, they were proposed by some scribes in their efforts to reform the script with extra Ḥarakāt. A complete, detailed Ḥarakāt system was adapted, much later, in the Naskh style.

The Mashq font family by Arabetics includes three styles of Mashq. The first is Mashq regular, which closely follows the script style of Musḥaf 'Uthmān, with only the initial and final Ḥā' baselines shifting. The second is Mashq Mail, which emphasizes the features of the Mā'il style shared with Mashq. The third is Mashq Kufi, which closely follows the script style in an adequate sample from the Quran manuscripts of the Bergstraesser Archive. All three fonts include two styles, with and without Tashkeel. The Mashq and Mashq Kufi fonts include two more styles, with and without Ḥarakāt (soft vowels) and Hamzah. In addition to Maddah, they include only three soft vowels, Fatḥah, Kasrah, and Dhamma, along with their Tanwīn (double) forms. The Sukūn vowel is the default shape before inserting a soft vowel. Hamzah was treated as a vowel just as it was treated in the Mashq and early Kufi manuscripts. Kashīdah (Taṭwīl), triggered

by keying Shift-J on Arabic keyboards, is a zero width character. In the Mashq fonts, inserting one Kashīda before the final 'Ayn glyph group will trigger alternative shapes. In the Mashq Kufi fonts, inserting one Kashīdah (or two) before the final shape of Yā', 'Ayn, and Ḥā'glyph groups will trigger alternative shapes. The Mashq font family by Arabetics was designed to be as compatible as possible with the Arabic keyboard and Unicode standard used in computers today. Calligraphic variations were implemented only when they marked significant and permanent script features.

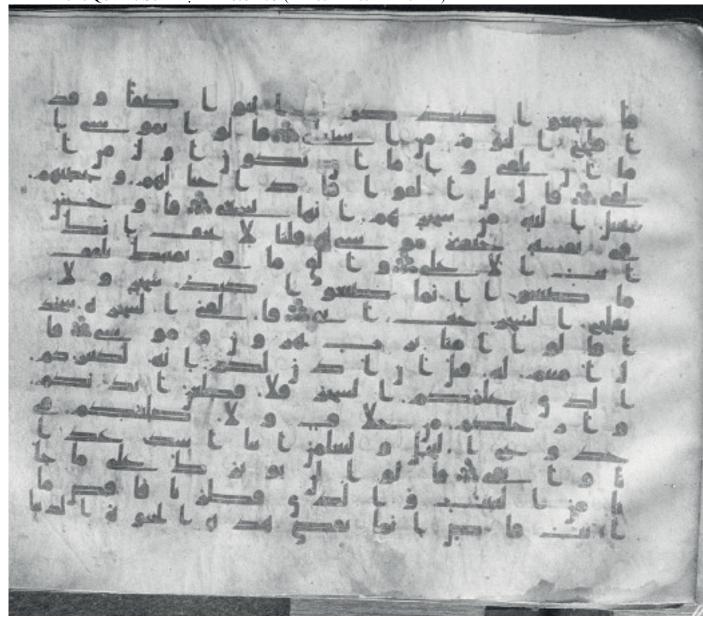
To illustrate Hamzah handling in early Mashq and Mashq Kufi, I provided several concrete examples taken directly from Mushaf 'Uthman in the Tobkapi Museum and from the Quran Manuscripts of the Bergstraesser Archive. The two tables below show how Hamzah, Maddah, and the three main short vowels, Ḥarakāt, were represented in these old manuscripts, compared to their representation in a typical modern day Unicode Arabic font. Additionally, I provided a complete glyph dump from one member of the Mashq font family by Arabetics, Mashq Kufi Tashkil Harakat font, along with a sample text utilizing it.

Early Kufi Style	Modern Arabic	Early Kufi Style	Modern Arabic			
t	أ، أ	<u>·</u>	ं ३			
Ļ	اً، اِ	.	و ہ			
L	44	-	ំ ំ			
t	اءَ	<u>:</u>	៖ ៍			
Ļ	اءِ	-	ہِ 9			
r	اءُ	+	ំ ្			
ŧ	اةً	•	ؤ			
Ļ	اءِ	t ,	ۇا			
ı	%	j	ئ			
ι	T	4	ڔ۫			
f	Ĺ	å	ڎؙ			
t	ŤŤ	X.	لأ، لأ، لاءِ			
X*	لاً	¥	لإ، لإ، لاءِ			
¥	Ĭ	<u>x</u>	لأً، لاءِ			

