



The stone engraving at OuedAmlil

The commune of OuedAmlil is located in the western part of the province of Taza, it has a population of 90,830 inhabitants (2004). This commune includes six urban communes: Bouhlou, Bouchfaa, West Ghiata, OuledZbair, BeniFrassen, Rbaa El Fouki and OuedAmlil in the center with a population of 10,405 inhabitants (2014). We can not mention the name of OuedAmlil without mentioning its restaurants and cafes particular, this region is famous for its grill, it is a mandatory stop for all travelers by the national road No. 6 or even by the highway Moreover, these cafes downtown swarm lovers of grilling for hours. We can not neglect the weekly souk which knows a great affluence every Tuesday, it is the crossroads of all the neighboring tribes and even distant, it plays a preponderant role in the economic prosperity of the region .

The commune of OuedAmlil is distinguished by its agricultural and forestry character, the majority of the inhabitants exercise this activity, which is their main source of income. This does not preclude the existence of other important activities which are, in the same way, a source of income for many inhabitants of the region; the craft sector is probably one of the areas that employs a considerable amount of work. Among the most important trades in this commune, one finds the articles in doum with the commune of BeniFrassen and the engraving on stone with the commune of West Ghiata and with the municipality of OuedAmlil.

The visitor of OuedAmlil will necessarily notice the figures of fountains and traditional mills of olives or cereals that are sold in some cafes, restaurants or on the pavement of the road. These beautiful decorations illustrate the artisan's skill in sculpting and transforming hard stones into sublime and creative pieces of art.

In the absence of official statistics, the number of craftsmen working in stone engraving in the municipality of OuedAmlil exceeds 1,000 people, the majority is gathered in the largest agglomeration of the municipality of West Ghiata named " KantratAarab ". In addition to being an agricultural region and sheltering picturesque landscapes, it abounds with the most important stone quarries of different types and colors such as blue and white stones. The production process goes through several stages:



* Extraction of quarry stones in large pieces weighing between 20 and 30 tons called "Bloca" or in smaller pieces called "Janta" (60 cm long, 20 cm wide and 8 cm high) ;

* Cutting stones with an industrial saw - manual operation;

* Sculpture and engraving by skilled craftsmen.

The craftsmen who work in stone engraving are divided into three categories:

1. Specialists in quarry stone quarrying.

2. Specialists in the cutting and engraving of stones according to the customer's wishes.

3. Specialists in laying stones and ornament buildings.

Uses of stones:

The demand for stone products has become very important especially in the construction and paving work, because these products are characterized by their ability to resist erosion without forgetting the aesthetics they confer on buildings. Especially as the demand for decorations made of stone is gradually increasing. The following are the most important uses of stone:

- The decoration of the facades of houses, which knows a growing demand.
- Paving streets and avenues and ornament public spaces with special geometric sculptures.
- The manufacture of traditional olive mills.
- The art of decoration with sculptures of fountain figurines and mills of olives or traditional cereals and many others.

The marketing of stones:

The marketing of the OuedAmlil stone takes place on demand or individually through artisans or large companies on behalf of national and foreign real estate developers, while the export takes place through large traders towards European countries including Spain and Italy.