



## **MASTERPIECES OF ISLAMIC ART -- EAST AND WEST**

### **Sources for interested readers:**

Karen Armstrong, *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*

Seyyed Hossain Nasr, *Islamic Art and Spirituality*

Titus Burckhardt, *Art of Islam: Language and Meaning*

### **Recommended Films (on YouTube)**

*Islam: Empire of Faith* (PBS Video)

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=Islam%3a+Empires+of+Faith&mid=5BD0BEDB3F1EDA8490175BD0BEDB3F1EDA849017&FORM=VIRE>

*Suleyman the Magnificent* (Metropolitan Museum, NY)

<https://www.metmuseum.org/perspectives/videos/2020/7/from-the-vaults-suleyman-the-magnificent>

*Sulemaniye Mosque: A Masterpiece of Ottoman Architecture*

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=Sulemanyeyoutube&pc=GD03&ptag=7446&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3dSulemanyeyoutube%2btube%26pc%3dGD03%26form%3dGDAVG1%26ptag%3d7446&mmscn=vwrc&mid=ED860C04955F0B866F2DED860C04955F0B866F2D&FORM=WRVORC&ntb=1&msockid=d681fbc8e85611f0933b6f0c485e6bcf>

*The Ardebil Carpet*

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=persian%20carpet%20Victoria%20and%20Albert%20museum&mid=45949663934419B18A6B45949663934419B18A6B&ajaxhist=0>

*Paradise in Miniature: The Court of Kayumars*

<https://smarthistory.org/the-court-of-gayumars/?tl=the-court-of-gayumars&sidebar=asia-1500-1900>

## **Guide**

Allah – God

Mohammed - God's Prophet

Qur'an – Kor'an – The Word of God

Bismillah – First verse of the Qur'an

Mecca – Birthplace of Mohammed

Mosque or Masjid – Place of worship

Mosque at Mecca – Masjid al Haram

Kaaba – Building at the center of the Mosque at Mecca

Kiswa – Covering of the Kaaba

Hijra or Hegira, September 622 – Mohammed and followers left Mecca for Medina

Medina or Madinat al Nabi – town where Mohammed and followers settled

Hajj – yearly pilgrimage to Mecca

Muezzin – singer who calls the faithful to prayer

Azan – call to prayer

Qebla – (Keblah) – wall in mosque that faces Mecca

Mihrab – Niche in Qebla wall

Mimbar – pulpit

Medresse – seminary

Caravanseraï – refuge for travelers and traders

Muqarnas – Stalactite vault

Squinch – an arched structure that carries a dome

Tawif - Circumambulations of the Kaa'ba

Ramadan – ninth month of the Islamic calendar, month of fasting

Sheik – Chief or leader of clan

Khalif or Caliph – Civil or religious leader if a Muslim state

Imam – Religious leader

Sunni - the largest of the branches of Islam

Shia – second largest branch of Islam

Sufi – mystical branch Islam

Haram - forbidden

Arabesque - floral ornamental design consisting of intertwined elements, lines found in Islamic decoration.

**The Precursors of Islamic Art:** Classical Roman art, Byzantine art and Sassanian art (Sassanian Empire, Persia (Iran) fell to Islam in 638-40 CE

### **RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE**

Remains of the House of the Prophet, Medina, c. 662 CE

Mosque, Hijazi, Negev, Israel, 7<sup>th</sup> c. CE

Great Mosque at Kufa, Iraq

Kubbat al Sakhra, Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem, Israel Built by Khalif Abd al Malik ibn Marwan, 687CE

Great Mosque at Damascus, Syria

Great Mosque at Kairouan, Tunisia

Great Mosque at Cordoba, Spain, begun in 785 CE

Taq-i-Kisra, Ctesiphon, Iraq, c. 540 CE

Great Mosque in Isfahan, Iraq, c. 1050 – 1600 CE

Blue Mosque, Tabriz, Iran, 1465 CE

Mosque of Bibi Khanum, 1399 CE

Masjid-i-Shah Mosque, Isfahan, Iran, 1601 CE

Sheik Lufullah Masjid. Isfahan Iran, 1602 CE

Sulimanye Mosque Complex, Istanbul Turkey, by Sinan,

Masid-i-Jami, Fatehpur Sikri, India

### **SECULAR ARCHITECTURE**

Reconstruction of the house of the Prophet, Medina, c. 622 CE

Royal Hunting Lodge, Qusayr Amra (Qasr Oumra), Jordan, c. 750

Royal Palace, Qusayr Mushatta (Qasr Mashatta, Mshatta), Jordan

Alhambra Palace, Granada, Spain

Sultan Han Caravanserai, Konya-Aksaray Road, Turkey, ss56-92 CE

Ulu Cami and Hospital, Divrigi, Turkey, 1228

Mausoleum of Ismail, Bukhara, Central Asia, 907

Ulu Cami and Hospital, Divrigi, Turkey, 1228

Tomb of Oljaytu (Uljaytu), Sultaniya (Sultanabad), Persia, 1304-17  
Topkapi Sarai, Istanbul, 15-19th c.  
Gur-I-Mir (Tomb of Tamerlane), Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 1404  
Shah-I-Zنده) Royal Necropolis), Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 15th c.  
Ali Qapu Palace of Shah Abbas, Isfahan, Persia, 1581-1629  
Akbar's Fort, Agra, India, 16<sup>th</sup> c.  
Akbar's City Fatehpur Sikri. 16<sup>th</sup> c.  
Shalimar Bagh. Shrinagar, India

### **ADORNMENTS: CERAMIC, METAL AND TEXTILE ARTS**

Select Ceramics including Tile decorations and vessels  
Select metal wares  
Select Fabric works including carpets  
Select Jewelry

### **CALIGRAPHY AND THE ART OF THE BOOK**

Hijazi and Kufic - earliest script  
Naskhi Script  
Naskhi Script  
Select pages from Qur'ans  
Select pages from scientific treatises  
Select Illustrations from select books of poetry, epic tales and history books

### **THE MAGNIFICENT BOOK**

The Shahname of Shah Tahmasp  
The Hamsanama  
The Akbarnama  
The Jahangirnama  
The Padshahnama