

Arts of Islam

Middle East and North Africa

about 10th – 16th centuries

Gentile and Giovanni Bellini, *Saint Mark Preaching in Alexandria*, 1504-07, captures Europe's fascination with the East







The Spread of Islam

Sunni and Shi'a distribution



Key Ideas: Islamic Art and Culture

- European trade with Islamic cultures was widespread and desirable
- Objects made for religious practices and settings as well as secular purposes (public vs. private viewing)
- Objects made by and for Islamic peoples of many cultures; incorporates diverse traditions
- God is unique and cannot be represented in figural form; humans and animals can only be created by God
- No saints and little or no narrative in the Qur'an to depict with images
- Representation ensnares the mind; abstraction allows a contemplative state where the spirit can roam



Jerusalem, *Dome of the Rock*,
begun 692





Córdoba, Spain, *Great Mosque*,
begun 785-86

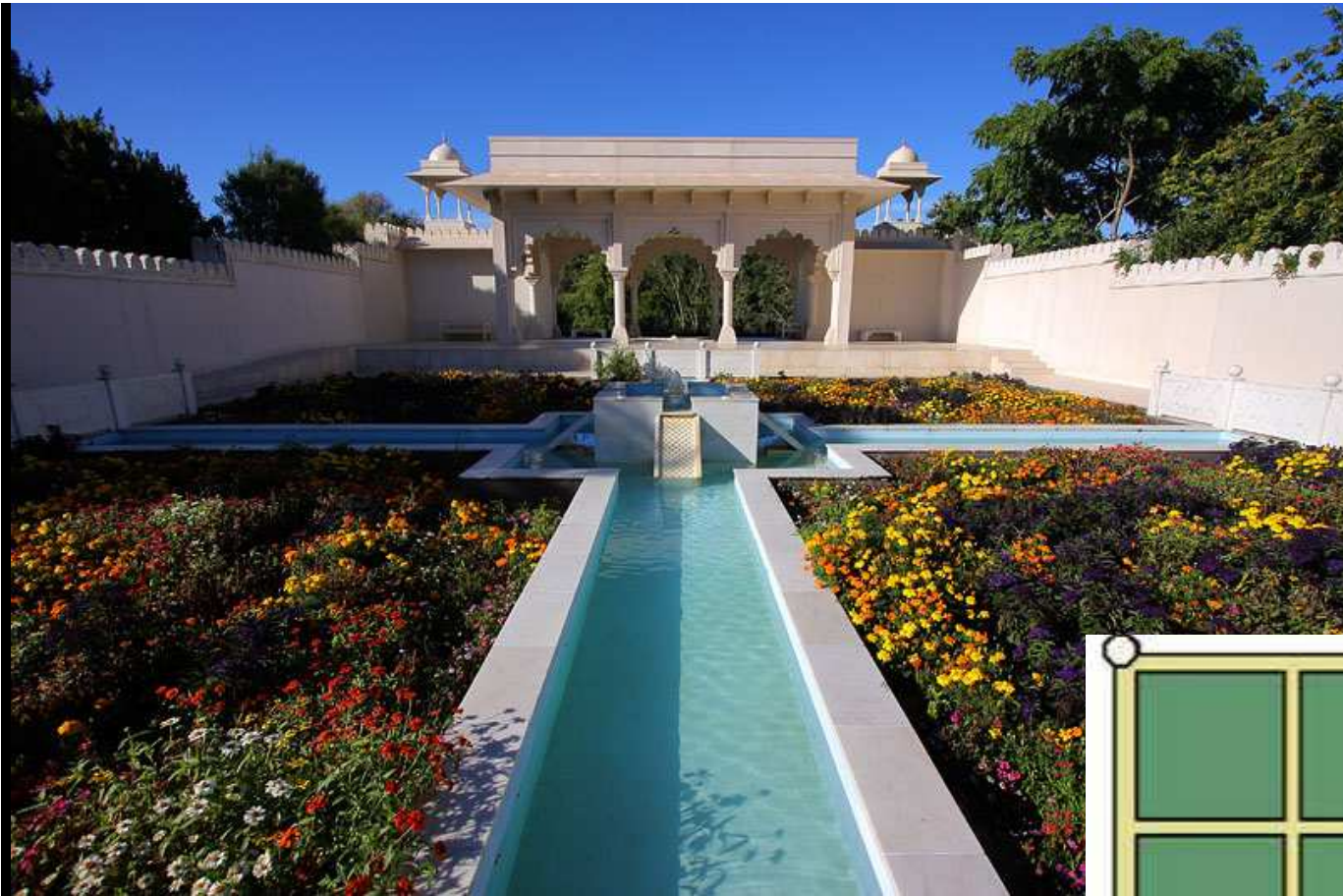


Córdoba, Spain, *Great Mosque*, dome, 965

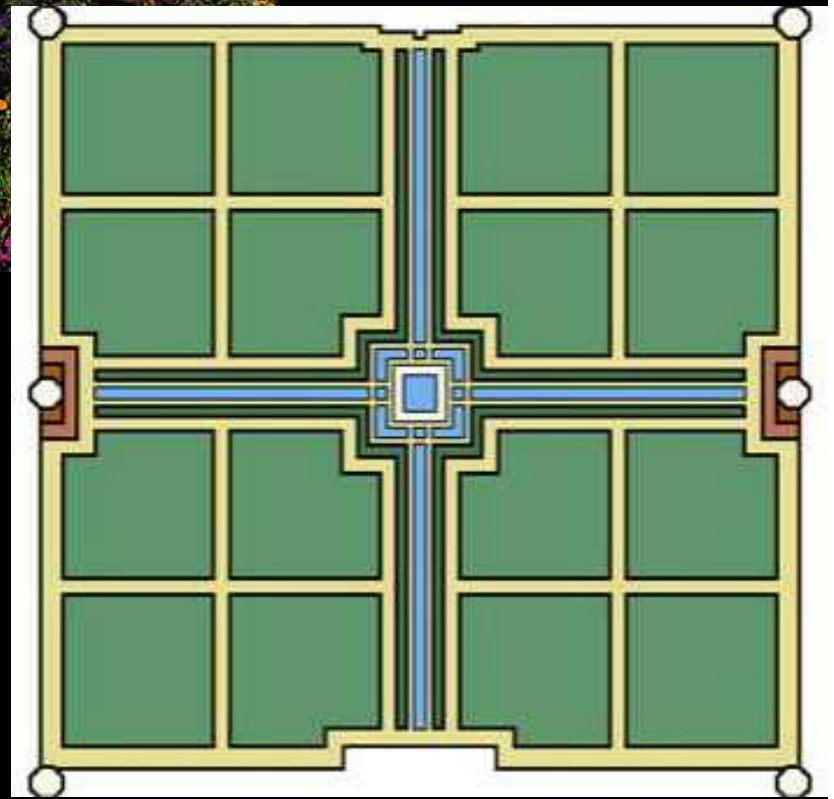


Granada, Spain, *Alhambra*, 14th c.





chahar-bagh



Granada, Spain, *Alhambra*, Court of the Lions, 14th c.



Hispano-Moorish, *Lion
Statuette*, 11th-12th c., gold,
72.12

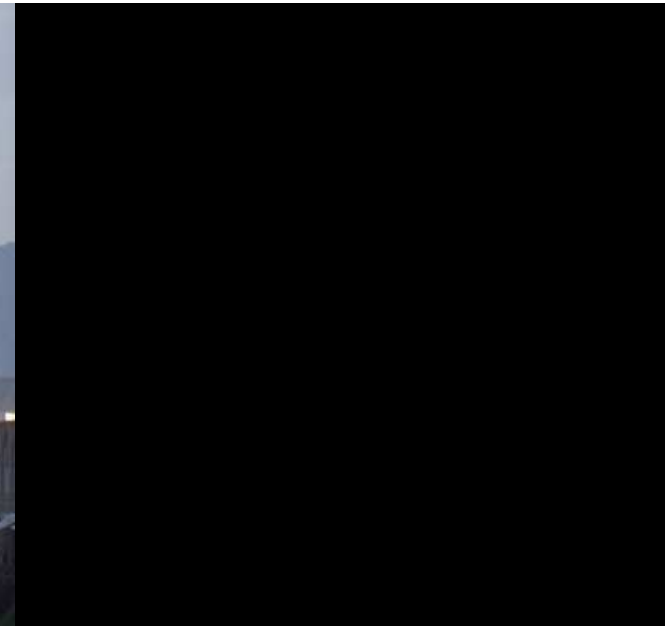


Germany, *Rider Aquamanile*,
15th c., bronze, 56.40



Muslim expansion 7th-15th centuries





Isfahan, Persia (Iran),
Great Mosque, 11th-18th c.



