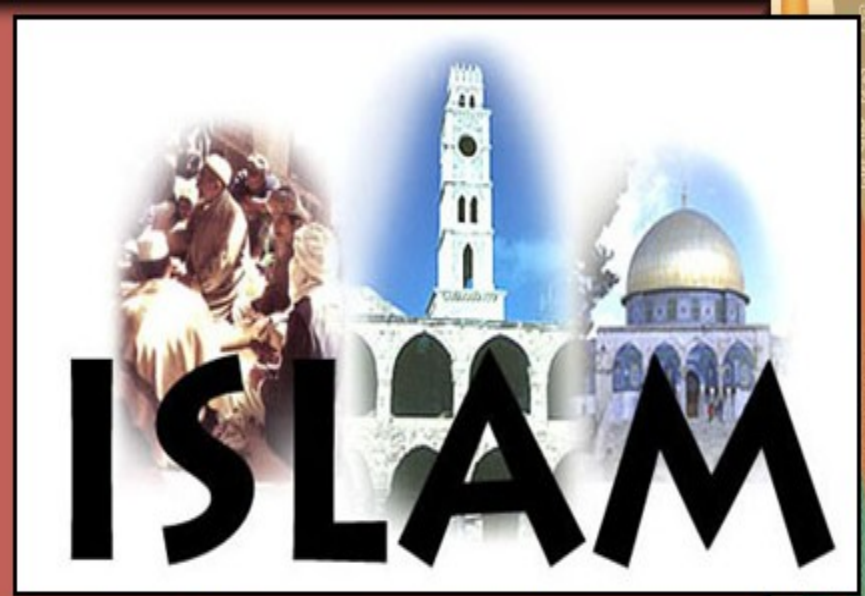


Islamic Culture and Art



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Major Religions of the World (mid-2003 est.)

<u>Christian</u>	<u>2,069,883,000</u>
<u>Roman Catholics</u>	<u>1,092,853,000</u>
<u>Protestants</u>	<u>364,530,000</u>
<u>Orthodox</u>	<u>217,030,000</u>
<u>Anglicans</u>	<u>79,988,000</u>
<u>Independents</u>	<u>406,074,000</u>
<u>Muslims</u>	<u>1,254,222,000</u>
<u>Hindus</u>	<u>837,262,000</u>
<u>Chinese Universists</u>	<u>398,106,000</u>
<u>Buddhists</u>	<u>372,974,000</u>
<u>Sikhs</u>	<u>24,295,200</u>
<u>Jews</u>	<u>14,551,000</u>

