

The Foundation Text of the Old Mosque of Malé

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The Old Mosque of Malé, which is known as the Old Friday Mosque of Malé, is one of the most important mosques in Malé. It was constructed in 1656 CE by Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar I. This Mosque remains in the minds of the Maldivian people because of its unique works of traditional art.

The stone and wooden structures in the interior of the Mosque of Malé are decorated with intricately carved designs and inscriptions. The inscriptions are mainly in two languages: Arabic and Dhivehi. Some historical facts about the construction of this Mosque are also inscribed. These inscriptions are quotations from the Holy Quran and the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Some of these inscriptions identify the main duties assigned to the Imams and to the other members holding various offices in the Mosque. The inscriptions discussed in this research were discovered during the renovation of the ceiling of the Mosque in 1964 CE. This inscription written on an old wooden plaque, prove that the first Friday Mosque built by Sultan Mohamed bin Abdulla (1141-1166 CE), stood in that place. This plaque is at present in the National Museum.