Isfahan, Persia (Iran),
Great Mosque, 11th-18th c.



muqarnas





Isfahan, Persia (Iran), *Mihrab*
from Madrasa Imami, c. 1354



Cairo, Egypt, *Sultan Hasan Mosque*,
qibla wall and minbar, 1365-63



Gérôme, *Young Greeks in the Mosque*, 1865, 62.85



China, Song Dynasty,
Small bowl, porcelain with
incised décor under light
blue glaze, 98.212.1



China, Song Dynasty,
Dish, porcelaneous
stoneware with moulded
décor under clear glaze,
99.66.6



Persia, Seljuk period,
Bowl, 11th-12th c.,
50.46.445



Persia, Seljuk period, *Ewer*,
12th c., 50.46.429



Persia, Kashan, *Bowl*, 13th c.,
50.46.431





Persia, Kashan, *Ewer*, before 1220, 50.46.437



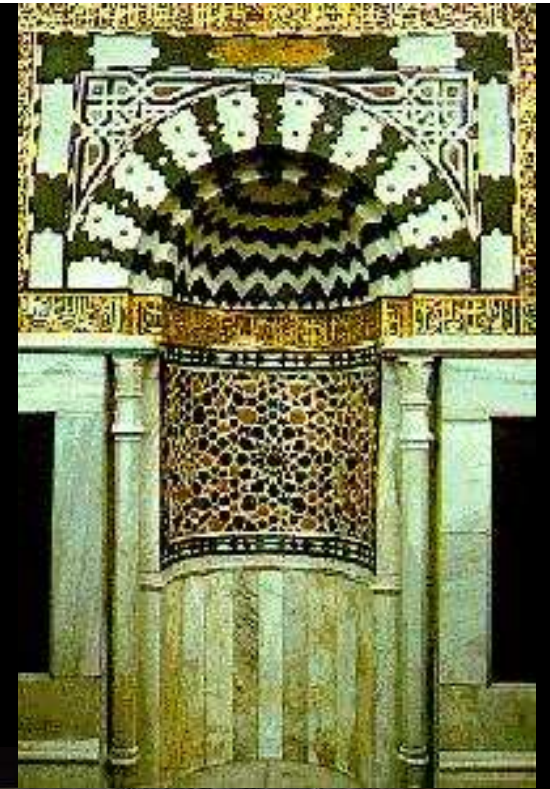


Turquoise
Kashan ware,
12th-14th c.,
Victoria and
Albert Museum

Mia examples:

Turquoise Rayy and
Kashan ware, 12th-
14th c.





