

دراسة في مضمون النقوش الكتابية على عمائر الأشراف السعديين بالمغرب الأقصى
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**A Study on the Content of the Inscriptions on the Buildings of the
Sharifian Saadi Dynasty of Morocco**

(During the Period between AH 915–1069/1510–1658 CE)

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Abstract

The Sharifian Saadi Dynasty ruled Morocco for more than one century and a half, during which the Saadians achieved numerous political and military victories, the foremost of which are defeating the Portuguese army in the famous battle of Oued El Makhazeen in AH 986/1578 CE and taking control over western Sudan. Moreover, they established marvelous religious, civil, and military buildings, many of which still stand in good condition.

Numerous writings with various contents were inscribed on the façades of these buildings, ranging from Quranic and poetic verses to summoning and religious statements. Furthermore, the distinct characteristics of those inscriptions are not only artistically valuable to archaeological studies, but are also of great use to other fields, including historical studies, media, and *da'wah*, which is the matter that we aim to highlight in this research. At that time, those inscriptions were means of summoning, preaching, and guidance at a time when mass media were very limited.

The contents of those writings also reveal the devoutness of the Sharifian Saadi Dynasty, the authenticity of their faith, their jihad against the Christian occupier both verbally and with weapons, their eagerness to fight heresies and deviations from religion and to disseminate the proper Islamic faith in accordance with the mission of the Prophet Muhammad, and the demonstration of Islamic teachings to their subjects with the purpose of guiding them using various methods available at that time.

In this sense, those selected texts were inscribed on remarkable parts of the façades of their buildings, especially congregational mosques, schools, *zawiyas* (little makeshift mosques), and *saqayat* (waterings), all of which were facilities granted for the public easement of access to all Muslims. Moreover, a considerable interest had grown in the good display of those writings in order to enhance their readability and achieve the greatest possible benefit of them, for they had been necessary means of communication with the public at that time.