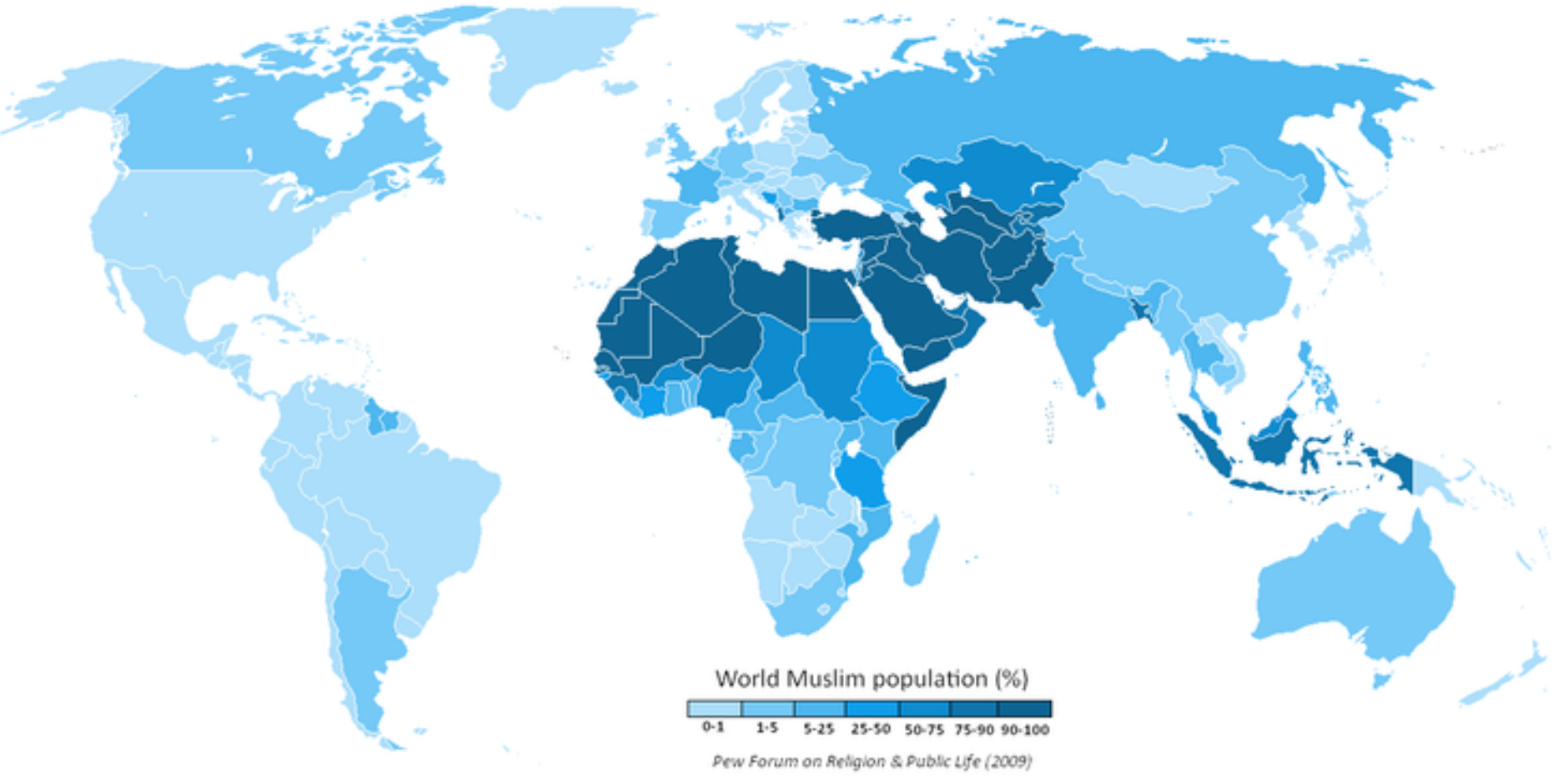
Source: Encyclopædia Britannica Book of the Year 2004.

Muslim Population

(mid-2003 est.)

☞ India/Pakistan/Bangladesh	250-300 Million
☞ Africa	200 Million
☞ Arab countries	180 Million
☞ Southeast Asia	170 Million
☞ Iran	50 Million
☞ Central Asia	50 Million
☞ China	50 Million
☞ Europe	20 Million
☞ North America	6 Million
☞ South America	3 Million
☞ Australia	1 Million
☞ Worldwide	over 1 Billion

World Muslim Population: 2009



Islamic Values

- ☞ Monotheism and commitment to one God
- ☞ Education and Literacy
- ☞ Modesty and Chastity
- ☞ Honesty, Trustworthiness, Humility
- ☞ Family as a basic unit of society
- ☞ Consultation and Consensus
- ☞ Purity of intent and action

Basic Tenets of Islamic Faith

- ☞ Muslims believe in *One Unique, Incomparable God*; in the *Angels* created by Him; in the *prophets* through whom His *revelations* were brought to mankind; in the *Day of Judgement* and individual accountability for actions; in God's complete authority over human *destiny* and in life after death.
- ☞ God's final message to man was revealed to the *Prophet Muhammad* through Gabriel.
- ☞ *Islam* means '*submission*', and derives from a word meaning '*peace*'. In a religious context it means complete submission to the will of God.
- ☞ *Allah* is the Arabic name for God.
- ☞ Muslims believe that the present life is only a trial for the next realm of existence. Basic articles of faith include: the *Day of Judgement, resurrection, Heaven and Hell*.

