

Spring 2020 Arts of Asia Lecture Series  
Visions of the Afterlife in Asia  
*Sponsored by the Society for Asian Art*

**Afterlives and Afterworlds in the Islamic Garden**

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**Part I: Eschatological Promise**

Islam

Muhammad (ca. 570-632 C.E.)

Qur'an

*Sira Rasul Allah*

The Garden (al-janna) - other terms include al-samawat (the heavens), al-akhira (the hereafter), al-firdaws (paradise)

The Fire (al-nar) - other terms include jahannam (hell), hawiya (abyss), jahim (hell-fire), sa'ir (fire), laza (flame), saqar (blaze), hutama (furnace)

barzakh

Sirat

Battle of Uhud (625 C.E.)

Night-Journey and Ascension (isra' wa-l-mir'aj)

Gabriel

Buraq

**Part II: Transformed Worlds**

Human Bodies

Landscape

trees (sidrat al-muntaha vs. al-zaqqum)

fountains (kawthar and salsabil)

perfumes

precious metals and gems

animals

tortures

Companions

families

ghilman or wildan

houris

food and drink

textiles

demons

### **Part III: Legacies of the Garden**

Truth vs. Deception

Umayyad Mosque of Damascus - 8<sup>th</sup> century

al-Qazwini (d. 1283 C.E.), *Kitab 'aja'ib al-makhlūqat wa ghara'ib al-mawjudat*

Mir Haydar, *Mir'aj-name* Supplément turc 190 (composed 1436/7 C.E.)

Nizami (d. 1197 C.E.), *Haft Paykar*

al-Hamra or Alhambra of Granada - 9<sup>th</sup> century

Hasht Behesht of Isfahan - 17<sup>th</sup> century

### **Suggested Readings:**

al-Azmeh, Aziz. "Rhetoric of the Senses: A Consideration of Muslim Paradise Narratives." *Journal of Arabic Literature* 26 (1995): 215–231.

Blair, Shelia, and Jonathan Bloom, eds. *Images of Paradise in Islamic Art*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1991.

Haleem, Muhammad. "Qur'anic Paradise: How to Get to Paradise and What to Expect There." In *Roads to Paradise: Eschatology and Concepts of the Hereafter in Islam*. Vol. 1, *Foundations and Formation of a Tradition*. Edited by Sebastian Günther and Todd Lawson, 49–66. Leiden, The Netherlands and Boston: Brill, 2017.

Khalil, Mohammed. *Islam and the Fate of Others: The Salvation Question*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Lange, Christian. *Paradise and Hell in Islamic Traditions*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

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Smith, Jane Idelman, and Yvonne Haddad. *Islamic Understanding of Death and Resurrection*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1981.