Early Kufi Quran	Naskh Quran	Early Kufi Quran	Naskh Quran			
سو لگ	سُؤْلَكَ	ند و صم	بَدَءُوكم			
بسو تا إ	بِسُؤَالِ	جو لاو	جَزاءُ			
ا لا سما	الأسماء	لم و لبك	أولئك			
ئو و به	تُؤُويه	ا لمو د ه	الموغودة			
1 t إهننا	أآلِهتنا	je .se	مؤمِنٌ			
t فننم	ءَامَنتُمْ ءَآمنتم	سوا	سوءًا			
įmi	يشاءَ	جا و ك	جاءُوك			
ببصنا	بيضاءً	سنب	شيئًا			
با نبندم	يأتينكم	ا لحب	الخبء			
ŧ.	ماءً	J o	ملءُ			
م ا ۾ بــــ	مآرِبُ	د ف	دفءُ			
قر t تا	قرآنًا	مد و مأ	مَذْءُومًا			
:dy L	أَيْةً ا	ئبو و	تَبَوَّءُوا			
넻	لِشيءٍ	د د ا	ردْءًا			
فظر ب	فاضرب	مو نا	مِراءً			
ئو. ہنو ز	تُؤمِنون	سې	سوءٍ			
لو لا	أولاء	لا قر ہـــ	لِأَقربَ			

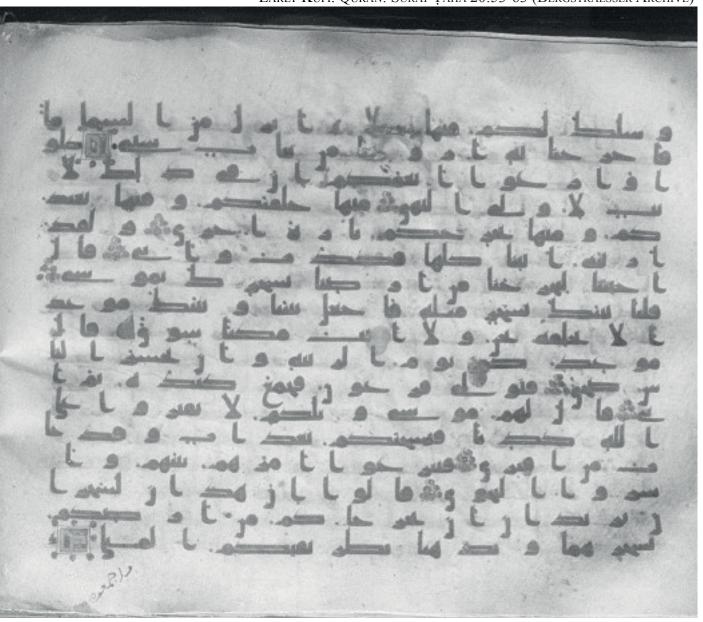
For a limited time, when you buy this book you acquire a license for the private, personal, non-commercial use of the Arabetics Mashq font family on 1-3 computers. Please send an email to contact@arabetics.com with a receipt of book purchase. The font file will then be sent to you as an attachment with the Arabetics reply to your email.

EARLY KUFI. QURAN: SURAT ȚAHA 20:64-75 (BERGSTRAESSER ARCHIVE)



