

Spring 2021 Arts of Asia Lecture Series  
The Power of Images in Asian Art: Making the Invisible Visible  
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## **Images of Afterlives and Afterworlds in the Islamic Garden**

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### **Part I - An Earthly World**

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 - Ineffable Afterworlds**

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 - Images of the Garden**

Truth vs. Deception

Umayyad Mosque of Damascus

al-Qazwini (d. 1283 C.E.), *Kitab 'aja'ib al-makhluqat 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  
Hasht Behesht of Isfahan

### **Suggested Readings**

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

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