Other Sacred Texts

- œ The *Sunnah*, the practice and example of the Prophet, is the second authority for Muslims. Belief in the Sunnah is part of the Islamic faith.
- œ A *Hadith* is a reliably transmitted report of what the Prophet said, did, or approved.

Revealed Prophets

☞ Adam

☞ Noah

☞ Abraham

☞ Isaac

☞ Ishmael

☞ Moses

☞ David

☞ Solomon

☞ Zacharias

☞ Elisha

☞ Elias

☞ John the Baptist

☞ Jesus

☞ Mohammed

Mohammed

570-632 ad

- ☞ 570: born in Mecca after the death of his father
- ☞ Orphaned at 8, he came under the care of the clan chief
- ☞ ca. 595: Married Kadijah, a wealthy widow and his business partner, who bore him 6 children
- ☞ ca. 610: A contemplative, he received a vision from the angel Gabriel, telling him “You are the Messenger of God”
- ☞ Revelations continued throughout his life, recorded as the **SURAS** of the Qu’ran
- ☞ ca. 613: began to preach to friends and followers
- ☞ Opposition in Mecca from powerful mercantile class

Hegira: Emigration

- ☞ **622:** Fear of persecution from Meccans led Muhammed and his followers to emigrate to Medina -- the beginning of Islamic history and the Islamic calendar
- ☞ Break with Jewish tradition -- prayers oriented toward Mecca rather than Jerusalem
- ☞ **627:** Muslims defeated Meccan attack on Medina
- ☞ **630:** Triumphant entry into Mecca with most citizens converting to Islam
- ☞ Alliances with nomadic Arabian tribes strengthened by Christian defeat of Persians in **627-628.**
- ☞ **632:** Died in Medina with no designated heir

The 'Five Pillars' of Islam

- ∞ Faith or belief in the Oneness of God and the finality of the prophethood of Muhammad
- ∞ Establishment of the daily prayers
- ∞ Concern for and almsgiving to the needy
- ∞ Self-purification through fasting
- ∞ The pilgrimage to Mecca for those who are able

*Iman or
Faith*



"There is none worthy of worship except God and Muhammad is the messenger of God."

This declaration of faith is called the *shahadah*, a formula that all the faithful pronounce.

Salah or Prayer

- ☞ Worship 5 times a day
 - ☞ pre-dawn
 - ☞ noon
 - ☞ mid-afternoon
 - ☞ after sunset
 - ☞ night
- ☞ Qibla (Facing Mecca)
- ☞ Adhan (Call to prayers)



Zakat or Charity

- ☞ All things belong to God and that wealth is therefore held by human beings in trust.
- ☞ The word *zakat* means both 'purification' and 'growth'.
- ☞ Muslims calculate their own zakat. For most purposes this involves the payment each year of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of one's capital.
- ☞ The Prophet said *'even meeting your brother with a cheerful face is charity'*.

Sawm or Fasting

- ☞ Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan
- ☞ Cannot eat from sunrise to sunset
- ☞ Muslims believe that fasting helps them to:
 - ☞ build will-power
 - ☞ feel compassion
 - ☞ purify body
 - ☞ strengthen their community relations

Hajj or Pilgrimage



☞ The annual pilgrimage to Mecca-*the Hajj*-is an obligation only for those who are physically and financially able to perform it.

☞ About two million people go to Mecca providing an opportunity for those of different nations to meet one another.

☞ Pilgrims wear special clothes: simple garments which strip away distinctions of class and culture, so that all stand equal before God.

The *Kaabah*

The place of worship which God commanded Abraham and Ishmael to build over four thousand years ago. The building was constructed of stone and is believed to be the original site of a sanctuary established by Adam. God ordered Abraham to summon all mankind to visit this place.



