

## Inscriptions from Sfax

We receive from our collaborator, Mr. N Luciani, the following letter; the members of the Company who live in Tunisia are requested, following his example, to collect carefully all the inscriptions which are pointed out to them.

Mr. President

I send to you the copy of a new Arab inscription, discovered in the Nadhour tower, which is on the southern rampart of the Arab city of Sfax, beside the door known as Bab Eddiouan. This tower, partly demolished by the bombardment of 1881, is today in repair, and the department of public works will raise it to place a lighthouse at the top. The stone which carries the inscription had been walled up outside, and faced a mosque located at a little distance; it was covered with a coating with mortar and lime, and had thus been forgotten for many years.

Mr. Peyrieux, driver of the Highways Department (*"Ponts et Chaussées"*), agreed to transport it to my home and to wash it, which was not easy, since so much coating had been put on the sandstone. But I could read the text of the inscription, which I reproduce hereafter line by line:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ  
جَدَّدَ هَذَا النَّاصِرُ الْمُبَارَكُ عَلَى يَدِ الشَّيْخِ لِأَمَامِ الْخَطِيبِ  
أَبِي مُحَمَّدٍ عَبْدِ السَّلَامِ الشَّرِيفِيِّ غِبَرَ اللَّهُ لَهُ وَعَلَى يَدِ رَجَبِ  
بَوْلِبَاشِ أَهْرَبِيوزِ بَتُونَسٍ وَبِنَا هَذَا النَّاصِرُ الْمُعَلِّمُ عَطِيَّةَ النَّبِيِّ  
وَالْمُعَلِّمِ أَحْمَدَ النَّبِيِّ أَوْلَادِ الْمُعَلِّمِ إِبْرَاهِيمِ النَّبِيِّ غِبَرَ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ  
وَعَلَى يَدِ الْحَاجِّ سَعِيدِ بُوَعَصِيدِ غِبَرَ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ وَلِمَنْ تَسْبَبَ فِي هَذَا وَ  
لِوَالِدِيهِمْ كَانَ جِرَاحٌ بِنَاءِ عَامِ أَرْبَعِينَ وَالسَّ

## TRANSLATION

In the name of God, the lenient and merciful; that it spreads his blessings on our Lord Mohammed! This blessed tower was rebuilt by the care of the worthy Imam preacher Abou Mohammed Abdesselem Cherfi (whom God forgives! ) and of Redjeb, Boulouk Bachi Igharbouz (or Agharbouz) in Tunis. This tower was built by master el-Mounif Ibrahim, that God may pardon him, and also by the care of El-Hadj Saïd Bou Acida... that God shows them mercy, along with those that contributed to it and their parents. The construction was finished in the year one thousand and forty.

To note the words **هاذا** for **هذا**, for, **ناصر** for **ناصر**. The word **بولباش** appears to be put for **بولكباشي**. As for **اغرربوز**, *agharbouz*, it was impossible to me to find the significance of it. Would this be also a name or a Turkish title?

The year of the Hegira 1040 corresponds to 1630-31 of the Christian era. The inscription is thus 14 years prior to that which I communicated to you previously, and which appeared in our Review, year 1890, page 68. The sovereign of Tunis, at that time, was the dey Youssouf, who reigned 27 years, from 1610 to 1637 (1).

Please accept, etc.

Sfax, May 19, 1891.

N Luciani,

Legal interpreter