

West and Central Asia

500 B.C.E- 1980 C.E.



THE SILK ROAD

NABATAEANS

181. Petra, Jordan: Treasury and Great Temple



Great Temple

3

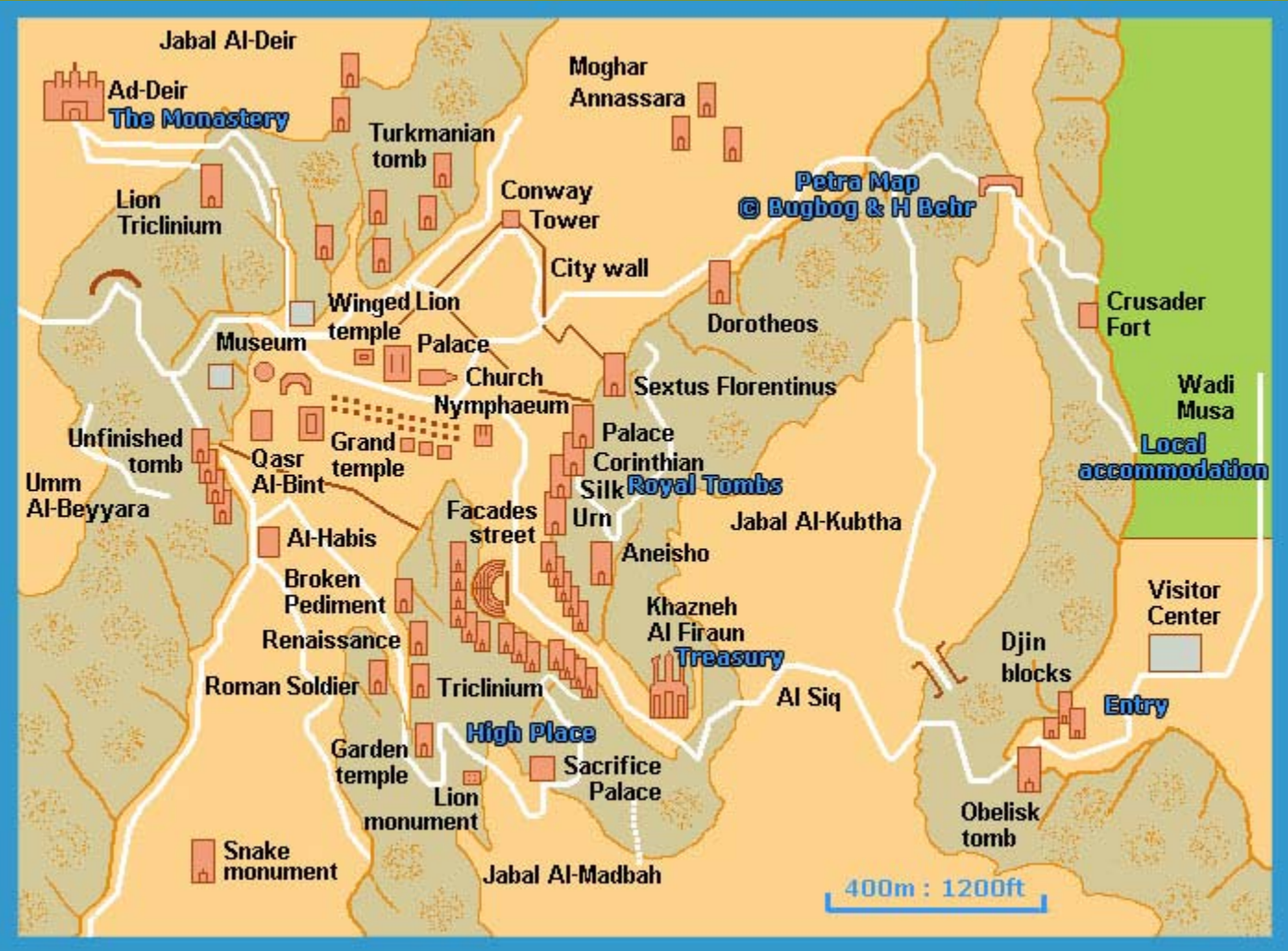
Nabataean Ptolemaic and Roman

c. 400 B.C.E.-100 C.E.

Cut rock

Complex = 65,000 acres!

Petra Complex



Petra Complex



Theme: City Planning

It takes more than a day to visit all the sights. Petra isn't just made up of the famous monastery (El Deir) and treasury (Al Khazneh). Petra sprawls for miles with many other monuments that must be visited such as the Lonely Cave and Silk Tomb. Moreover, it takes a while to get to each site. For instance, the monastery is a good hour long hike.

Treasury - Khazneh

131ft high



Treasury Interior



Monastery – El Deir

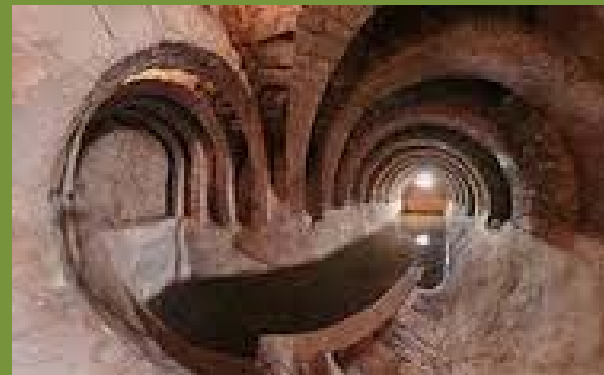


148ft high

Petra Theatre



Its water conduit system was ahead of its time. The Nabataea managed to control flash floods which often occurred by use of dams and cisterns. From this, their storage of water helped during periods of drought which also made the city prosper from its sale. The water irrigation can be viewed today from the various sweeping gorges.



BUDDHISM

182. Buddha



Bamiyan, Afghanistan
Gandharan

c. 400-800 C.E. (destroyed in 2001)

Cut rock with plaster and polychrome paint



Theme: Sacred Images



Face Removed in 1847

Totally Destroyed in March 2001





Tallest = 175 Feet
Was painted Red
Vairocana position
Called Solsol

Shortest = 125 feet
Was painted multicolored
Sakyamuni position
Called Shahmama

184. Jowo Rinpoche, enshrined the Jokhang Temple

Theme:
Sacred Images



Lhasa, Tibet

Yarlung Dynasty

Believed to have been brought to Tibet in 642 C.E.

Gilt metals with semiprecious stones, pearls, and paint; various offerings

5ft high

Siddhartha Gautama (563-483 BCE)

- Born in NE India (Nepal).
- Raised in great luxury to be a king.
- At 29 he rejected his luxurious life to seek enlightenment and the source of suffering.
- Lived a strict, austere life for 6 yrs.
- Rejecting this extreme, sat in meditation, and found *nirvana*.
- Became “The Enlightened One,” at 35.
- He was not, nor did he claim to be. He was a man who taught a path to enlightenment from his own experience.

The basic concepts in
Buddhism can be
summed up by the
Four Noble Truths and
the Noble Eightfold
Path.

A close-up, low-angle shot of a Buddha's face, showing the forehead, eyes, and nose. The Buddha has a serene expression with closed eyes. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the stone or metal.