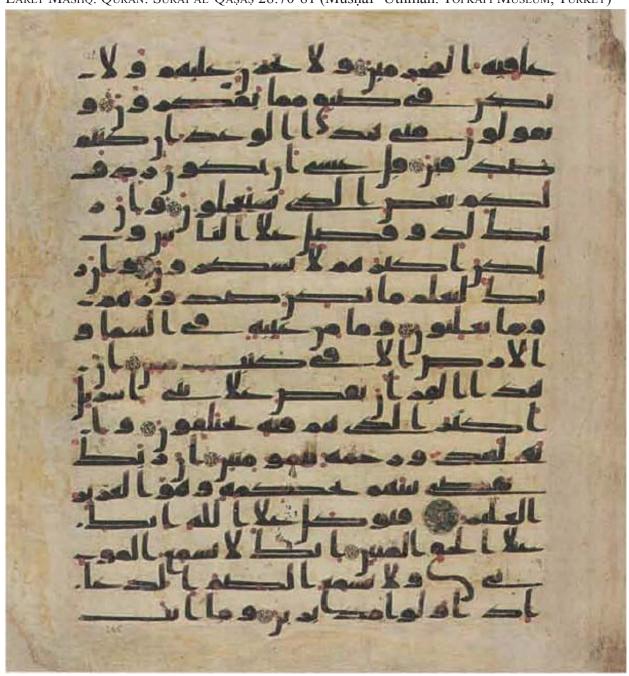
فَأَجْمِعُوا كَيْدَكُمْ ثُمَّ ائْتُوا صَفًّا وَقَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْيَوْمَ مَنِ اسْتَعْلَىٰ. قَالُوا يَا مُوسَىٰ إِمَّا أَن ثُلْقِيَ وَإِمَّا أَن نَكُونَ أَوَّلَ مَنْ أَلْقَىٰ. قَالَ بَلْ أَلْقُوا فَإِذَا حِبَالُهُمْ وَعِصِيْهُمْ يُخَيِّلُ إِلَيْهِ مِن سِحْرِهِمْ أَنَّهَا تَسْعَىٰ. فَأَوْجَسَ فِي نَفْسِهِ خِيفَةً مُّوسَىٰ. قُلْنَا لَا تَحَفْ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ الْأَعْلَىٰ. وَأَلْقِ مَا صَنَعُوا إِنَّمَا صَنَعُوا كَيْدُ سَاحِر وَلَا يُفْلِحُ السَّاحِرُ حَيْثُ أَتَىٰ. فَأَلْقِيَ السَّحَرَةُ سُجَّدًا قَالُوا آمَنَا بِرَبِّ هَارُونَ وَمُوسَىٰ. قَالَ آمَنتُمْ لَهُ قَبْلَ أَنْ آذَنَ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَكَبِيرُكُمُ الَّذِي عَلَمَكُمُ السَّحْرَ فَلَاقُطَّقَ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَأَرْجُلْكُم مِّنْ خِلَافٍ وَلَأَصَلَبْتَكُمْ فِي وَمُوسَىٰ. قَالَ آمَنتُمْ لَهُ قَبْلُ أَنْ آذَنَ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَكَبِيرُكُمُ اللَّيْمِ عَلَمَكُمُ السَّحْرَ فَلَاقُطَّقَ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَأَرْجُلُكُم مِّنْ خِلَافٍ وَلَا عَلَىٰ مَا جَاءَنَا مِنَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالَّذِي فَطَرَنَا فَاقْضِ مَا أَنتَ قاضٍ جُذُوعِ النَّخْلِ وَلَتَعْلَمُنَ أَيْنَا أَشَدُ عَذَابًا وَأَبْقَىٰ. قَالُوا لَن نُوْثِرَكَ عَلَىٰ مَا جَاءَنَا مِنَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالَّذِي فَطَرَنَا فَاقُضِ مَا أَنتَ قاضٍ إِنَّا اللَّذِي فَلَرَانًا وَأَبْقَىٰ. قَالُوا لَن نُوثِرَكَ عَلَىٰ مَا جَاءَنَا مِنَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالَّذِي فَطَرَنَا فَاقُضِ مَا أَنتَ قاضٍ إِنَّا فَاللَّوسَ مَا أَنتَ قاضٍ عَلَىٰ مَا وَلَا فَي فَرَدِهِ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا.

EARLY KUFI. QURAN: SURAT ȚAHA 20:53-63 (BERGSTRAESSER ARCHIVE)



