

Arabic / English  
Illusionary  
Script

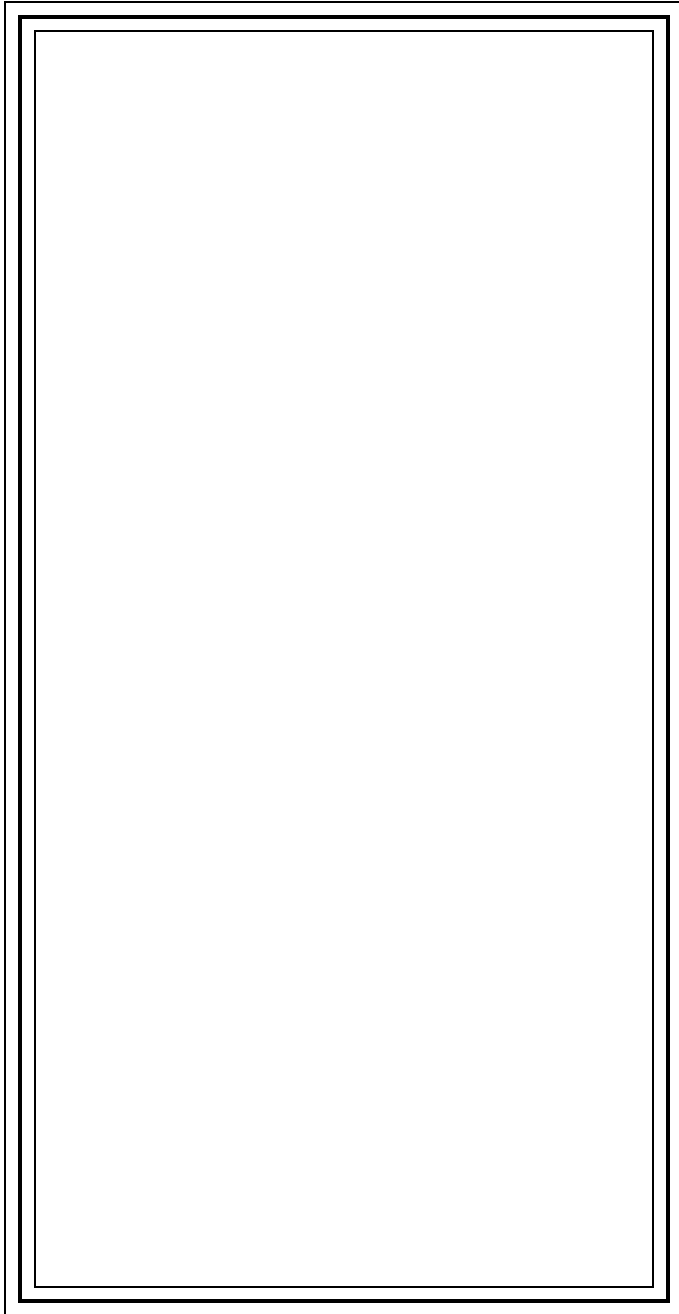


by

محي من اكرء

mahee of acre

ps. this is the back of the book



this booklet is written and illustrated by  
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“So, you want to be a scribe,” the old man says. “Sit here on the floor as I am sitting” he gestures you down. “Put your left foot under you. Cover it so no one will be insulted,” he says firmly. “Now lift your right knee up so your foot is flat on the floor,” he demonstrates. “This is your desk now,” he says patting you on your leg. “You can control the flow of ink by changing the angle.

You can feel the nib through the paper and control the pressure. Your knee moves with you body, and is thus more stable,” he says knowingly.

“Here is your pen,” he hands you a short bamboo stick. “It is quite old, treat it like you would the finger of Allah himself,” he says with great reverence, “for it is with this pen that you will write his words or the words of our King.”

“Here is paper, not hide from animals, it is made by hand and polished. Treat it as if it were the bread of life, for upon it you will write those words.”