Shari'ah: Islamic Law

- ☞ Systematized during first two centuries of Islam (8th-9th c.)
- ☞ Regulates man's relationships both with neighbors and the state and with God and his own conscience
- ☞ Includes both ritual practices and ethical standards
- ☞ Considered the expression of divine will, thus has become rigid and static, posing fundamental problems for social advancement in contemporary Islam

The Spread of Islam

- œ The simplicity of its doctrine - *Islam calls for faith in only one God worthy of worship.*
- œ Emphasis on education. Within a few years, great civilizations and universities were flourishing, for according to the Prophet, *"seeking knowledge is an obligation for every Muslim."*
- œ Clear code of conduct: Shari'ah

Islamic Learning

- œ The synthesis of Eastern and Western ideas and of new thought with old, brought about great advances in medicine, mathematics, physics, astronomy, geography, architecture, art, literature, and history.
- œ Many systems such as algebra, the Arabic numerals, and also the concept of the zero vital to the advancement of mathematics, were transmitted to medieval Europe from Islam.
- œ Sophisticated instruments which were to make possible the European voyages of discovery were developed, including the astrolabe, the quadrant and good navigational maps.

Islamic Influences

➤ Astronomy

- discovered stars: Algol, Deneb, Betelgeuse, Rigel, Aldebaran
- compiled astronomical tables and almanacs
- established observatories
- translated Ptolemy's *Almagest*

➤ Mathematics

- Arabic numerals
- Zero
- Algebra, algorithm

➤ Inventions

- quadrant and astrolabe

➤ Medicine

- first hospital – Baghdad 706
- A&P: surgery
- emphasized empirical observation
- hygiene and pharmacology

➤ Universities

- Al-Zaytunah, Tunis – 732
- Al-Azhar, Cairo – 988
- Muslim Spain: Granada, Seville, and Cordoba, – 9th c.