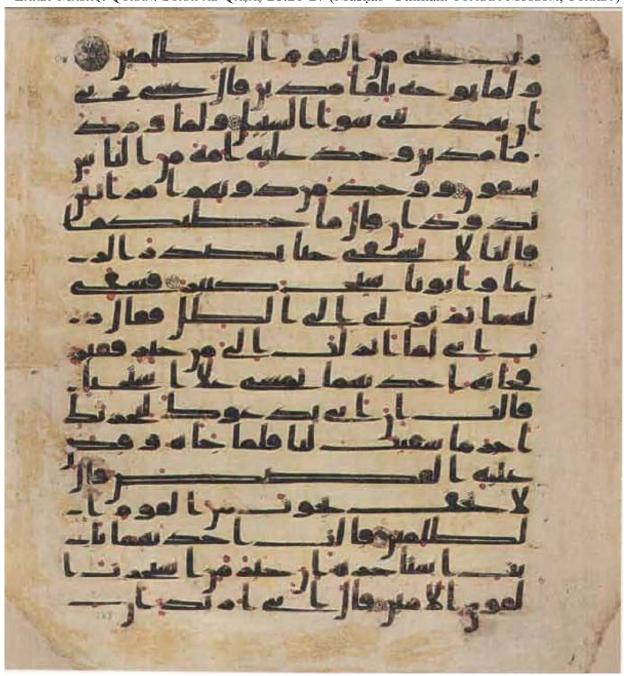
وَسَلَكَ لَكُمْ فِيهَا سُبُلًا وَأَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِّن نَبَاتِ شَتَىٰ. كُلُوا وَارْعَوْا أَنْعَامَكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتِ لَّأُولِي النَّهَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ وَفِيهَا نُجِيدُكُمْ وَمِنْهَا نُخْرِجُكُمْ تَارَةً أُخْرَىٰ. وَلَقَدْ أَرَيْنَاهُ أَيَاتِنَا كُلَّهَا فَكَذَّبَ وَأَبَىٰ. قَالَ أَجِئْتَنَا لِتُخْرِجَنَا مِنْ أَرْضِنَا بِسِحْرِكَ يَا مُوسَىٰ. فَلَنَأْتِيَنَّكَ بِسِحْرٍ مَّثْلِهِ فَاجْعَلْ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكَ مَوْعِدًا لَّا نُخْلِفُهُ نَحْنُ وَلَا أَنتَ مَكَانًا سُوَى. قَالَ مَوْعِدُكُمْ يَوْمُ الزِّينَةِ بِسِحْرِكَ يَا مُوسَىٰ. فَلَنَأْتِيَنَّكَ بِسِحْرٍ مَّثْلِهِ فَاجْعَلْ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكَ مَوْعِدًا لَّا نُخْلِفُهُ نَحْنُ وَلَا أَنتَ مَكَانًا سُوَى. قَالَ مَوْعِدُكُمْ يَوْمُ الزِّينَةِ وَأَن يُخْرِجُنَا فَيُسْحِتُكُمْ بِعَذَابِ وَقَدْ وَأَن يُخْرَعِنَ الْنَاسُ ضُمَّى. فَتَوَلَّى فِرْعَوْنُ فَجَمَعَ كَيْدَهُ ثُمَّ أَتَىٰ. قَالُوا إِنْ هَٰذَانِ لَسَاحِرَانِ يُرِيدَانِ أَن يُخْرِجَاكُم مِّنْ أَرْضِكُم بِسِحْرٍ هِمَا وَيَدْهَبَا بِطَرِيقَتِكُمُ الْمُثَلَىٰ. وَاللَّهُمُ وَأَسَرُّوا النَّجْوَىٰ. قَالُوا إِنْ هَٰذَانِ لَسَاحِرَانِ يُرِيدَانِ أَن يُخْرِجَاكُم مِّنْ أَرْضِكُم بِسِحْرٍ هِمَا وَيَدْهَبَا بِطَرِيقَتُكُمُ الْمُثَلَىٰ.

Early Mashq. Quran: Surat al-Qaṣaṣ 28:70-81 (Musḥaf ʿUthman. Topkapi Museum, Turkey)



عَاقِبَةُ الْمُجْرِمِينَ. وَلَا تَحْزَنْ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا تَكُن فِي ضَيْقٍ مِّمَّا يَمْكُرُونَ. وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَىٰ هَٰذَا الْوَعْدُ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ. قُلْ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونَ رَدِفَ لَكُم بَعْضُ الَّذِي تَسْتُعْجِلُونَ. وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَذُو فَصْلًا عَلَى النَّاسِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَشْكُرُونَ. وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَيَعْلَمُ مَا تُكِنُ صُدُورُ هُمْ وَمَا يُعْلِفُونَ. وَمَا مِنْ غَائِبَةٍ فِي السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ. إِنَّ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَقُصُّ عَلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَكْثَرَ الَّذِي هُمْ فِيه يَخْتَلِفُونَ. وَإِنَّ مَنْ عَلَيْ اللَّهُ وَمَا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ مُ مِنْ اللَّهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ. إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي بَيْنَهُم بِحُكْمِهِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَلِيمُ. فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللهِ إِنَّكَ عَلَى الْحُقِّ الْمُبِينِ. إِنَّكَ لَا تُسْمِعُ الْمُونَى مَلَى اللهِ إِنَّكَ عَلَى اللهُ إِنَّالَ مَلَّا مُنْمِعُ اللهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ. إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي بَيْنَهُم بِحُكْمِهِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَلِيمُ. فَتَوَكَلْ عَلَى اللهِ إِنَّكَ عَلَى الْحُقِّ الْمُبِينِ. إِنَّ كَا تُسْمِعُ الصَّمَّ الدُّعَاءَ إِذَا وَلُوا مُدْبِرِينَ. وَمَا أَنتَ

EARLY MASHQ. QURAN: SURAT AL-QAŞAŞ 28:21-27 (Mushaf 'Uthman. Topkapı Museum, Turkey)



