

Investigating the Light Concepts in the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque Based on the Theoretical Foundations of the Ishraq Wisdom

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Abstract

From the perspective of Islam the artwork is important that includes valuable concepts. Therefore, Islamic art has always focused on the reality. Due to this, artists used to pay much attention to wisdom and mysticism during various periods of Islamic art and architecture. "Light" is the most prominent element of Ishraq wisdom which has attracted the attention of many artists because of mentioning to the Iranian origins of eternal wisdom, coincidentally with Islam. Considering the fundamental role of light in architectural design and its effect on the atmosphere and inducing various sensual meanings, the article attempts to interpret the existence of the Ishraqi light in the architecture of the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque. Theoretical foundations of the Ishraq Wisdom have been based on library studies and the analysis of its existence in Sheikh Lotfollah has been performed by descriptive-analytical method. Finally, the leading research proves that the "Light of Ishraq" has been manifested in the body of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque by incorporating true meanings consistent with the wisdom appropriate to a holy place.

Key words: Ishraq wisdom, sacred architecture, light manifestation, mystical architecture, Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque

1. Introduction

The relationship between wisdom and art has always been emphasized and endorsed by Islam, and it is valuable in terms of artistic creation presents the facts and realities [1]. So, if the artist, as the creator of the artwork, be aware of spiritual concepts and values, can create valuable artworks from the perspective of Islam, which requires revelation which is one of the main bases of Islamic wisdom and mysticism. Revelation causes the sage (wise artist) to perform intuition on spiritual journeys, which occurs in higher realms and excels over the material world and is not available to the general public [2]. Therefore, the artist solicits in a intelligible and comprehensible language to the public in this world,