Buddha's Four Noble Truths:

- 1. Life has inevitable suffering***
- 2. There is a cause to our suffering***
- 3. There is an end to suffering***
- 4. The end to suffering is contained in the eight fold path***



Three Practices	Noble Eightfold Path
Wisdom	1. Right understanding 2. Right intention
Morality	3. Right speech 4. Right action 5. Right livelihood
Meditation	6. Right effort 7. Right mindfulness 8. Right concentration

Mudras

Any Buddha figure made or drawn by a skilled artist exhibits a multitude of characteristics that communicate subtle meanings and intentions to the viewer. The most important of these characteristics are perhaps the mudras, or hand gestures, of the Buddha. These well-defined gestures have a fixed meaning throughout all styles and periods of Buddha images.

major mudras



dispelling
fear



meditation



teaching



wisdom



preaching
the law



calling the earth
to witness

basic postures



standing



walking (side view)



sitting



reclining

basic sitting positions



crossed legs
(one foot
over thigh)



crossed legs
(both feet
over thighs)



Dharmachakra Mudra

The gesture of teaching usually interpreted as turning the Wheel of Law. The hands are held level with the heart, the thumbs and index fingers form circles.



Vitarka Mudra

Intellectual argument, discussion. The circle formed by the thumb and index finger is the sign of the Wheel of Law.



Tarjani Mudra

Threat, warning. The extended index finger is pointed at the opponent.



Namaskara Mudra

Gesture of greeting, prayer, and adoration. Buddhas no longer make this gesture because they do not have to show devotion to anything.



Bhumisparsha Mudra

Touching the earth as Gautama did, to invoke the earth as witness to the truth of his words.



Varada Mudra

Fulfilment of all wishes; the gesture of charity.



Dhyana Mudra

The gesture of absolute balance, of meditation. The hands are relaxed in the lap, and the tips of the thumbs and fingers touch each other. When depicted with a begging bowl this is a sign of the head of an order.



Abhaya Mudra

Gesture of reassurance, blessing, and protection. "Do not fear."



Jnana Mudra

Teaching. The hand is held at chest level and the thumb and index finger again form the Wheel of Law.



Karana Mudra

Gesture with which demons are expelled.



Ksepana Mudra

Two hands together in the gesture of 'sprinkling' the nectar of immortality.



Uttarabodhi Mudra

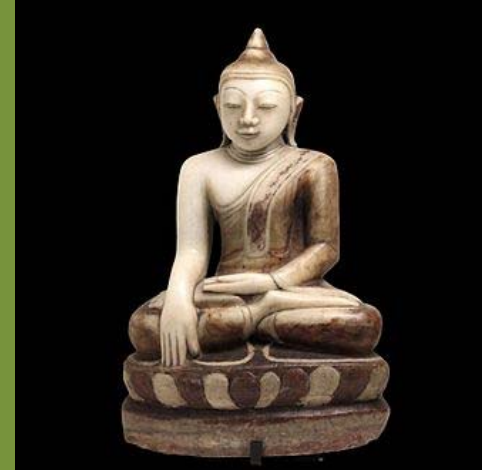
Two hands placed together above the head with the index fingers together and the other fingers intertwined. The gesture of supreme enlightenment. □



Jowo Rinpoche without adornment

- His right hand reaching forward in Bhumisparsha mudra
- Bhumisparsha - means 'touching the earth'. It is more commonly known as the 'earth witness' mudra.
- He is seated in vajraparyankasana
- His left hand resting in the meditation position

Bhumisparsha means 'touching the earth'. It is more commonly known as the 'earth witness' mudra. This mudra, formed with all five fingers of the right hand extended to touch the ground, symbolizes the Buddha's enlightenment under the bodhi tree, when he summoned the earth goddess, Sthavara, to bear witness to his attainment of enlightenment



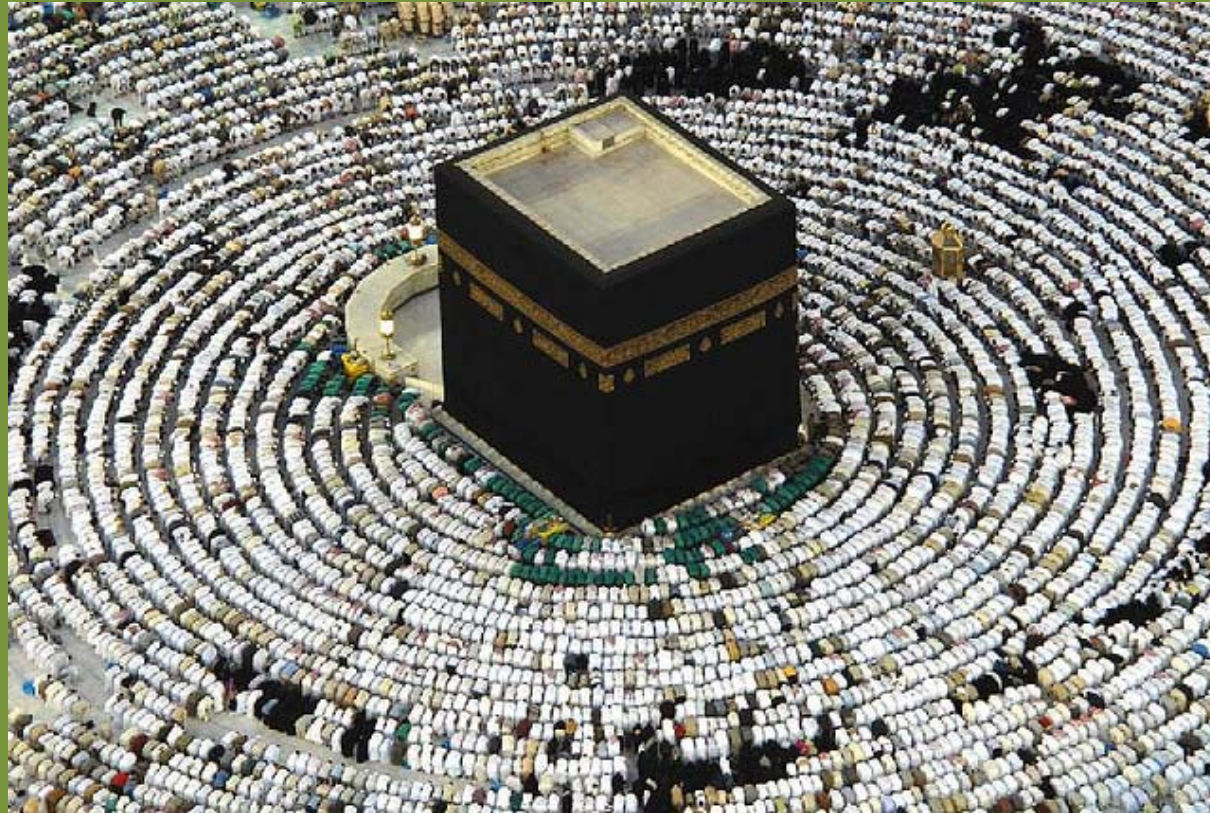
The bhūmisparśa or "earth witness" mudra of Gautama Buddha is one of the most common iconic images of Buddhism. It depicts the Buddha sitting in meditation with his left hand, palm upright, in his lap, and his right hand touching the earth. It represents the Buddha asking Prithvi, the devi of the earth, that she witnessed his enlightenment.