رَبِّ نَجِّنِي مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ. وَلَمَّا تَوَجَّهُ تِلْقَاءَ مَدْيَنَ قَالَ عَسَىٰ رَبِّي أَن يَهْدِيَنِي سَوَاءَ السَّبِيلِ. وَلَمَّا وَرَدَ مَاءَ مَدْيَنَ وَجَدَ عَلَيْهِ أُمَّةً مِّنَ النَّاسِ يَسْقُونَ وَوَجَدَ مِن دُونِهِمُ امْرَأَتَيْنِ تَذُودَانِ قَالَ مَا خَطْبُكُمَا قَالْنَا لَا نَسْقِي حَتَّىٰ يُصْدِرَ الرِّعَاءُ وَأَبُونَا شَيْخُ كَبِيرٌ. فَسَقَىٰ لَهُمَا ثُمَّ تَوَلَّىٰ إِلَى الظِّلِّ فَقَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي لِمَا أَنزَلْتَ إِلَيَّ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَقِيرٌ. فَجَاءَتْهُ إِحْدَاهُمَا تَمْشِي عَلَى اسْتِحْيَاء قَالَتْ إِنَّ أَبِي يَدْعُوكَ لِيَجْزِيكَ ثُمُّ تَوَلَّىٰ إِلَى الظَّلِ فَقَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي لَمِمَا أَنزَلْتَ إِلَيَّ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَقِيرٌ. فَجَاءَتُهُ إِحْدَاهُمَا تَمْشِي عَلَى اسْتِحْيَاء قَالَتْ إِنَّ أَبِي لَمْ الْنَوْلُوعَ لِيَجْزِيكَ أَجُرُ مَا سَقَيْتَ لَنَا فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُ وَقَصَّ عَلَيْهِ الْقَصَصَ قَالَ لَا تَخَفْ نَجَوْتَ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ. قَالَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا يَا أَبْتِ اسْتَأْجِرْهُ إِنَّ خَيْرَ مَا سَقَيْتَ لَنَا فَلَمَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ. قَالَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا يَا أَبْتِ اسْتَأْجِرْهُ إِنَّ خَيْرَ مَا سَقَيْثَ لَنَا فَلَقُومُ الْأَمِينَ. قَالَتْ إِنِّ مَا إِلَى أَلْوَلَمْ لَكُولَ الْعَلَيْهِ الْقَوْمِ الْعَلَامِينَ. قَالَتْ إِنِّ مَن الْقَوْمِ الظَّلْمِينَ. قَالَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا يَا أَبْتِ اسْتَأْجِرْهُ إِنَّ خَيْرَ

Mashq Taskeel Harakat Font by Arabetics (Quran: Surat al-Kahaf 18: 96-110)

التبز امنوا و عملوا السلياد سائد لهم جناد البود و سرنو لا شحلت بز فها انو _ ف دیز الحدید حف ا دا سام بر الصد هر هاز انهدوا حف ا دا معله بار ا هاز انو _ ف اهر خد علبه هطر انهها اسطعو انار بطهرومه وما استطعو ا الممالا شالديز كل سبهم في المبوني الديبا وهم بمسبوز انهم بمسبوز كسنا شاوليك الدير كفروا بايث ديهم ولقابه فيكف المملهم فلا نقبم لهم بون القيمة و دنا شك لك حواوي هم جهنم بما كفو و افاعك و النب و دسلم هد ونا شار لا يبعوز عنها جولا هوالو كاز الهد جدادا لكالمامن في م لبعث الهد هوالا أنعث كامن م يه ولو جننا بمثله مد ما شعا إنما انا يسود منا سع بو عم بالم انما له نعباً هما فحمة مو دي واشا جاويت دي جعله د كا وكارويت د لم مقا شوئر كأ يعكفهم يومليك يموجد في تعجز وتفي في الكود فيمتنهم عرد حص و كانوا لا يستطيعون سمعنا « نافست الكبر كفرونا نار ينجدوا جمعاً * و حذ كا جهنه بو منج الكوبر عد كا شاك بر كانك باكسهم في جكا الله و دون اوليا باما المندما جعده السعديز ند لا شوا هل سيسم بالالمسويز

