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Hospitality in Andalusia

Abstract

Hospitality is an integral part of the authentic Arab Islamic traditions since ancient times. Therefore, honoring guests is a noble moral virtue emphasized by the true Islamic religion, as God (Glory be to Him) commanded his noble Messenger (may God bless him and grant him peace). Therefore, hospitality in Andalusia was an expression of those noble values, which the Andalusian people adhered to in order to preserve those traditions, customs, norms, and actions that were transmitted through generations, as one of their primary characteristics. These traditions contributed to strengthening aspects of social life in Andalusia, producing two societies that were interconnected and interacted, in which Harmony, kindness, and love prevailed among all religions as elements of Andalusian society. Thus, hospitality became a moral duty among Andalusians, one of the noble qualities that distinguished them and they called for it . Thus, hospitality is a symbol of generosity, chivalry, and good nature, as well as avoiding stinginess and miserliness.

The importance of this study lies in shedding light on the most prominent hospitality traditions followed in Andalusia, and how these traditions played a significant role in facilitating interaction and peaceful coexistence among different religions, Muslims and non-Muslims, who lived side by side in peace in the shadow of a civilization multicultural civilizations , which made hospitality a distinct expression of the values of coexistence, tolerance, and love, as well as the strengthening of social ties among members of Andalusian society and their continuous interaction. It also shed light on the human values that were prevalent in Andalusian society, in terms of honoring and respecting the guest, treating him well, and providing him with the necessary protection. It also highlights the civilized sophistication that Andalusia established in terms of hospitality etiquette and guest reception rituals, befitting their status, especially foreign guests coming from other countries, as elegant gatherings were organized for them and various types of food were prepared for them, reflecting the culture of Andalusia towards guests.

This study aims to identify the general aspects of hospitality traditions followed in Andalusian society in terms of receiving guests in

various forms, and strengthening social relations, hospitality contributed to strengthening relations between all members of Andalusian society in general, and strong relations emerged between all religions and other Andalusian groups as a result of the exchange of visits between them and good neighbouring ,which leads to a vital interaction between these diverse cultures, and highlights the islamic culture, in Andalusian society, as emphasized by Islamic law, including honoring and respecting the guest, treating him well, knowing the places of hospitality where the guest is received, and determining the type of hospitality offered to the guest, including food and drinks, and knowing the tableware, in addition to the places and gifts and the way they are presented, whether on formal or informal occasions, each of which has its own customs and traditions associated with it. It also indicates the reasons for hospitality in Andalusia, and these reasons were many, including strengthening the bonds of kinship, fulfilling invitations for private and public occasions, whether religious or not, and offering condolences. In cases of incompetence, the space is limited to gaining political influence.

The reason for choosing the topic (Hospitality in Andalusia) as a study stems from my desire to shed light on an important aspect of the social aspects of Andalusian society, represented by the customs and traditions of hospitality followed in general, and the Andalusian individual's attitude towards his guest in particular. This type of topic has not been studied extensively before, so we wanted to fill this gap. In addition, modern studies have focused a lot on the political aspect as much as they have the social aspect.

As for the study methodology, we preferred to adopt the analytical approach because of the advantages this approach has in this study. We believe that the study is not limited to narrating texts. We discussed a number of ideas and opinions in order to reach conclusions, in addition to our reliance on the historical approach based on the chronology of events as they develop for each aspect of the topic .

The difficulty we faced while writing the thesis was represented by the nature of the topic, as the study covered a long period of time, and covered five stages or eras of Islamic rule in Andalusia, represented by the era of the emirate, the caliphate, and the sects , then the rule of the Almoravids and the Almohads, and finally the rule of the Banu al-Ahmar

in the Kingdom of Granada. This required an in-depth study of each era, and thus required great effort. There were some challenges we faced, such as the lack of texts, references, and studies specializing in hospitality traditions. There were two obstacles in front of us, as it took our time to search within the sources for information it helps us enrich the message, and requires our additional efforts in tracking and analyzing with high accuracy, to reach the best image that the message presents.

The study includes an introduction, a preface, three chapters, and a conclusion.

The preface includes: an introductory overview of hospitality, a comprehensive presentation of the traditions of hospitality in its literal and technical meanings, a presentation of hospitality in the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet, a statement of the etiquette of hospitality and the duties of the guest and host, and how hospitality was practiced from the Levant to Andalusia.

The first chapter deals with the traditions of hospitality in the political aspect. It is divided into four main points. The first section deals with hospitality during the allegiance ceremonies for all the rulers of Andalusia. The second section deals with hospitality during the exchange of embassies between Andalusia, the northern Spanish kingdoms, and the European kingdoms. The third section deals with hospitality during the reception of the princes of the Kingdom of Morocco. The reason for this hospitality was to provide obedience and loyalty to the rulers of Andalusia, as well as to strengthen political relations and alliances. The fourth section deals with hospitality for senior state officials within Andalusia.