Vajraparyankasana - The "adamantine throne" position, made with the legs crossed at the ankles, and both soles of the feet showing, pointed upward. This is the posture used in meditation and it is most commonly used to depict the enlightened Buddha. The historical Buddha, once he is fully enlightened, will be represented in this posture when he is seated.



ISLAM

183. The Kaaba



3

Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Islamic. Pre-Islamic monument

Rededicated by Muhammad in 631-632 C.E.; multiple renovations

Granite masonry, covered with silk curtain and calligraphy in gold and silver-wrapped thread.



49ft tall x 34ft wide

Theme: Buildings built on important sites

183. The Kaaba



Gathering at the Kaaba

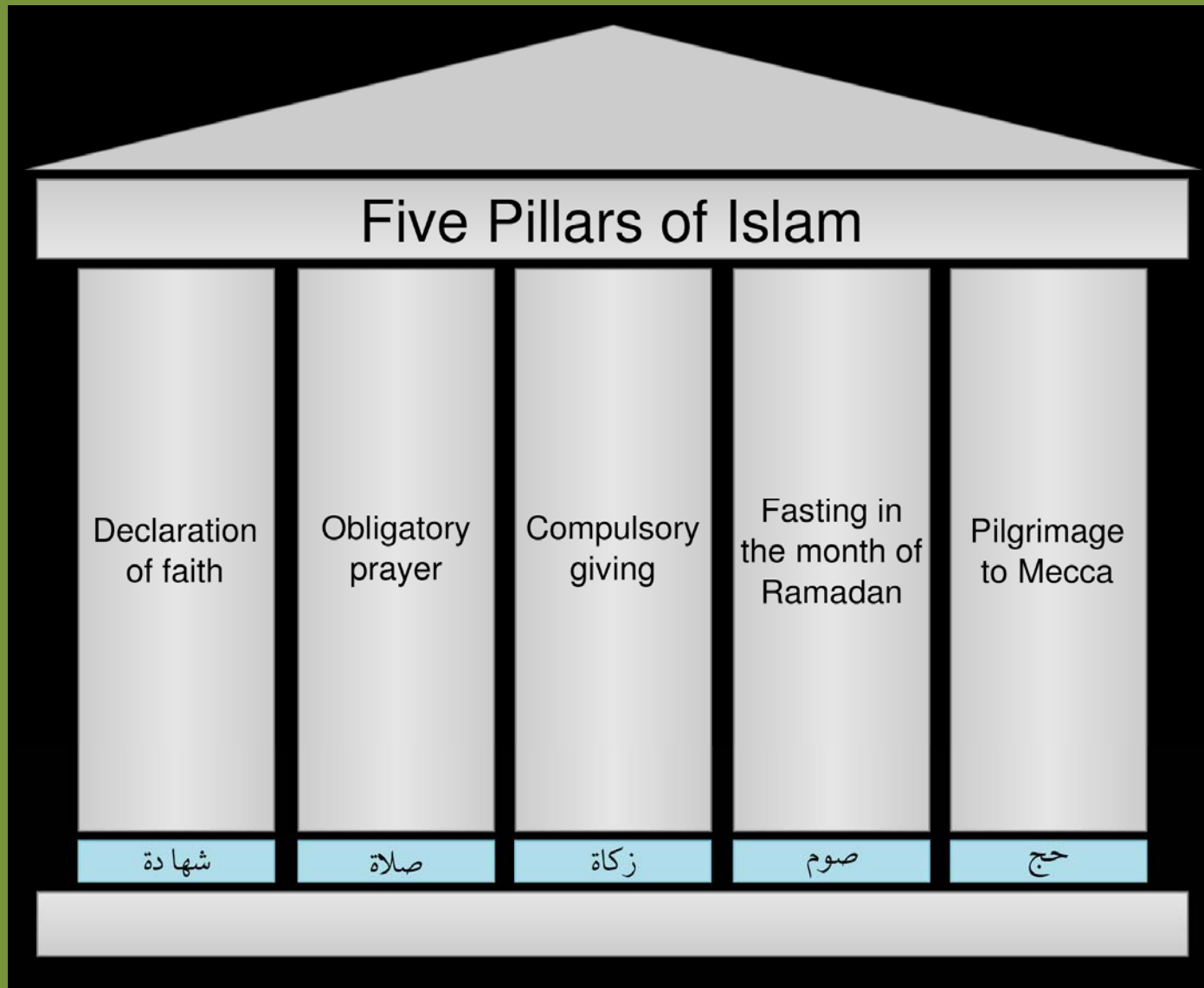
183. The Kaaba



Gathering at the Kaaba

Mosque Complex = over 40 acres

5 Pillars



THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

These are the duties of Islam, the religion of Muslims.

الله
أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله
وأشهد أن محمداً
رَسُولُهُ

Shahadah
(Faith)



To believe in no God but Allah and that Muhammad is his prophet and the messenger of Allah.

الصَّلَاة

Salah
(Prayer)



To pray five times each day:
Fajr - Before Sunrise
Zuhr - Early Afternoon
Asr - Late Afternoon
Maghrib - After Sunset
Isha - Night.

الصَّوْمُ

Sawm
(Fasting)



To give up food and drink during daylight hours in the month of Ramadan.

الزَّكَاةُ

Zakah
(Almsgiving)



To give a share of personal wealth to help people in need and support the Muslim community.

الحَجُّ

Hajj
(Pilgrimage)



To perform a pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in a lifetime.

Basic Terms & Orientation

- *Islam*: the name of the monotheistic tradition that looks to Muhammad as the final prophet. (The term literally means “surrender” or “submission.”)
- *Muslim*: term used for a person who professes the religion of Islam; those who adhere to the faith and traditions of Islam. (Literally means “one who submits.”)
- *Umma*: refers to the community of believers made up of all the Muslims of the world. (Literally means “nation” or “community”).
- *Koran / Qur’an*: sacred scripture for Muslims; believed to have been revealed by God to the Prophet Muhammad. (Literally means “recitation.”)

The Life of the Prophet Muhammad

- Muhammad (570 – 632 CE): “highly praised,” “laudable.”
- Born in Mecca (Saudi Arabia); in the powerful tribe of the Qur’ash (Koreish).
- *A human* prophet
- Poet, soothsayer, judge; also political, military and religious leader.

The calling of the prophet



- Commission occurred in 610 C.E.:
The Night of Power
- Angel Gabriel appeared and commanded Muhammad to “Recite!”
- Khadija became his first convert.

“Proclaim in the name of your Lord who created!

Created man from a clot of blood.