آثوبي زُبَرَ الْحَبِيدِ حَتَّى إِذَا سَاوَىٰ بَيْنَ الصَّدَفَيْنِ قَالَ انفَخُوا حَتَّى إِذَا جَعَلَهُ نَارًا قَالَ آثُوبِي أَفْرِ عُ عَلَيْهِ قِطْرًا. فَمَا اسْطَاعُوا أَن يَظْهَرُوهُ وَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا لَهُ نَفْبًا. قَالَ هٰذَا رَحْمَةٌ مِن رَبِّي عَلَا وَكُن وَعُدُ رَبِّي حَفَّا. وَمَرْحَنَا بَهْمَتُهُمْ بِوْمَيْدِ بَيْمُوجُ فِي بَهْمَل وَنُفِحُ فِي الصُّورِ فَجَمُعًا. اوَ عَرَضَنا جَهِنَّمَ يَوْمَيْدِ لَلْكَافِرِينَ عَرْضًا. الْذِينَ كَانَتُ عَبُرُوا أَن يَتَّجَدُوا عِبَادِي مِن دُونِي أَوْلِيَاء إِنَّا أَعْدَنَا كَانَ عَنْ يَلْكَافِرِينَ فَلْ مَنْ نَنَبُّكُم بِالْأَخْسَرِينَ أَعْمَالًا. أَنْ يَلْمُ يُسْمِعُونَ سَمُعًا أَفَحِسِبَ الْذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَن يَتَجْذُوا عِبَادِي مِن دُونِي أَوْلِياء إِنَّا أَعْلَى الْمَالِيَا وَهُمْ يَحْسِبُونَ سَمُعًا أَفَحِسِبُ الْذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَن يَتَجَدُوا عِبَادِي مِن دُونِي أَوْلِيَاء إِنَّ الْفَيْلِمِ بِالْأَخْسَرِينَ أَعْمَالًا. كَانَتُ مَنْ أَنْ اللَّهِ الْمَالِياء وَلَا لَيْ يَلُكُمْ يُومِ لِيُعْلَمْ يَعْلَمُ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الثَّذِينَ وَهُمْ يَحْسِلُونَ أَنْ أَنْكُمْ يُومِنِي أَنْفَقِي الْمُنْ يَعْفُلُوا لِي اللَّذِينَ آفَلَاء إِلَى الْفِيلِي وَمُولُ لِي أَلْمُ لِيْكُمْ يُومُ لَيْكُمْ يُومُ وَلِي الْمُولِي مُن آئِم الْعَلَى المَثِيلِ عَلَى أَلْمَ الْمَالِيَا وَمُ مِي أَلْمُ يُمْوضُ مِيْكُمْ يُومُ وَيَالِي الْفِيلِي مَنْ يَالِي الْمِيْلِ مِيْكُمْ يَتَى أَلَى اللَّهُ لِيَا أَلَى اللَّهُ مِنْ مَا أَيْكُمْ يَعْمُ لِيْكُمْ يَعْلَمُ لِيْكُمْ يَلُعُ يَعْلِي مِنْ لِي لَكُ لِي لَكُ مُلْ لِي الْمُلْكِيلِي مُن أَلِي الْمُلْكِي أَلْمُ الْعَلَي مِن يُلْكُم بُلُأَكُم بِي أَمِن الْمُلْكِي مُ لِهُمْ مِي الْمُولِ الْمِنْ الْمِيْلِي مُومِ مِنْ أَلِي الْمُعْلِقِي مِن الْمُؤْلِي الْمُنْ الْمُن لَكُمْ لِللْكُولِ مِن الْمُ الْمَلِي الْمُنالِقِيلُ مِنْ أَلِي الْمَلْفِي مُن الْمُلْ مُن أَلِي الْمَلْفِي مُن أَلِي الْمُلْكِي مُن أَلِقِي الْمُولِي مُومِ مِنْ أَيْكُمْ يُعْمِلُونَا اللَّهُمِ يَصِيمُوا لِمُعْلِي مِن إِلَيْكُمْ لِلْعُلْمِ لِلْمُعْلِي مِنْ مِنْ لِي مِنْ مُنْفِيلًا مِنْ مِنْ الْمُلْفِي مُن اللِي الْمُنْ الْمُعْلِي الْمُعِلِي الْمُعْلِي مُنْ أَلِي اللْمُعْلِيلُ اللْمُلْلِي أَلْمُ اللْم

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Mashq Kufi Taskeel Harakat Font by Arabetics (Quran: Surat al-Kahaf 18: 96-110)

انو _ ب دیز الحدید _ عث با دا ساد و بیز الصد هیز هاز انهدو ا حثی ا دا جمله بار با هاز انو _ ب باهر علیه هطو با شهما اسطعو بایز بطهرو ه و ما استطعو با له نفيا هذا فحمة مرديه فادا جاوحت ديه جعله د كا وكاروعت المما لا شاكر من سبهم في المبونة الساباً وهم بمسبوز انهم بمسبوز مناما السابا السابر صفروا بابئة ديهم ولقابه فيسطف المملهم فلا نقيم لهم بون القلمة ودنا شك إسط جواويهم جهنم بما ضعروا واغضوا الية فديوا هدونا شاز الطبز المنوا وحملوا الطهاد كالساهم جناد العددوس د لم مقا شولو كا يسكهم بومليك بموج هي يسجر ونقح في الصود فيمسهم نو لا شحلك بر فهما لا بيعوز عنها جولا شوالو كاز الهدر مكاكا لكامن دي ليفت البدي فإلى أيفك كبفت مي ولو جننا بمثلة مد ك الدفيا بأنمانا يسرن مئلكم جمعاً * و حذ صنا جهنه بو منت الشجو بزعد صاً *الشبز صانب اعبنهم في جللاً عردو و كانوا لا يستطيعون سمنا « نافست الكبر كفرونا نار ينجدوا عاد و مو د من اولا انا ا عند نا جهنم للسجويز نو لا هوا ها سيده ألا حسويز