The second chapter includes the traditions of hospitality from the social aspect, and it is divided into three main points. The first section includes holidays and religious occasions, which branch out into holidays such as Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Eid al-Adha, Eid al-Adha, the birth of the Prophet, Ramadan, and other holidays.

The second section includes ceremonies and celebrations such as weddings, the arrival of the baby ,excuses ,teething and other celebrations, including building and construction celebrations, as well as recreational celebrations. The third section includes social visits, which branch out into

two main branches: private visits, which are in turn divided into visits to relatives and family visits. The second section includes visits to the sick.

The third chapter deals with hospitality traditions from the cultural aspect. It is divided into four points. The first section includes the hospitality of scholars of Islamic jurisprudence, which branches into two points: scholars of jurisprudence and scholars of jurisprudence. The second section includes the hospitality of scholars of the Arabic language and its literature, which branches into four points: grammar, linguistics , writers, poets, sciences of music and singing. The third section deals with the hospitality of traveling scholars of geography and history, as the fourth section it includes hospitality of traveling scholars of Medical science and Astronomy .

Sources:

The study relied on many diverse sources, the most important of which are:

First: Historical sources:

General history books are among the important books that provided us with rich historical material for the subject of the thesis. No researcher specializing in history can do without them, such as:

1. Al-Muqtabas fi Akhbar bi Madd al-Dandalus) by Abu Marwan Hayyan ibn Khalaf ibn Husayn ibn Hayyan (d. 469 AH/1076 AD). This source is of great importance in Andalusian history, given the information it provides on political and social conditions. We benefited from it in the first chapter on hospitality during the exchange of embassies between Andalusia, the northern Spanish kingdoms, and the European kingdoms, as well as on hospitality during the reception of princes of all kingdoms.

2.(Morocco under the protection of Morocco) by Abu al-Hasan Umayy ibn Musa ibn Sa'id al-Maghribi (d. 685 AH / 1286 AD). It is one of the important Andalusian sources that contains biographies of some Andalusian political and scientific figures. It also contains important

historical texts from which we benefited greatly in the third chapter, in the hospitality of scholars of the Arabic language and literature, poets and men of letters, as well as in the hospitality of scholars of medicine and astronomy.

3. (Al-Bayan al-Maghrib fi Akhbar al-Andalus wa al-Maghrib) by Abu `Abdullah Muhammad ibn Muhammad ibn `Adhari (lived 712 AH / 1312 AD). This book is of great importance in narrating the political conditions of Andalusia. It includes five parts. We relied heavily on important information about hospitality, from which we benefited greatly in The most important chapter in hospitality during the exchange of embassies between Andalusia, the northern Spanish kingdoms, and the European kingdoms, as well as in hospitality during the reception of princes such as the Kingdom of Morocco, as the second chapter deals with ceremonies and celebrations, including weddings. The third chapter deals with the hospitality of scholars of the Arabic language and literature.

4. Al-Ibar wa Diwan al-Mubtada wa al-Khabar fi Tarikh al-Arab wa al-Barbar wa Man `Asarahum min Dhat al-Shan al-Kabir (The Lessons and the History of the Arabs and Berbers and Their Contemporaries of Greater Objectivity). By Abu Zayd `Abd al-Rahman ibn Muhammad ibn Muhammad ibn Khamadun (d. 808 AH/1406 AD) ,it is a historical collection that contains information of great and varied importance. It includes eight important works. We relied heavily on it because it contains comprehensive information about the political, social, and scientific conditions of Andalusia. We benefited from it in the first chapter on hospitality during the exchange of embassies between Andalusia and the northern Spanish kingdoms and the European kingdoms, as well as on hospitality during the reception of princes of the Kingdom of Morocco. In the second chapter, we discuss hospitality of scholars of Islamic law, and hospitality of scholars of the Arabic language and literature. Hospitality of medical and oral surgeons, a section on oral surgeons.

5. (The fragrant breeze from the moist branch of Andalusia and the mention of its minister, Lisan al-Din Ibn al-Khatib) by Shihab al-Din Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Yahya al-Maqri (d. 1041 AH /1631 AD) is an important and comprehensive source for all the historical events in Andalusia. It includes seven parts that contain the political, economic, social, scientific, and literary conditions of Andalusia. Although it is not sufficient to provide

a contemporary account of the events that Andalusia witnessed, his book is rich in a lot of historical information. Due to the importance of this book, we have quoted many texts from it in all the chapters and points, as his book contains precise and comprehensive detailed information. Therefore, no researcher in the history of Andalusian can ignore it.

Second: Books of biographies:

Books of biographies are among the important sources in the study of history, as they provide the researcher with comprehensive information from the texts of biographies of prominent figures. Among the most prominent of these sources that benefited the study:

1 (Qala'id al-'Uqyan fi Mahasin al-Ris'i' wa al-Qudat wa al-Kuttab wa al-Daba' wa al-'Ayyan) by Abu Danasir al-Fath ibn Muhammad ibn Abdullah ibn Khaqan (d.528 AH/1134 AD). This book contains many biographies of kings, notables, ministers, writers, and scholars, from which we were able to extract some of the topics related to our study, we benefited from the first chapter on the hospitality of senior state officials within Andalusia, the second chapter on ceremonies and celebrations, especially weddings, as well as social visits, including family visits, and the third chapter on the hospitality of Arabic language scholars and literary figures, the section on writers.

