

FLAG PATTERNS AND THE SULTAN'S CORTEGE IN THE HAFSĪD STATE

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Abstract

The paper provides a brief survey of the royal insignia used by the Almoravids (Murābiṭs) and Almohads (Muwahhids). The paper then concentrates on the royal corteges and insignia in the Hafsīd state. The various patterns and types of the Hafsīd ensigns and colors are differentiated, and explanations are provided on the significations of each.

The paper also discusses the ceremonial vestments of the Hafsīd sultan, and how they differed from the robes of the neighboring rulers. The Hafsīd ruler wore a crown similar to those of the European kings, and the fastidious elegance of his garments contrasted with the robes of the neighboring rulers, such as the Marīnīds and the Banu al-Aḥmar.

The paper also points to the intensity of the cortege which accompanied the Hafsīd sultan to a mosque or during a stroll or campaign. The sultan precautionously kept a large escort of mounted bodyguards in alertness against an assassination attempt which had become a real danger at those times, particularly in the nearby Granada. Nevertheless, the sultan's powerful cortege signified the pomp and splendor of the Hafsīd state, whereas the processions of the early Marīnīd rulers were marked by simplicity, and one encounters no evidence of ceremonial processions in the case of Granada until 755 H./1354 AD.

The paper also refers to the various coins minted in different Hafsīd cities. These coins are distinguished by the fineness of their form and the soundness of their weight. The expressions on each coin indicate the name of the reigning sultan and the town where it was minted.

An appendix is provided at the end of the paper to indicate the names of the Hafsīd sultans, the duration of their reigns, and the dates of their death or deposition.