Proclaim: Your Lord is the Most Generous

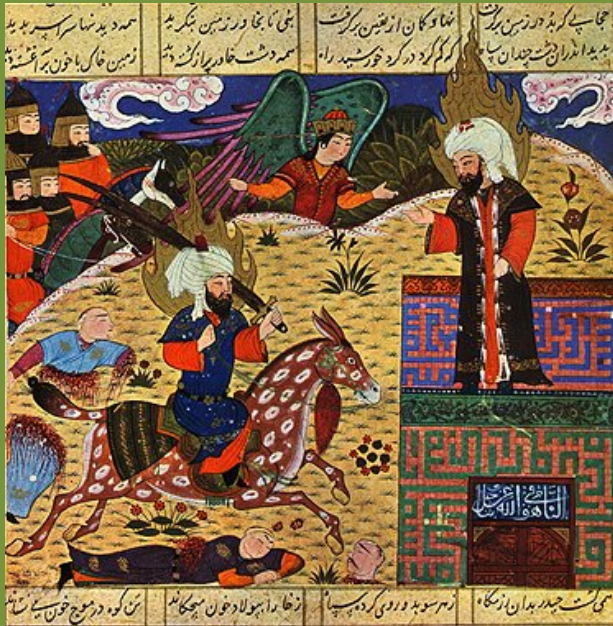
Who teaches by the pen;

Teaches man what he knew not.”

Koran 96: 1-3 (quoted by Smith, 226).

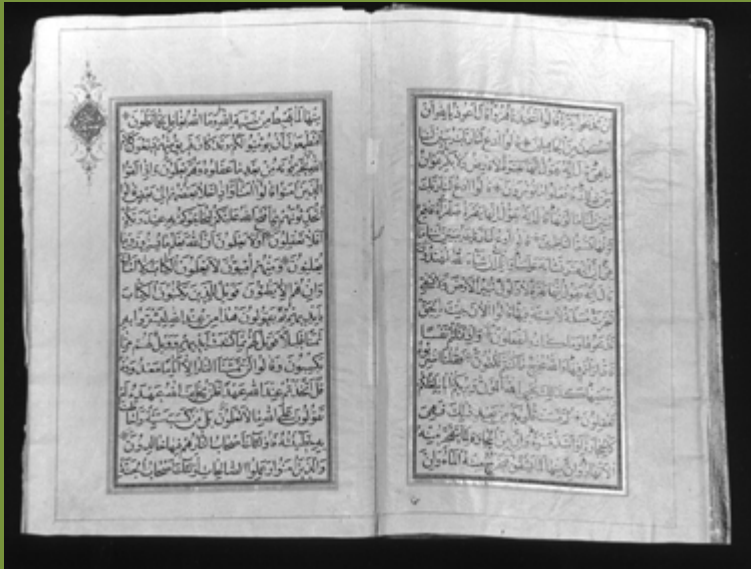
The Migration from Mecca to Medina

- First Muslims – Khadijah; Ali (Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law - married to Fatima); other family members; members from humble classes.
- Suffered persecution – ex. Bilal, a black slave – exposed to the hottest part of the day with a heavy rock on his chest (later became prominent as the one who calls the for prayer).
- 622: migration of Muslims from Mecca to Medina (city of the prophet) – known as the *Hijra*.
- Period of struggle between the Meccans and the Medinans; eventually Muhammad rededicated the temple (the Ka'ba) in Mecca; mass conversion of the city to Islam (Smith 230).
- Muhammad died in 632, the head of an empire.



Muhammad was the “Seal of the Prophets”

- Koran names 25 prophets, including Noah, Abraham, Moses Jesus and Muhammad.
- Muhammad is the “seal” (khatam) of the prophets – the last, the one that validates previous prophecy.
- Came to “transmit the old message anew and established through it a universal community [...] the *umma*” (Denny, Intro to Islam, 69).