➤ Literature

➤ Religious Toleration

Medieval Islamic Scientists

Al-Khawarizmi (Algorizm)
mathematician/
astronomer
770-840

Jaber Ibn Haiyan (Geber)
alchemist/metallurgist
died 803

Ibn Sina (Avicenna)
physician/philosopher
981-1037

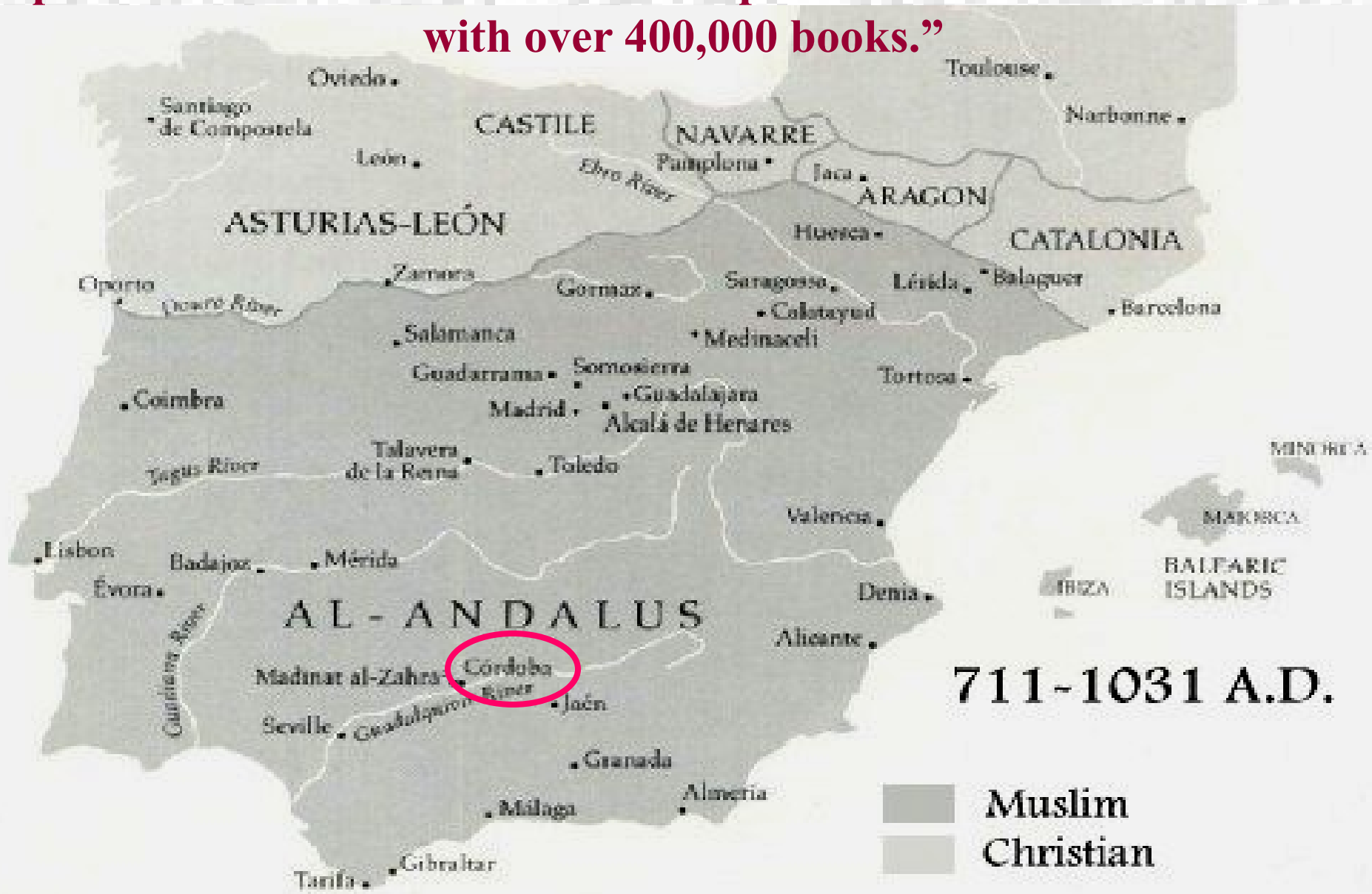
Ar-Razi (Rhazes)
physician/ philosopher
864-930

**Abu Al-Qasim Al-Zahravi
(Albucasis)**
surgeon/author
936-1013

Ibn Rushd (Averroes)
physician/philosopher
1128-1198

Ibn al-Nafis
medical researcher (first
discovered the circulatory
system) , novelist (first
science fiction novel)
c. 1210-1288

By 1100 “There existed in Cordoba alone, 200,000 houses, 600 mosques, 900 public baths, 10,000 lamps, 50 hospitals, lighted and paved streets. There were bookshops and more than 70 libraries with over 400,000 books.”



Islamic Toleration

- ☞ The Qur'an says: *God forbids you not, with regards to those who fight you not for (your) faith nor drive you out of your homes, from dealing kindly and justly with them; for God loveth those who are just. (Qur'an, 60:8)*
- ☞ It is one function of Islamic law to protect the privileged status of minorities, and this is why non-Muslim places of worship have flourished all over the Islamic world.
- ☞ History provides many examples of Muslim tolerance towards other faiths. Islamic law also permits non-Muslim minorities to set up their own courts, which implement family laws drawn up by the minorities themselves.

Islamic Toleration

- ∞ Freedom of conscience is laid down by the Qur'an itself: *'There is no compulsion in religion'*. (2:256)
- ∞ The life and property of all citizens in an Islamic state are considered sacred whether a person is Muslim or not. Racism is incomprehensible to Muslims, for the Qur'an speaks of human equality.

