



## **Paper Abstract**

### **“Shiite Connotations on Cairo Islamic Architecture”**

**Presented to/**

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Tourism and Hospitality

**Held by/**

Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Fayoum University

**Presented by/**

**Mohamed Nour Mohamed Ali El Barbary**

Demonstrator at Tourism Guidance Department- Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Fayoum University

**Prof.Dr. Eisha Abdel Aziz Mohamad Al Tohamy**

Professor of Tourism Guidance- Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Fayoum University

**Dr. Ehab Younes Ali**

Lecturer of Tourism Guidance- Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Fayoum University

**2015**

## **“Shiite Connotations on Islamic Architecture”**

**Mohamed Nour El Barbary<sup>1</sup>, Eisha Al Tohamy<sup>2</sup>, Ehab Ali<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Demon

trator at Tourism Guidance Department, Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Fayoum University,  
[mnb11@Fayoum.edu.eg](mailto:mnb11@Fayoum.edu.eg).

<sup>2</sup>Professor of Tourism Guidance, Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Fayoum University,  
[aat00@fayoum.edu.eg](mailto:aat00@fayoum.edu.eg).

<sup>3</sup>Lecturer of Tourism Guidance, Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Fayoum University,  
[emy00@fayoum.edu.eg](mailto:emy00@fayoum.edu.eg).

### **Abstract**

Cairo or “The victorious City” is serving as the capital of Egypt since it was built by the Fatimids in 358 A.H/969 A.D. Fatimids were mainly “Ismaili Shiites” who attributed themselves as descendants of “Ali Ibn Abi Talib” the cousin of the prophet “Mohamed” (peace be upon him) and the husband of his daughter “Fatima”; therefore, they were named after her as the “Fatimids”.

The Fatimids ruled Egypt for over 208 years (358-567 A.H/ 969-1171 A.D), in which they added a lot of buildings to the Islamic Architecture’s list of Cairo. Most of these Buildings are still well-preserved till now with its magnificent decorations that were completely influenced by the Shiite doctrine as a part of their plan to promote for Shiism among Egyptians secretly and publicly. Some of these decorations are simply interpreted while the others aren’t, as the Fatimids believed in “Zahir and Batin” which indicates that every obvious meaning has a hidden meaning, an idea that was widely used by the Fatimids and allowed them to spread their thoughts among all the Egyptian community during their rule to Egypt.

In this study we are pursuing to illustrate the hidden meanings of the Fatimid decorations preserved on the Islamic architecture of Cairo, according to the Shiites’ thoughts during the Fatimid Period. The study also includes the additions of the Fatimids to previous Islamic Buildings at Cairo such as (The mosque of Ahmed Ibn Tulun).

**Key Words:** Shiite Connotations, Fatimids, Fatimid architecture, Zahir and Batin.