قَاذًا جَاءَ وَعُدُ رَبِّي جَعَلُهُ ذَكَاءَ وَكَانَ وَعُدُ رَبِّي حَقًّا وَتَرَكَّنَا بَمْمَنَهُمْ يَوْمَنِذِ يَمُوحُ فِي بَمْمِن مِي حَلَى حَمْدُ المَّمُونِ فَمَعْا هُمْ جَمُعًا. اوَعَرَفَمْذِ يَنْمَذِ لَلْكَافِرِينَ عَرْضًا. الَّذِينَ كَانَتُ عَدُومَ فِي الصُّورِ فَجَمُعًا. اوَعَرَفَنَا خَهَنَمْ يَوْمَنِذَ لَلْكَافِرِينَ كَانَتُ الْعَلَيْمُ فِي عَلَاءٍ عَن زِكُر يَ وَكَانُوا لَا يَسْتَطِيمُونَ سَمُمًا أَفَحَسِبَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَن يَتَجَذُوا عِبَادِي مِن دُونِي أَوْلِيَاء إِنَّا أَعْدَلُوا كَانَتُ عِن زِكُر يَ وَكَانُوا لَا يَسْتَطِيمُونَ النَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَن يَتَجَذُوا عِبَادِينَ مِن دُونِي أَمْ يَلْكُونِ مِنْ يَلْكُمْ بِالْأَخْسَرِينَ أَعْمَالًا. كَانَتُ لَمُهُمْ فِي الْحَيْلِةِ النَّذِيلُ وَمُو يَحْسِلُونَ صُنْعًا أَوْلِيْكَ الْفِيلِونَ صُلْعًا أَوْلِيْكَ الْفَيْلِمِ وَلَوْلُوا لِلسَّالِكِياتِ كَانَتُ لَهُمْ جَهَامُ بِمَا لَكُلِمَاتُ وَنَوْ الْعَلَيْكِمْ وَاللَّهِ يَكُمْ لِلْكُونَ عَلَى اللَّذِينَ لَقُولُوا لِيَالِيكُمْ وَلَقُلْكُ فَي الْحُونُ مِنْكُمْ لِي اللَّهِ وَلَا الصَّلِكِ عَلَى اللَّهُ وَكُلْ فُعْ جَهَمُّمْ بِمَا أَنَا لِيْلِلًا لِمَلِيكُمْ فِي اللَّهِ فِي اللَّهِ اللَّهِ اللَّهِ لِي أَلْكُ لَمْ يَلْكُمْ فِي الْعَلَيْكُمْ فِي الْعَلَيْدِي فَي الْعُلِي وَلِي الْمِثَلِي عَلَي أَلِي الْمَلِي مِن أَلِي الْمِثِلِي عَلَى الْمُعْلِي فِي الْمُعِلِي الْمُلِي وَاللّ كَانُولُولُولُولُولِي الللَّهُ مِي الللَّهُ لِي مُنْ أَلَامًا لِمَا لِمَا لِمَا لِمَالِيكِمْ مِنْ اللَّهُ لَك كُولُولُ وَيَتُمْ لِي مِنْ مِنْ مِنْ فَيْمُ لِيْنِي لِمُنْ اللَّهِ لِي مُنْ لِي لِي لِي لِي الْمُلْفِ ثُونِي زُبَرَ الْحَدِيدِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا سِنَاوَىٰ بَيْنَ الصَّدَفَيْنِ قَالِ انفُخُوا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَعَلَهُ نَارًا قَالَ أَثُونِي أَفْرِ عُ عَلَيْهِ قِطْرًا. فَمَا اسْطَاعُوا أَن يَظُهَرُوهُ وَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا لَهُ يَقْبًا. قَالَ هَذَا رَحْمَةً مِّن رَبِّي

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Sample Quran Text Typeset with the Mashq Font Family, Duplicating the Kufic Script Characteristics Seen in an Actual Early Kufic Text Image from a Quran Manuscript in the Ṣanʿāʾ Codex Collection, According to Author's Exact Observation.