Branches of Islam

☞ **Sunni:**

- ☞ Mainstream and Traditionalist
- ☞ Recognize first 4 caliphs as Mohammed's successors
- ☞ Believe the theocratic state built by Muhammad to be an earthly, temporal dominion and . the leadership of Islam as being determined not by divine order or inspiration but by the prevailing political realities of the Muslim world
- ☞ Emphasis on consensus of community
- ☞ The Wahhabis of Saudi Arabia are *Sunnis* and are considered strict in their enforcement of rules regarding dress and abstinence from liquor

Branches of Islam

☞ Shi'a:

- ☞ Began as political faction supporting the power of Ali, who was a son-in-law of Muhammad and the fourth caliph of the Muslim community.
- ☞ Gradually developed a religious movement that asserted the legitimate authority of Ali's lineal descendants, the Alids.
- ☞ In the late 20th century, notably in Iran, the Shi'ites became the chief voice of militant Islamic fundamentalism.

Branches of Islam

☞ Sufiism:

- ☞ Mystic belief and practice in which Muslims seek to find divine love and knowledge through direct personal experience of God
- ☞ Asserted a way (*tariqah*, "path") and a goal (*haqiqah*, "reality") alternative to those of the Shari'ah, or traditional law
- ☞ The flowering of Sufi literature, especially mystical love poetry, represents a golden age among the Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Urdu languages. And it was
- ☞ Sufi missionaries spread Islam into India, Central Asia, Turkey, and sub-Saharan Africa.



Islamic Art

❧ Calligraphy

❧ Rugs

❧ Literature

❧ Music

❧ Miniatures

❧ Architecture



Arabesque and Geometrical Design

- ☞ **Arabesque:** a style of decoration characterized by intertwining plants and abstract curvilinear motifs. As adapted by Muslim artisans about AD 1000, it became highly formalized; for religious reasons, no birds, beasts, or human figures were included. The arabesque became an essential part of the decorative tradition of Islamic cultures.
- ☞ **Geometric Designs:** Intricate patterns emphasizing symmetry and repeated rhythms

Calligraphy

- ☞ While many religions have made use of figural images to convey their core convictions, Islam has instead used the shapes and sizes of words or letters.
- ☞ Because Islamic leaders saw in figural arts a possible implication of idolatry, Islam's early theocracy looked to the artistry of calligraphy for religious expression.
- ☞ In Islamic and Arabic cultures, calligraphy became highly respected as an art -- the art of writing.

Literature: Poetry

œ Arabic and Persian poetry

œ *qasidah*: formalized ode: visit to abandoned encampment, journey to find one's love, eulogy to neighbor or tribe

œ **historical narrative**: Firdawsi's *Shahnamah*

œ *rubai*: lyrical quatrains

œ *ghazal*: short Arabic love lyric of 5-15 couplets

œ Arabic Andalusian poetry: Islamic Spain

œ *muwashshah*: mixes Arabic and Spanish idioms

œ lyric simplicity, dense metaphors, love of nature

œ courtship poetry: highly influential on development of Western Courtly Love poetry

œ *Poemas Arabigoandaluces*

Literature: Prose

A Thousand and One Nights

- ∞ Linked stories with frame tale
- ∞ Origins in Indian, Persian, and Arabic tales
- ∞ Blending of the marvelous with common, everyday experience
- ∞ Emphasizes the healing power of storytelling
- ∞ Collections of Eastern stories influenced the development of the novella and the short tale in Western European literature

Oriental Carpets

- œ The name 'Oriental carpets' usually refers to all hand-knotted carpets
- œ The variety of the producing areas and techniques, styles, and materials used necessitate a detailed classification.
- œ As a rule, Oriental carpets are divided into four main groups:
 - œCaucasian;
 - œCentral Asia or Turkestan;
 - œPersian; and
 - œTurkish or Anatolian.
- œ In the second half of the 20th century an important production of the hand-knotted rugs has developed rapidly in Europe, North Africa, and the United States of America.