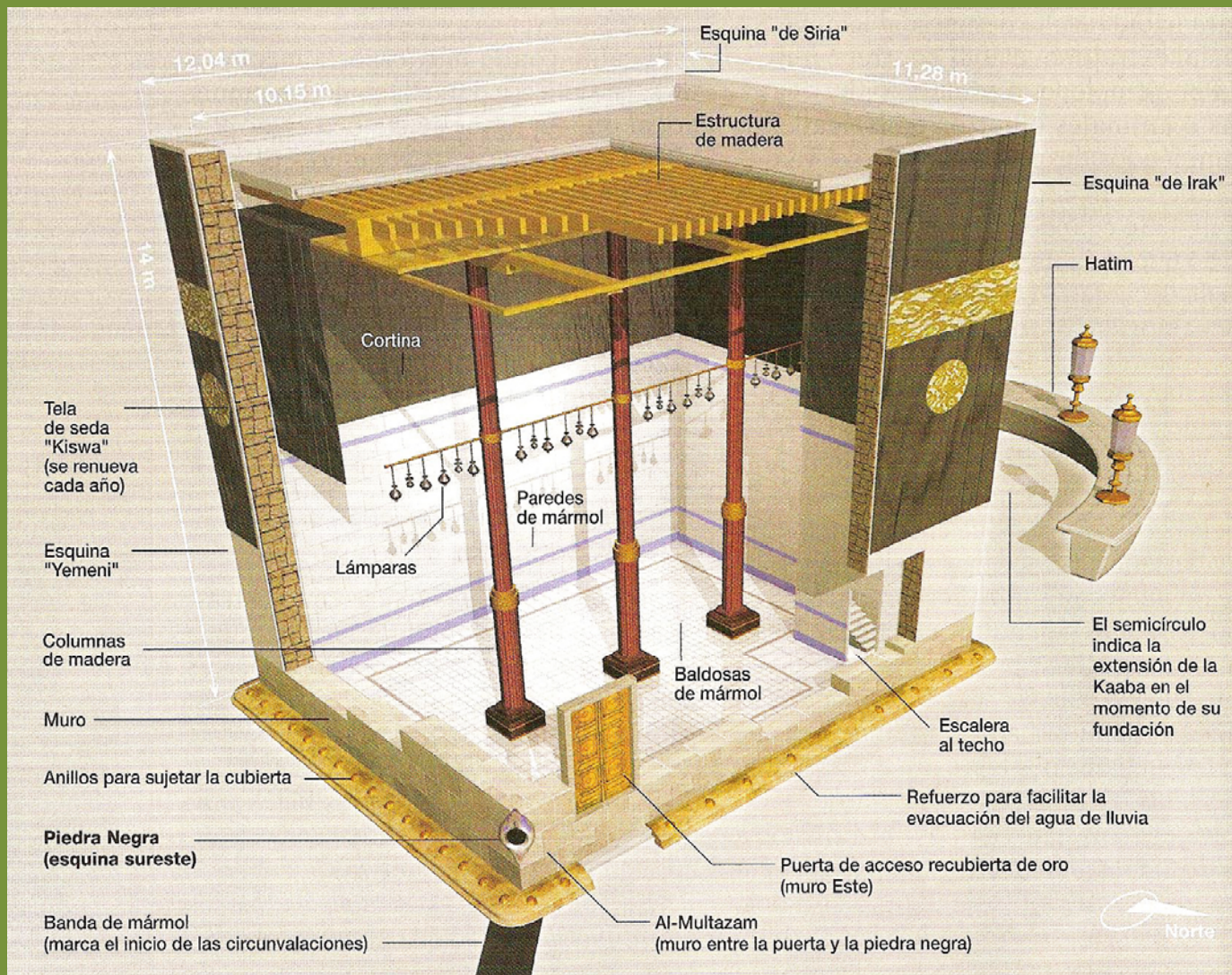


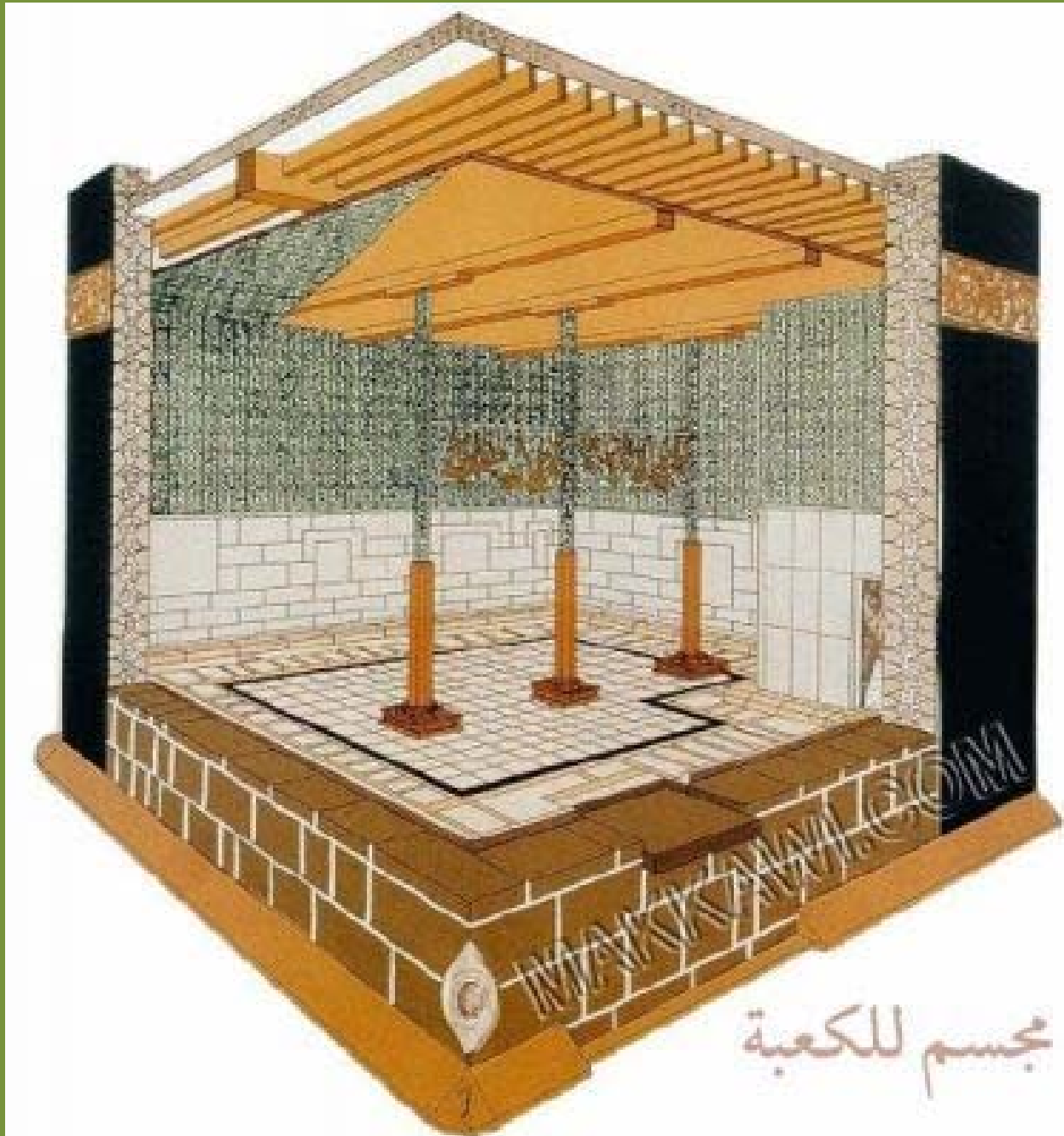
The sacred text of Islam: The Koran

- Organized into 114 chapters, called *suras*.
- Written in Arabic; recited in Arabic.
- Meccan suras and Medinan suras
- Text is understood as offering “guidance for the world” or “a clear sign for those who can understand.”
- Recitation, or revelation, of what God plans to reveal to humanity

What are the Basic Islamic Beliefs?

- 1 One, Unique, Incomparable God, Who has no son or partner
Allah is the proper name of god. "The God"
 - 2 Belief in God's Revealed Books: Torah, Injil (Bible) & Quran
 - 3 Belief in prophets of God: Adam, Noah, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Jesus and the **Final** Prophet and Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon them)
 - 4 Belief in the Day of Judgment: When all of humanity will be held accountable for their deeds.
 - 5 Belief in the Angels of God.
 - 6 Belief in 'Qadar'. Predestine and Due Measure.
-
- ❖ Innocence of Humankind at Birth.
 - ❖ No Intermediary between God and Humans.





مجسم للكعبة



The mosque is made up of about 3,840,000 square feet (356,800 square meters or 88.2 acres) and holds up to 820,000 worshippers.



A 1315 illustration from the Jami al-Tawarikh, inspired by the Sirah Rasul Allah story of Muhammad and the Meccan clan elders lifting the Black Stone into place.

Great video on the Kaaba

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUNFaWL3Jxg>

185. Dome of the Rock



Jerusalem, Palestine
Islamic. Umayyad.

691-692 C.E. with multiple renovations

Stone masonry and wooden roof decorated with glazed ceramic tile, mosaics,
and gilt aluminum and bronze dome.