“Here is ink, made from gaul, gum arabic, and the black soot of lamps from the mosque. It will give you a dark rich black that will last forever and not eat through the paper.”

resources:

ms. frey, my middle school arabic teacher in dhahran, saudi arabia.

the arabic alphabet: how to read & write it, by nicholas awde & putros samano, a lyle stuart book published by carol publishing group, 1997, isbn78081404306

bibles and bestiaries: a guide to illuminated manuscripts, elizabeth b. wilson/ ther pierpont morgan library, farrar straus and giroux, 1994, isbn 780374 306854

dr. sakkal, <http://www.sakkal.com/index.html>

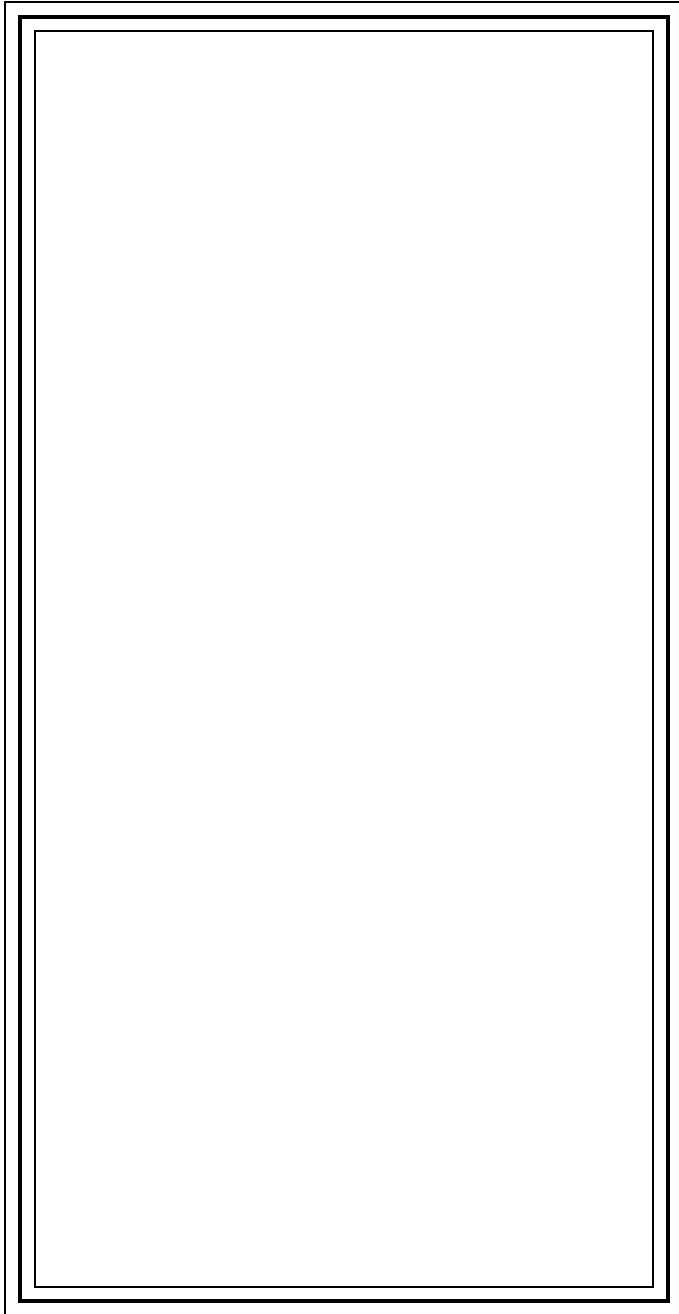
other inspirations:

king of the world, by milo cleveland beach & ebba koch, 1997

princes poets & paladins: islamic and indian paintings from the collection of prince and princess sadruddin aga khan, by sheila r. canby, 1998, isbn 0-7141-1483-9

the calligrapher's handbook, c.m.lamb, pentatic cororation, ny, 1983

and many books by Nasser D Khalili



arabic became what is now called classical form about 1000 years ago\* since that time, it has had no major spelling, grammar, or writing changes\* a person who read classical arabic 1000 years ago could read modern arabic\* comparatively a person from 1000 years ago who could read english then would have extreme difficulty reading today's english\*