Miniatures: Persia

- ∞ The Moslem sages and Sufis interpreted the symbols, myths and legends of ancient Persia in the light of Islamic mysticism.
- ∞ The development and use of images in religious buildings was mostly due to Persian nationalism, the mystical approach of the artists and interpretation of the image by Sufis.
- ∞ Unlike Moslem jurists (*fuqaha*), Sufis were not against the image, but rather they gave it a spiritual and mystical significance. They believe that the beautiful forms and images we see in this world have spirit and Divine quality.
- ∞ Mongol invasion of 13th c. brought Chinese influences into Persian painting

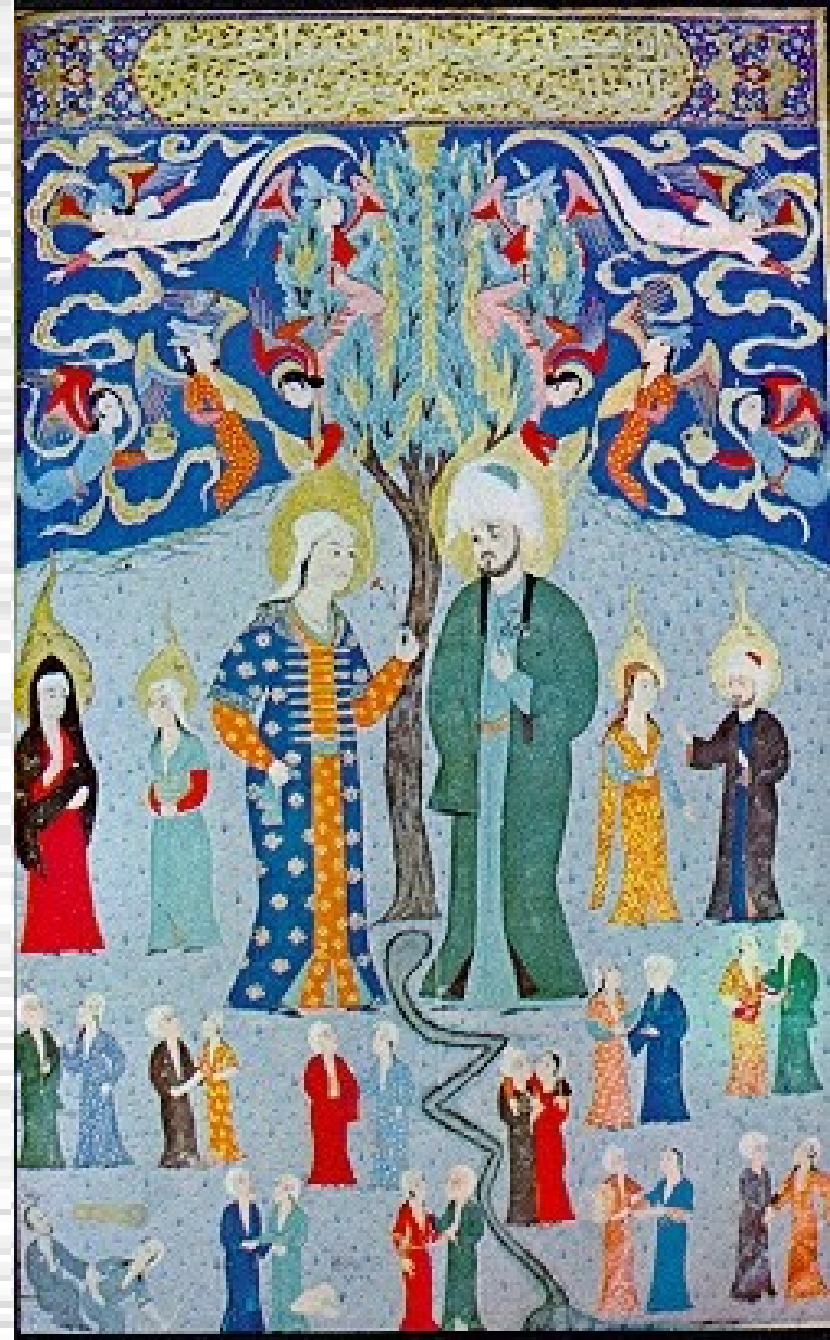


Miniature from a manuscript of the *Shah Nameh* of Ferdowsi. Persian (Tabriz), about 1340