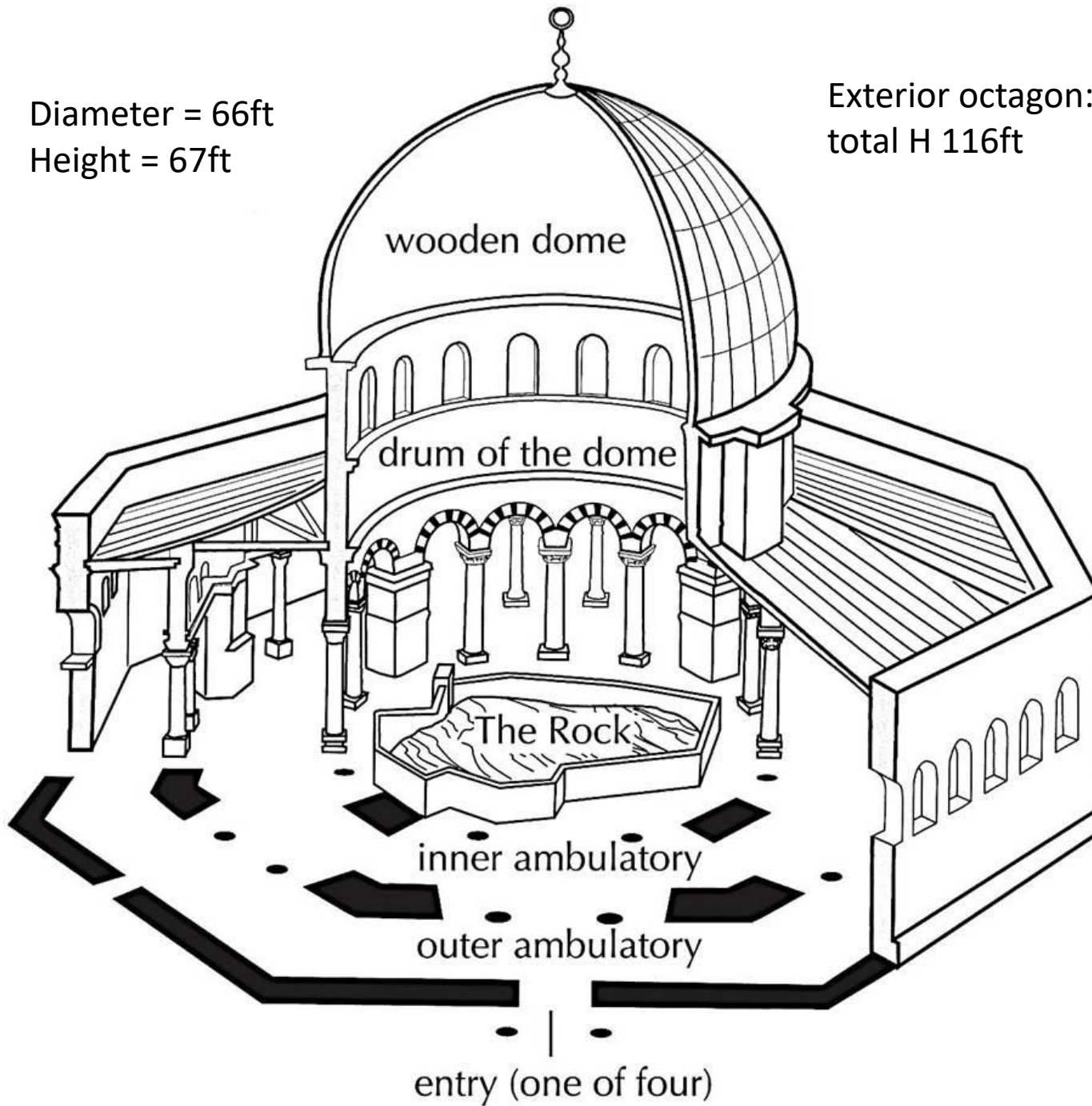
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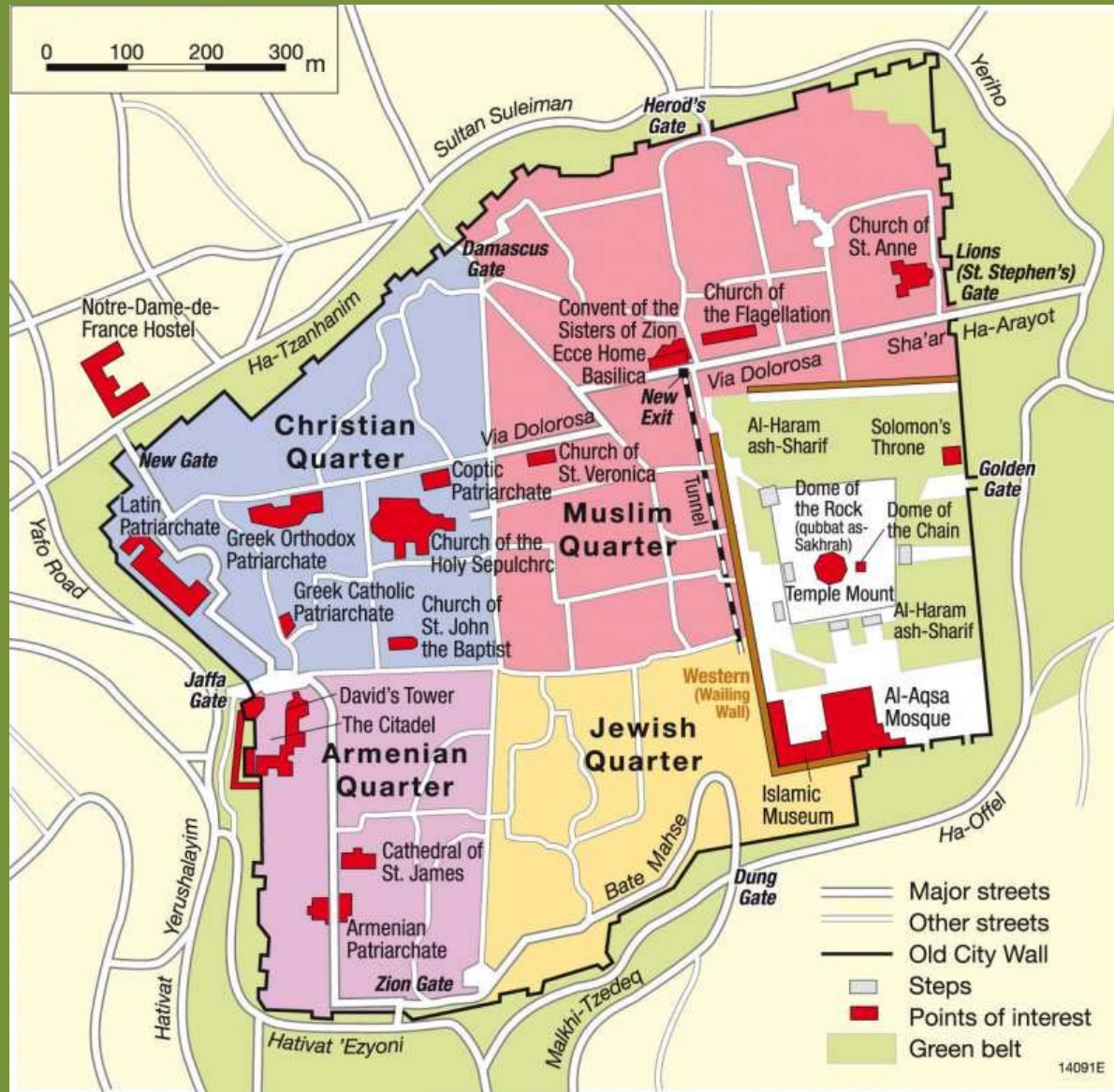
The great rock, the “Sakhra”
Theme: Religious Spaces/Domes
Buildings built on Important Sites