classical arabic looks like cursive\* the letters are usually connected and can have up to four forms: initial (at the beginning of a group of letters), medial (in the middle of a group of letters), final (at the end of a group of letters), and isolated (a letter standing by itself)\* not all letters have all forms\* "ra", for example, has only final and isolated forms\* if "ra" happens to come in the middle of the word, its final form is used, a small space is left, and the next letter uses its form\*

arabic has no capital letters\*

arabic also uses a unique symbol for a period\*

w<sup>o</sup>rds may not always appear on a line as we would write them in english\*

there are over 56 types of arabic calligraphy in both print and cursive, so it is very important that you know what you are looking at\*

letters in my script consist of classical arabic, arabic ligatures, and arabic letters written too closely together and would be considered bad handwriting\* the words when read from right to left are Arabic gibberish, while when read from left to right create the illusion of english cursive\*

besides the initial, medial, final and stand alone forms, there are also variant forms of some letters. I have used some of them as well. Standard and variant forms can be found in the same document, so it is not unusual.

i have used a ligature to represent a single letter\* 'k' is written using "meem", "ha", and "alif" instead of a single letter\*

i used the final form of "alif" and the initial or stand alone form of "ein" with inappropriate spacing to form the illusion of a 'd'\* and for some letters like 'q' i use the exact same thing as I do for a 'g'

to correctly write arabic or my script it is important to write from right to left \* if you do not, the letters will not have the correct slant, aligning your text will be difficult, and my middle school arabic teacher will seek me out and slap my hands with a ruler\*

as a final note, scribes were/are cherished and revered and were/are both men and women\*

basic layout

for basic letter shapes, the letter ladder is ten diagonal nibs tall. three nibs from the bottom is the writing line. the 'x-height' is also three nibs tall. this leaves the remaining four nibs for ascenders.

this ten diagonal nib height is also the foundation for the layout of a page\* create a box ten diagonal nibs high by ten wide\* a line is an odd number of boxes long and a writing area is an odd number long by a different odd number tall\* the rest of the pages geometry is built around that\*

for illumination the basic colors are ultra marine, red, green, black and gold\* the gold is usually painted on and outlined ever so thinly in black\* most of the thin lines are painted on with a pen, not a brush to give a clearer cleaner line\*

these are just basics as middle eastern calligraphy varied from town to town and age to age\* it covered an area from spain to the philipines\*

after 600ad legal documents as well as books were written on rag paper\* the reason for this was that words can not be scraped off of paper like they can from hide\*

arabic alphabet

final	medial	initial	stand-alone	name
ا	.	.	ا	alef
ب	ب	ب	ب	ba
ت	ت	ت	ت	ta
ث	ث	ث	ث	tha
ج	ج	ج	ج	jeem
ح	ح	ح	ح	ha
خ	خ	خ	خ	kha
د	.	.	د	dal
ذ	.	.	ذ	thal
ر	.	.	ر	ra
ز	.	.	ز	za
س	س	س	س	seen
ش	ش	ش	ش	sheen

arabic alphabet

final	medial	initial	stand-alone	name
ص	ط	ظ	ص	saud
ض	ظ	ظ	ض	daud
ط	ط	ط	ط	toa
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	zhoa
ع	ع	ع	ع	ain
غ	غ	غ	غ	ghain
ف	ف	ف	ف	fa
ق	ق	ق	ق	gaf
ك	ك	ك	ك	kaf
ل	ل	ل	ل	lam
م	م	م	م	meem
ن	ن	ن	ن	nun
ه	ه	ه	ه	he
و	و	و	و	wa
ي	ي	ي	ي	ya

domini	_____	دوميني
done	_____	دونه
efforts	_____	إفورتس
estate	_____	إستات
given	_____	جيفن
our	_____	أور
privileges	_____	بريفيليجس
realm	_____	ريالم
responsibilities	_____	ريسپونسبيليتيس
right	_____	رايت
societatis	_____	سوسايتاتيس
	_____	
	_____	
	_____	
	_____	

also use arabic numbers

common scroll words

all	_____	للم
and	_____	اعلام
anno	_____	انوم
appertaining	_____	عaperkainج
arms	_____	ارما
award	_____	اوارا
be	_____	be
being	_____	being
by	_____	by
charter	_____	charter
consideration	_____	consideration
day	_____	دعا
dignity	_____	دكنا
diverse	_____	دنا
_____	_____	_____