Persia, Ilkhan dynasty,
Rectangular tiles, 13th-
14th c., 50.46.458, 459



Persia, *Bowl with Courtly Scene*, 12th-13th c., 32.32.7





Persia, *Bowl with Ladies on Horseback*, 12th-13th c., 50.46.432

Persia, *Bowl with Lady Riding an Elephant*, 12th-13th c., 50.46.434

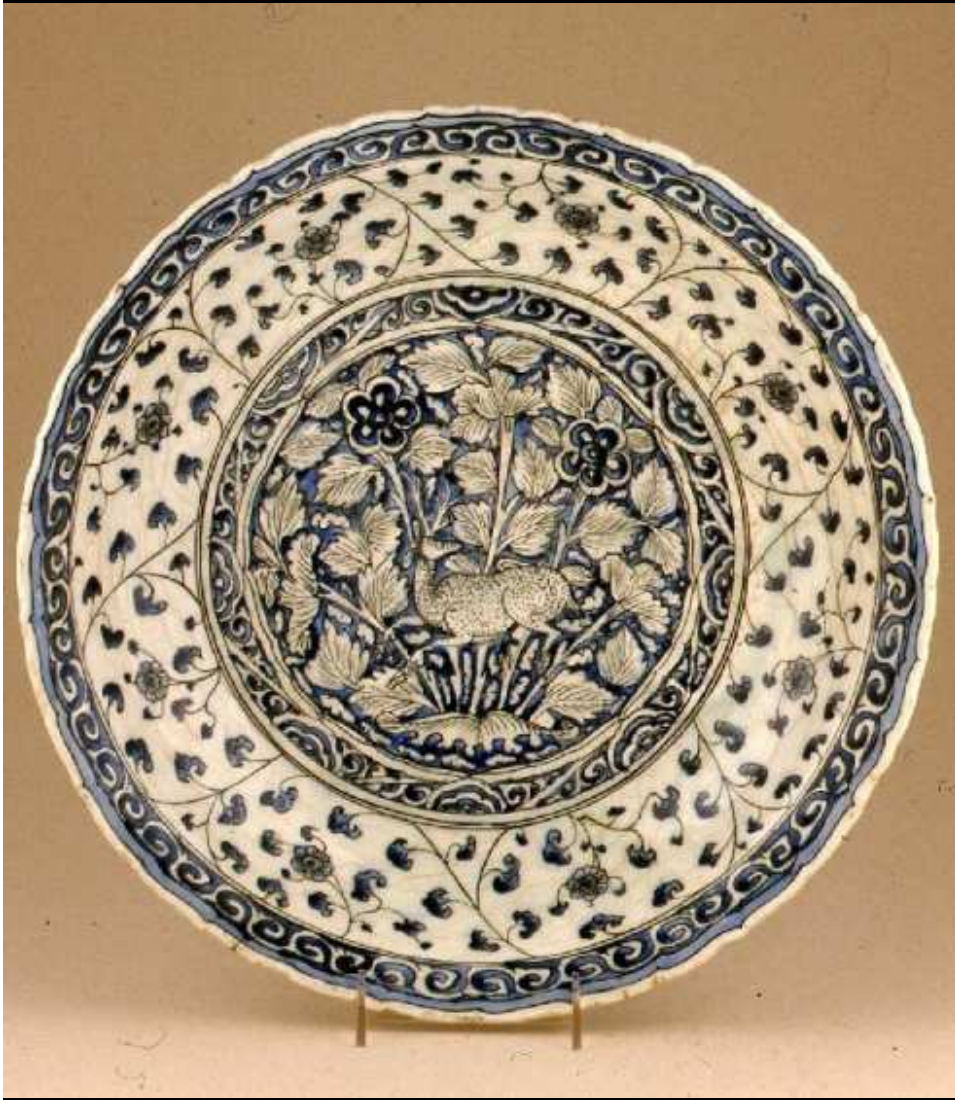




Persia, *Bowl with birds and foliage*, 14th c., earthenware, 50.46.439

China, Yuan dynasty, *Blue and white dish*, 14th c., porcelain, 87.62





Persia, Safavid dynasty, *Plate*,
18th c., earthenware with
underglaze blue and black,
86.44

China, Yuan dynasty, *Blue and
white dish*, 14th c., porcelain,
87.62



Syria, *Hexagonal wall tile*,
16th c., 17.55



Turkey, Istanbul, *Blue Mosque*, 1609-17





Egypt, Mamluk dynasty, *Vase with handles*, 15th c., 84.45



Syria, mosque lamps, 14th c.



Théodore Deck, France, *Vase in form of mosque lamp*, 19th c. 2000.9





Egypt, Mamluk dynasty,
Door panel, 14th c., 83.79





Persia, Abbasid dynasty, *Page from the Koran*,
9th-10th c., 51.37.7

فَتَنَّا لَهُم مَّا رَغِبُوا وَأَمْ كَرِهُوا فَنَسُوا مَا آتَانَا
فَلَنُصِصَنَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ لِقَوْمٍ وَعَدُّوا مَا آتَانَا
حِجَابًا مِّن دُونِ الْحِجَابِ فَكَيْفَ نَكْرَهُ لِمَا
يَعْمَلُونَ إِنَّا نَرَاهُمْ فِي صَفْحَةٍ وَمَا يَشَاوُرُونَ



Persia, *Page from the Koran*, 9th-10th c., 51.37.3



Egypt, Mamluk dynasty, *Page from the Koran*,
about 1350, 51.37.21



فَلَا تَنْسَاهُمْ فَنَضْحَكُ الْمُنَازِرَ وَتَوَاعَدُهُمْ حَتَّىٰ حِينَ وَأَضْفُفُ وَنُفُوفُ
بِحَاثِ رِيَاكُ بِالْعَزَّةِ مَا يَضْفُفُ وَسَلَامًا عَلَى الْمُنْسَلِبِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ



سُورَةُ صَّافَاتٍ نُوُزُوْرِيَا مَكِّيَّةٌ



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

صَّافَاتٍ الْقُرْآنِيَّةِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي عِزَّةٍ وَشِقَاقٍ كَرُمٌ
قَبْلَهُمْ مَفْرَقُونَ فَأَلْزَمَهُمُ اللَّهُ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَأَكْرَمَهُمْ
مَنْ مَكَرُوا وَاللَّهُ يَخْتَارُ مَا يُؤْتِيهِ اللَّهُ مِنَ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَسْأَلُ
عَنْ شَيْءٍ أَحَدٌ شَيْئًا وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ
الْقُرْآنَ بِالْحَقِّ وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْمُنْتَظَرِينَ
مَنْ كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ مِنْكُمْ فَعَسَىٰ أَلْوَمًا لِمَنْ كَفَرَ
بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ مِنْكُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي
الْقَوْمَ الْمُنْتَظَرِينَ وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْمُنْتَظَرِينَ
وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْمُنْتَظَرِينَ وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْمُنْتَظَرِينَ

Handwritten text on a narrow strip of parchment, likely a fragment from a larger manuscript. The text is dense and appears to be a continuation of the Qur'anic text seen in the main image.

