

KUFIC TEXTS

MR. G. LANKESTER HARDING kindly invited me to publish the inscriptions discussed below, which were found incised on the face of the rock in the places indicated. No. 10, however, is incised on a piece of basalt (see Pls. VI, VII).

Inscription I

اللهم اغفر للموتمر بن معطل الصافي
ما خلا من ذنبه وما علا منه اللهم اخرجني من الدنيا
سالما عالما وادخلني الجنة آمنا
هذا ما شهد به الموتمر بن معطل
شهد ان لا اله الا الله وحده لا شريك له

O God, forgive Mu'tamir son of Ma'tal as Safi; he has not escaped (literally is not free) from sin nor was he above it (sin). O God, let me depart from this world sound and wise, and let me enter paradise safe.

This is what Mu'tamir son of Ma'tal testifies. He testifies that there is no God but God alone, who has no partner.

Inscription II

اللهم اغفر لعبد الملك بن عبد (عيد)
ذنبه كله

O God, forgive 'Abdul Malik son of 'Abd (or 'Id) all his sin(s).

These two inscriptions were discovered and photographed by Major Walmsley White at Jebel Tubeiq (map ref. approximately 360.870).

Inscription III

اللهم اغفر
لحكيم بن ابي (؟)
جسيم ذنبه ما بعد
عمل وما تأخر امين

O God, forgive Hakīm son of Aby Juheim his sins, what he has committed before and what was committed later. Amen.

Inscription IV

ايا هليلي^١ سل^٢ الله الكفاية الحسنة والمافية

O my Hilal, ask of God good providence and health.

Inscription V

غفر (الله)
لأدم بن
قره ذنبه
كله قديمه (وحديثه)

May God forgive 'Adham ibn Qurrah all his sins old (and new).

Inscription VI

الله نقه ابي حسن بن قره

May God purify Abu Hassan ibn Qurrah.

Inscription VIII

رضي الله على
حسن بن
ابي

May God be pleased with (forgive) Hassan son of ...

Inscription IX

رضي الله عن
ليد بن
الحنيا

May God be pleased with (forgive) Labid son of Al Hunayya.

Inscriptions III-IX were discovered by Mr. Harding in Wady Rum.

¹ New moon, aleph dropped. It is still usual to make a wish on first seeing the new moon.

² سل for اسأل in the sense of pray for or invoke.

Inscription X

غفر الله . . .
 بن مسعود و . . .
 وصلى عليه اذ
 توفيقه اثر والمليد
 وامهو
 اجمعين .

*May God forgive . . .
 Son of Mas 'ud . . .
 and may he pray on him (his soul)
 when he caused him to be deceased
 And to Muleid and his mother
 all together.*

This inscription was discovered near H5.

The inscriptions are written in Kufic characters of the ninth century; the alephs are invariably dropped. The angle of the ح at the beginning of the word is not preceded by a horizontal stroke as in the early Umayyad period.

Some of these texts were found side by side with Thamudic inscriptions, and it seems that they were incised by passing caravans.

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