QURAN: SURAT AL-KAHAF 18: 21-24

رَيْبَ فِيهَا إِذْ يَتَنَازَ عُونَ بَيْنَهُمْ أَمْرَهُمْ فَقَالُوا ابْنُوا عَلَيْهِم بُنْيَانًا رَّبُّهُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِهِمْ قَالَ الَّذِينَ غَلَبُوا عَلَى أَمْرِهِمْ لَنَتَّخِذَنَّ عَلَيْهِم مَسْجِدًا. سَيَقُولُونَ ثَلَاثَةٌ رَّابِعُهُمْ كَلْبُهُمْ وَيَقُولُونَ خَمْسَةٌ سَادِسُهُمْ كَلْبُهُمْ رَجْمًا بِالْغَيْبِ وَيَقُولُونَ صَبْعَةٌ وَتَامِنُهُمْ كَلْبُهُمْ قُل رَّبِي أَعْلَمُ بِعِدَّتِهِم مَّا يَعْلَمُهُمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ فَلَا تُمَارِ فِيهِمْ إِلَّا مِرَاء طَاهِرًا وَلاَ تَسْتَفْتِ فِيهِم مِّنْهُمْ أَحَدًا. وَلاَ تَقُولُنَ لِشَيْءٍ إِنِّي فَاعِلٌ ذَلِكَ غَدًا. إِلَّا أَن يَشَاء اللَّهُ وَاذْكُر رَبَّكَ إِذَا نَسِيتَ وَقُلْ عَسَى أَن يَهْدِينِ رَبِّي لِأَقْرَبَ مِنْ هَذَا

MASHQ KUFI HARAKAT AND MASH KUFI TASHKEEL HARAKAT FONTS BY ARABETICS

دست فلها با د سر خوز شهم نا مز هم فقالو با با سو با خلاهم سانا د سهم تا علم سهم قال الدين على العلام بهم لنبك ز حلبهم مسحداً ⊕سنعولوز بله دا بعهم صلهم و نعولوز حمسه: سا د سهم دلهم و حماً با لعلب و نفو لو ز سبعه: و نا منهم كليهم وا د يع نا علم بعد يهم ما بعلمهم با لا عليا فلا نما و فيهم بالا مو با كا هو با و لا سيفي فيهم منهم با حد با ⊕ و لا تعولز لي با نے فاعل د لك حدثا ﴿ الا بار سا الله و ا د در دنگادا سس و دار کیار بهدنر د بی لا ور من مر محا و سحاً ﴿و لِسُوا فِي كهفهم للنه منه د ببت قبها با د بنند حوز ببنهم نا مذهم قفا لو ا ما بنو ا حلبهم بنبانا د بهم نا علم بهم فال الدير علبو الحانام هم لنبدد حلبهم مسبحاً «سبقو لو ز ئلئه، د ا بعهم صلبهم و بقو لو ز حمسه: سا د سهم دلبهم د جماً با لغبب و بعو لو أ سبعه: و نًا منهم كلبهم فر د يم نا حلم بعد بهم ما بعلمهم با لا فلبا فلا نما د قبهم با لا مد نا كا هم نا و لا نستفتب قبهم منهم نا حد نا ا و لا نَعُولُو لِينَا لِي عَا عَا دَ لَكَ عُدنًا ﴿ إِلَّا لَا إِنَّا اللَّهُ وَ اد حر دنظ بادا نسبن و دار حب از بهدنز دبی لا قر جد من هدا و سدا ⊕و لبئوا في ضهفهم نلئد منه MASHQ KUFI TASKEEL, MASH KUFI, AND MASHQ MAAIL FONTS BY ARABETICS

دبد دبها ائير حوز بينهما مدهه دفا لو البوا حليهم ابنيا الله و بهم الحلم بهم دال الدبر خلبوا حام هم ليندر المهم مسبحا «سبعولوز للله دليهم حلبهم و بغولوز سبعه و حما بالتبد و بغولوز سبعه و نامنهم حلبهم دا دبها علم بعد نهم ما بعلمهم الا دليل دليا ولا نستعند دبهم منهم الحدا « فا منهم الله و ا

ويد قبها اكبير خوز بيهم اموهم قفالوا ابنوا خليهم البيانا ويهم الحلم بهم قال الكير خلبوا خليا موهم ليبكر وخليهم مسيدا السيفولور للله و المسيفولور للله و المسيف و المسيف و المسيف فل و الميلم فل و الميلم فل الميلم فل و الميلم فل الميلم فل الميلم فل الميلم فل الميلم فل الميلم في الميلم الميلم و الميلم و الميلم و الميلم في الميلم و الميلم الميلم و الميلم و

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