Persia, Seljuk dynasty, *Page from the Koran*, 11th c., 59.1



India, Mughal dynasty, 16th-
17th century, *Album page of
Poetry*, opaque watercolors
and gold on paper, 84.44a



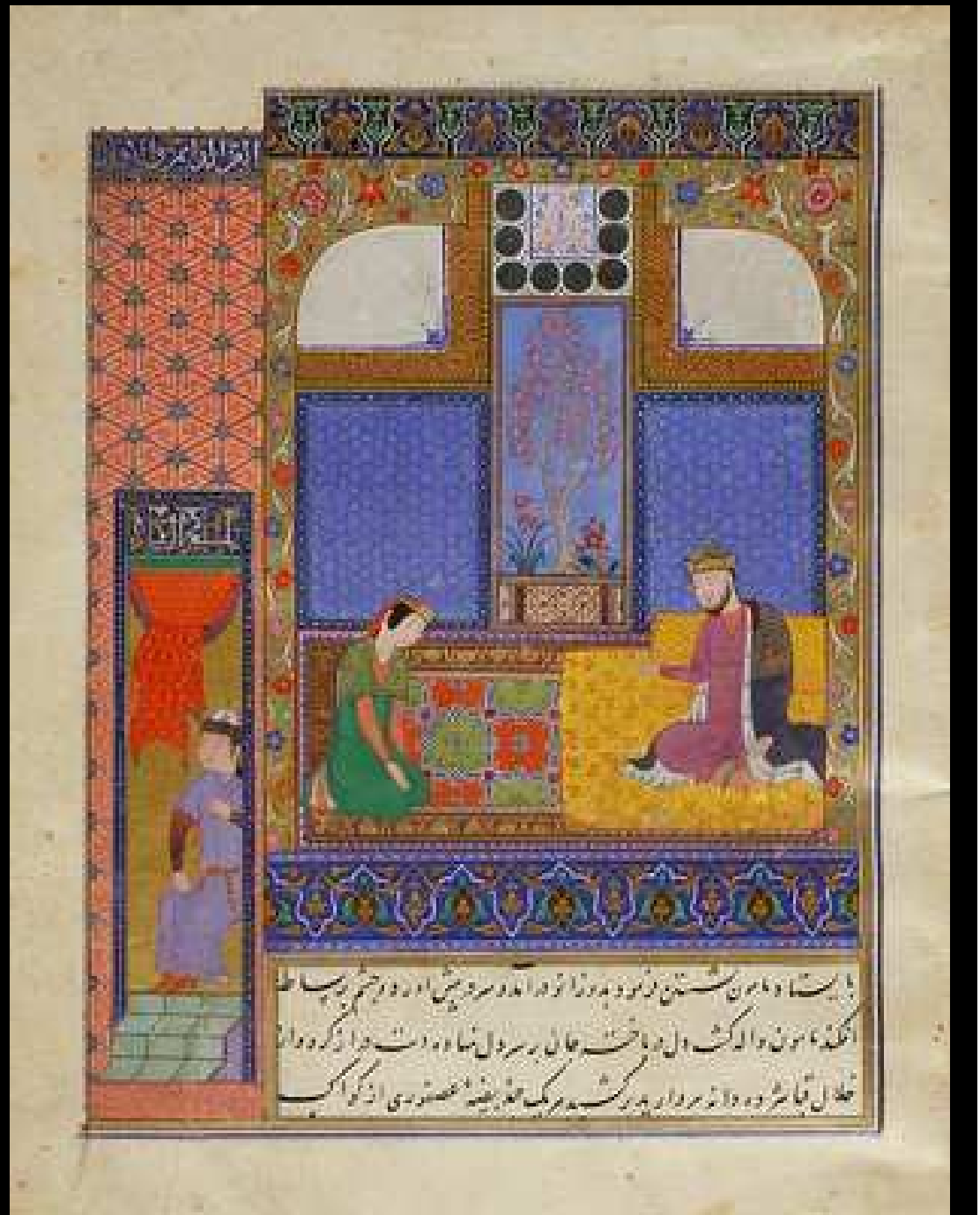
Nardo di Cione, *Standing
Madonna with Child*, 1350-60,
68.41.7



Mariotto di Nardo, *Coronation of the Virgin*, 1408, 65.37



Persia, *King and Queen in a Garden*, c. 1431, 51.37.30



Persia, *The Lovers*, 17th c., 51.37.38



Persia, *King Picnicking in
the Mountains*, c. 1560,
43.31.2