محي

(f)	(m)	(i)
y	h	m
a	a	e
.	.	e
		m

mahee

look how the letters connect\* (i) initial, (m) medial, (f) final, and (s) stand-alone or isolated\*

دود

(s)	(s)	(s)
d	w	d
a	a	a
l	.	l

da'ud

in this name, none of the letters have an initial form, so each letter is written as a stand-alone\* da'ud is spelled dal, wa, dal\*

سوقي

(f)	(i)	(f)	(i)
y	f	w	s
a	a	a	e
.	.	.	e
.	.	.	n

sufi

in this example, notice that "wa" exists in final form\* it has no medial form, so the next letter "fa" is written in initials form and the word continues\*



write your name in arabic

although vowel sounds can be reproduced in arabic, I am going to keep it simple\*

start by not thinking of how your name is spelled by how it is pronounced\* write the relevant consonants, for example nicholas would be nkls, noon kaf lam seen, and russell would be rsl, ra seen lam\*

now listen to the letter names\* they tell you the sound they make\* find the sounds that fit the sounds of your name\* some sounds do not exist, like 'p' and 'v'\* find the sound closest to the one you are looking for\*

remember that letters come in up to four forms\* going from right to left, write your name\*

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descriptive notes

"written too closely"

1-1 alif + ein                      1-4 ha + ha + ra or ba

1-2 ha + alif or lam              1-5 fa + ra

1-3 ha + ra or ba                  1-6 ba + ra

"bad handwriting"

2-1 stand alone=3-3, the rest are shapes I have seen used in atleast one document, but cannot identify them\*

2-2 sort of a 'ra' + 'ba' combination or a ra + vowel mark combination

"ligature"

3-1 meem + ha + alif

3-2 kha + ha

3-3 lam + alif = the Arabic word "the", alfi +lam for medial, alif + alif for final

as a final note, if you are doing any scroll that will be mass produced, i recommend that you send it to a society translator to make sure you have not written anything inappropriate before turning in a final copy\* i created two scrolls and sent them to a translator\* after ten minutes of reading and wondering why it made no sense, he realized that it was in english\* this script is so true to arabic that it confuses arabic readers\*

				english alphabet	
final	medial	initial	stand-alone	eng.	name
ف	ه	ه	ه	o	he/fa
پ	.	.	پ	p	1-5
ق	.	.	ق	q	ein
ر	ر	ر	ر	r	1-6
ص	ص	ص	ص	s	saud
ك	ك	ك	ك	t	kalf
ن	ن	ن	ن	u	nun
.	ه	ه	ه	v '7', 3-3, he	
س	س	س	س	w	seen
خ	خ	خ	خ	x	2-1
ي	ي	ي	ي	y	2-2
ح	.	ح	ح	z	3-2
ل	ل	ل	ل	ll	3-3

				english alphabet	
final	medial	initial	stand-alone	eng.	name
م	م	م	م	a	meem
ط	ط	ط	ط	b	ta
ح	ح	ح	ح	c	ha
د	د	د	د	d	1-1
و	و	و	و	e	wa
ف	ف	ف	ف	f	he
ع	.	.	ع	g	ha/ein
ط	ط	ط	ط	h	2-1
ز	ز	ز	ز	i	nun, za
ز	.	.	ز	j	za
.	.	ك	ك	k	3-1
ل	ل	ل	ل	l	lam
م	م	م	م	m	2-2
ن	ن	ن	ن	n	2-3