2. (Al-Dhakira fi Mahasin Ahl al-Jazira) by Abu al-Hasan Umayy ibn Bassam (542 AH/1147 AD). This book, with its eight parts, is an important historical collection, containing biographies by a large number of prominent scholars, jurists, physicians, narrators, poets, writers, and others. It also covers the works of many contemporary political figures. Through these biographies, we were able to obtain a great deal of information relevant to our study.

We benefited from it in the first chapter on hospitality during allegiance ceremonies, as well as hospitality during the reception of the princes of the Kingdom of Morocco, and hospitality for senior state officials within Andalusia. In the second chapter, we discuss ceremonies and celebrations, especially marriage ceremonies. Excuses, social visits, etc., the third chapter deals with hospitality of scholars of the Arabic language, literature, grammar, language, writers, poets, and singers, as well as Mexican, as well as hospitality of scholars of medicine and astronomy.

3 .(Al-Ihata fi Akhbar Ghardnata) by Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn Abdullah ibn

Sa'id ibn al-Khatib (d. 776 AH/1374 AD). This book comprises four parts, all of which we have relied on, due to the great importance of the author's contemporary accounts of historical events. He gave two complete descriptions of Andalusian society, biographies of Andalusian figures, and we benefited from the texts of those biographies in the first chapter on hospitality during the allegiance ceremonies, hospitality when receiving the princes of the Kingdom of Morocco, and hospitality for dignitaries. The state employees inside the Andalusian country. The second chapter deals with ceremonies and celebrations, especially the ceremonies of excuses. The third chapter deals with the hospitality of scholars of Islamic jurisprudence, as well as scholars of geographical and historical travel.

Third: Books on countries and travels:

Books on countries and travel are of great value because they contain information about places, sites, and Andalusian cities, including their names. No researcher in history can do without them, as any of these books:

1. (Al-Masalik wa al-Mamalik) by Abu Ubaid Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz bin Muhammad al-Bakri (d. 487 AH / 1094 AD) is one of the important geography books that provided us with some definitions of Andalusian cities. In addition to that, it contained valuable historical information, which we benefited from in the larger chapter on hospitality during the exchange of embassies between Andalusia, the northern Spanish kingdoms, and the European kingdoms, as well as on hospitality during the reception of princes like the Kingdom of Morocco.

2. (Mu'jam al-Buddan) by Shihab al-Din Abu Abdullah Yaqt bin Abdullah al-Hamawi (d. 626 AH / 1229 AD) is considered one of the most important geography books, containing valuable information, which provided us with some definitions and names of Andalusian cities. We also benefited from it in The first chapter deals with hospitality during the reception of the princes of the Kingdom

of Morocco, the hospitality of the senior officials of the state within the country of Andalusia, and the second chapter deals with social visits.

3. (Al-Rawd Al-Mu'tar fi Khair Al-Qatar) by Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn Abdullah ibn Abd Al-Madinah Al-Himyari (d. 900 AH/1495 AD). This source covers a vast and comprehensive geographical area that includes mention of most of the cities of Andalusia. Therefore, the treatise is very useful in defining Andalusian geographic regions, especially in the first chapter on hospitality during the exchange of embassies between Andalusia, the northern Spanish kingdoms, and the European kingdoms, as well as hospitality during the reception of the princes of the Kingdom of Morocco, and hospitality of the senior officials of the state. Within Andalusia, the third chapter is devoted to the hospitality of Arabic language scholars and their literature.

Fourth: Arabic References:

Despite the importance of using primary sources in our subject, Arabic references helped us greatly in our study with a number of important pieces of information, in addition to the opinions and conclusions provided by researchers in their analysis of some of the narratives and their benefits. These references had a clear impact in enriching our study, so we used many of them, the most important of which are:

1.(The Islamic State in Andalusia) by Muhammad Abdullah Adnan, which is considered a comprehensive collection of the history of Andalusia. This reference provided us with very valuable information regarding the political aspect.

As a social and scientific text, it is distinguished by its precise analysis and deep condensation of all historical events. It enriched our study with all the information, and we benefited from it in all the chapters of the thesis.

2."Andalusian Society in the Medieval Era" by Hussein Youssef Duwaidar. This is a valuable reference that discusses various aspects of the era of the emirate and the caliphate, especially with regard to the political and scientific aspects in general and the social aspects in particular. It was a good guide for us in the second and third chapters.

3. "Cordoba, the Capital of the Caliphate in Andalusia" by Abdul Aziz Salem. This reference deals with various aspects, especially with regard to

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