Miniatures: Ottoman Empire

∞ *Zubdat-al
Tawarikh*: a
16th c. history
of the world
by Seyyid
Loqman
Ashuri

∞ MS
illuminations



Adam and Eve with their children

Miniatures; Moghul Empire in India



- ∞ The *Moghul* Emperors brought with them Persian artists to India.
- ∞ The events in the lives of the Emperors, hunting scenes, fighting scenes between animals, hills and trees are illustrated in *Moghul* paintings.

The Portrait of a Prince, 17th c.

Architecture

- œ Mosque, Madrasah, Palace, Fort, House
- œ No evidence that early Muslim artists ever thought of their work as Islamic.
- œ No dominant style or influence that defines Islamic art.
- œ Definite regional variations.
- œ The most striking feature is the focus on *interior space as opposed to the outside or façade*: architecture that must be experienced by being entered and seen from within..
- œ Enclosed space, defined by walls, arcades and vaults, is the most important element. With the exception of the dome and the entrance portal, decoration in Islamic architecture is reserved for the interior.
- œ Feeling of weightlessness -- metaphysical space -- enhanced by the presence of water: fountains, pools, etc -- a Paradise on earth

The Blue Mosque

Istanbul, Turkey



The Taj Mahal

Agra, India



Important Holidays

Al-adhaa (the sacrifice)

- Symbolizes Abraham attempt to sacrifice his son Ishmael by God
- Should sacrifice an animal and give the food to the poor.
- The pilgrimage to Mecca

Alfetr

- Observed at the end of the holy month of Ramadan (the fasting m

The Islamic New Year

- Yr 1, Islamic calendar = 622 A.D.

Alisraa Walmaaraj

- Symbolizes the ascending, in Jerusalem, of Mohammed's soul to 1

The Birthday of Muhammad

Ashuraa day (Shiha only)

How Terrorists Hijacked Islam

Charismatic leaders, misreading religious texts, find arguments to justify holy war against anyone or any country believed to be promoting an "anti-Islam agenda." And socioeconomic conditions have made a large pool of young men susceptible to the argument that they can best serve Allah by donating their lives to the cause.... Fighting such extremism requires understanding that this is a war not between Islam and the West, but between certitude and open-mindedness, dogma and thought, prejudice and tolerance."



- ☞ **MUSLIM WOMEN:** According to the *Quran*, men and women are equal before God. Today, Muslims offer these practices as evidence of equality:
- ☞ Islam sees a woman, whether single or married, as an individual in her own right, with the right to own and dispose of her property and earnings.
 - ☞ A marital gift is given by the groom to the bride for her own personal use, and she may keep her own family name rather than adopting her husband's.
 - ☞ Roles of men and women are complementary and collaborative.
 - ☞ Rights and responsibilities of both sexes are equitable and balanced in their totality.



✧ **CLOTHING:** Muslims say that both men and women are expected to dress in a way that is simple, modest and dignified, but that specific traditions of female dress found in some Muslim countries are often the expression of local customs rather than religious principle. Likewise, they admit that treatment of women in some areas of the Muslim world sometimes reflects cultural practices which may be inconsistent, if not contrary, to authentic Islamic teachings.





Islamic Culture and Art

web links

- ⌘ <http://Islaam.com>
- ⌘ [The Different Aspects of Islamic Culture:](#)
encyclopedic project by Unesco
- ⌘ The [Ottomans.org](#)
- ⌘ [Sufiism – Sufis --Sufi orders](#)
- ⌘ [Islamic art](#) and [Miniature Painting](#)