Diameter = 66ft
Height = 67ft

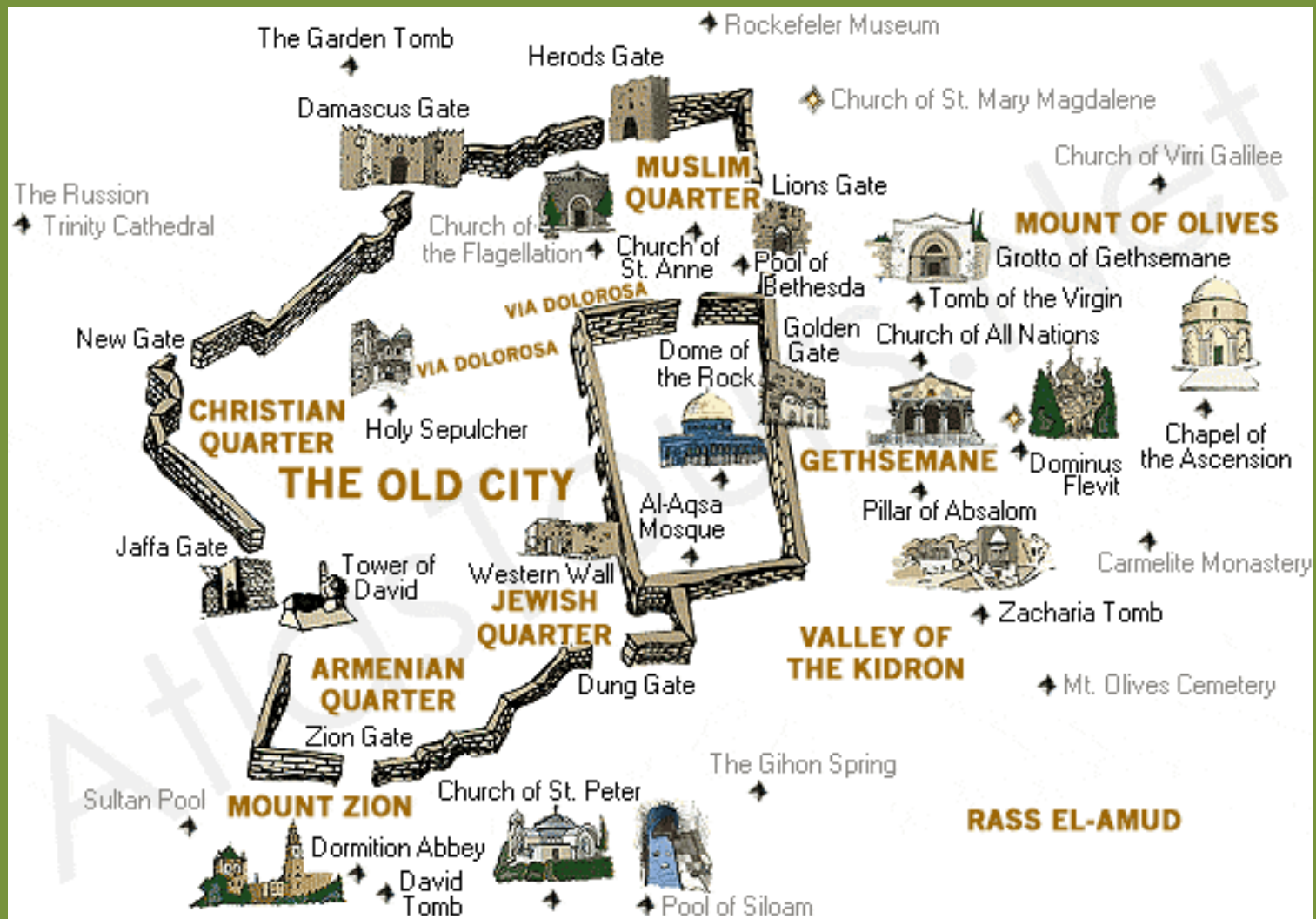
Exterior octagon:
total H 116ft



185. Dome of the Rock - Jerusalem



185. Dome of the Rock - Jerusalem



- The Foundation Stone or Rock is the name of the rock at the heart of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. It is also known as the Pierced Stone because it has a small hole on the southeastern corner that enters a cavern beneath the rock, known as the Well of Souls.
- It is the holiest site in Judaism; Jewish tradition views it as the spiritual junction of Heaven and Earth. Jews traditionally face it while praying, in the belief that it was the location of the Holy of Holies in the Temple.

- According to Islamic tradition, the rock is the spot from which the Islamic prophet Muhammad ascended to Heaven accompanied by the angel Gabriel. Muhammad was taken here by Gabriel to pray with Abraham, Moses, and Jesus.
- According to Jewish tradition, the stone is the site where Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac. In the story of the near-sacrifice in the Quran, the son is not named, but the majority opinion among Muslims is that the son was Ishmael rather than Isaac

186. Great Mosque (Masjid-e Jameh)



Isfahan, Iran
Islamic. Persian

Selijuk, Il-Khanid, Timurid, and Safavid Dynasties c. 700 C.E.;
additions and restorations in the 14th, 18th, and 20th centuries C.E.
Stone, brick, wood, plaster, and glazed ceramic tile.

Mosque Dimensions

328ft long

427ft wide

174ft high



Theme: Houses of Worship

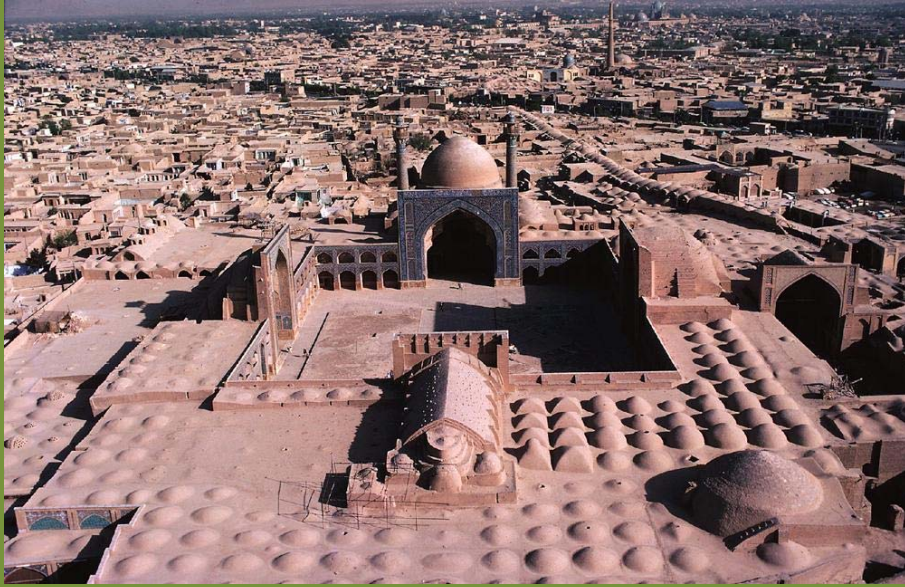


Courtyard

Minarets show where the qibla is located



Mihrab (prayer room)

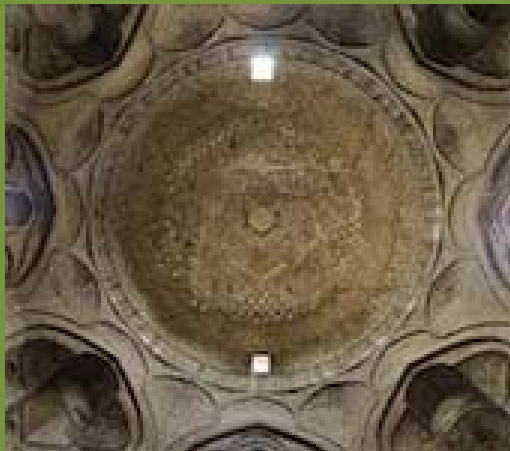




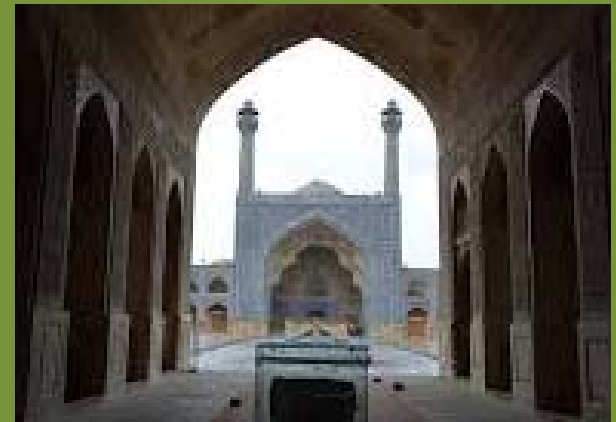
Iwan – vaulted space open to courtyard



Muqarnas – cusped niches in Islamic architecture



Dome



Prayer Hall – faces the Iwan

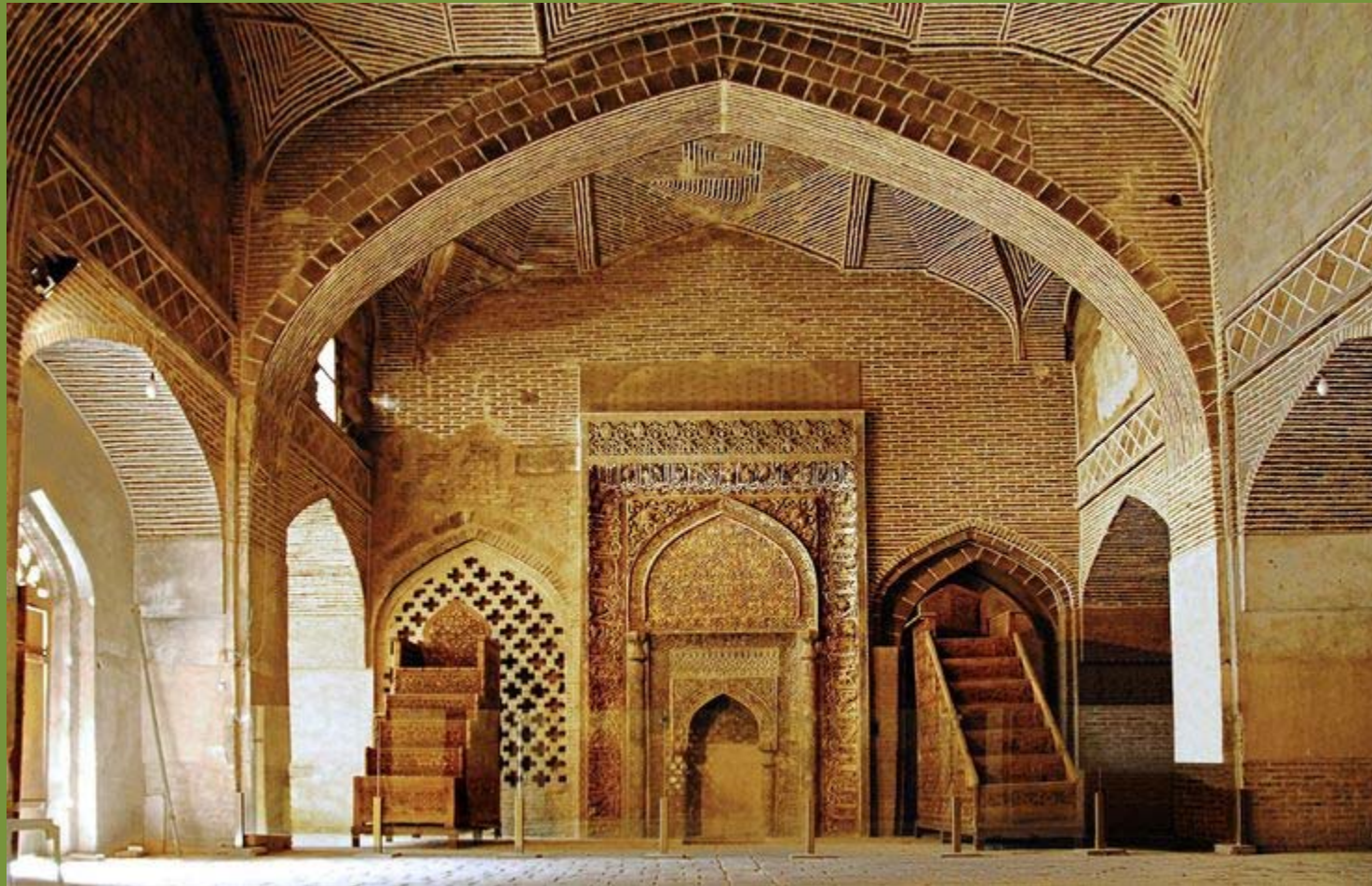


Naghsh-e Jahan Square

- 1 Masjed-e Shah - The Pinnacle of Safavid Architecture
- 2 The Lotfollah Mosque - The Private Room of the Shah's Harem
- 3 Ali Qapu Palace
- 4 The Imperial Bazaar

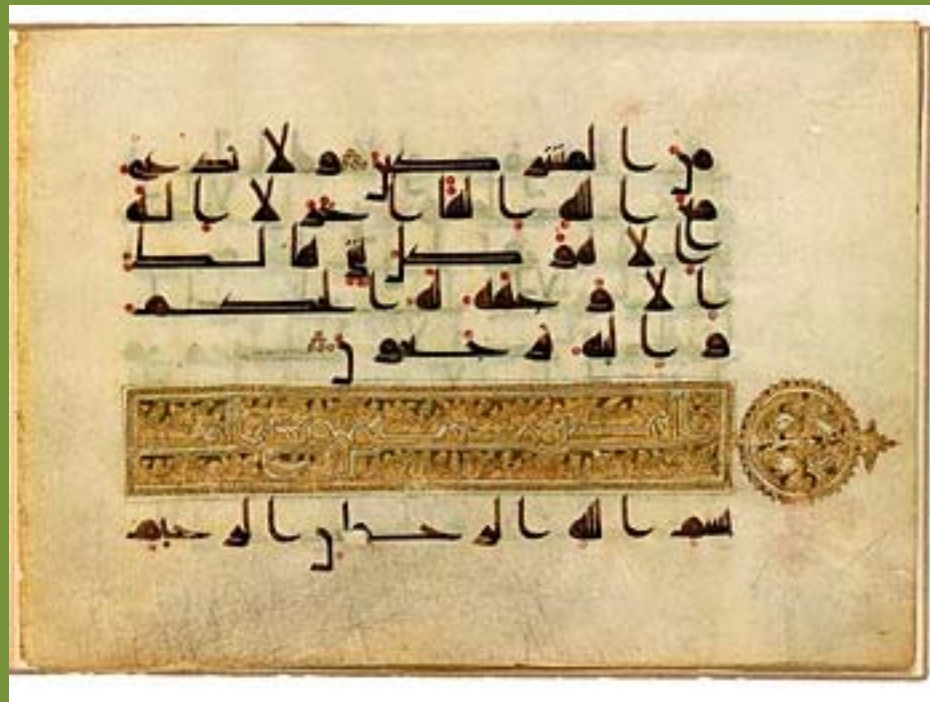


Water plays an important role in Islam. On Friday, the holy day, Muslims must wash their hands and feet before entering the mosque. Water is also representative of the oasis areas that allowed for the spread of Islam. Courtyards have, for centuries, been meeting places for the community.



In the Mihrab (prayer room) the raised staircase allows the religious leader to deliver the message to the people. Mihrabs are usually covered with carpet, as Muslims are required to pray kneeling on carpet facing Mecca.

187. Folio from a Qur'an



Arab

North Africa or Near East.

Abbasid c. eighth to ninth century C.E.

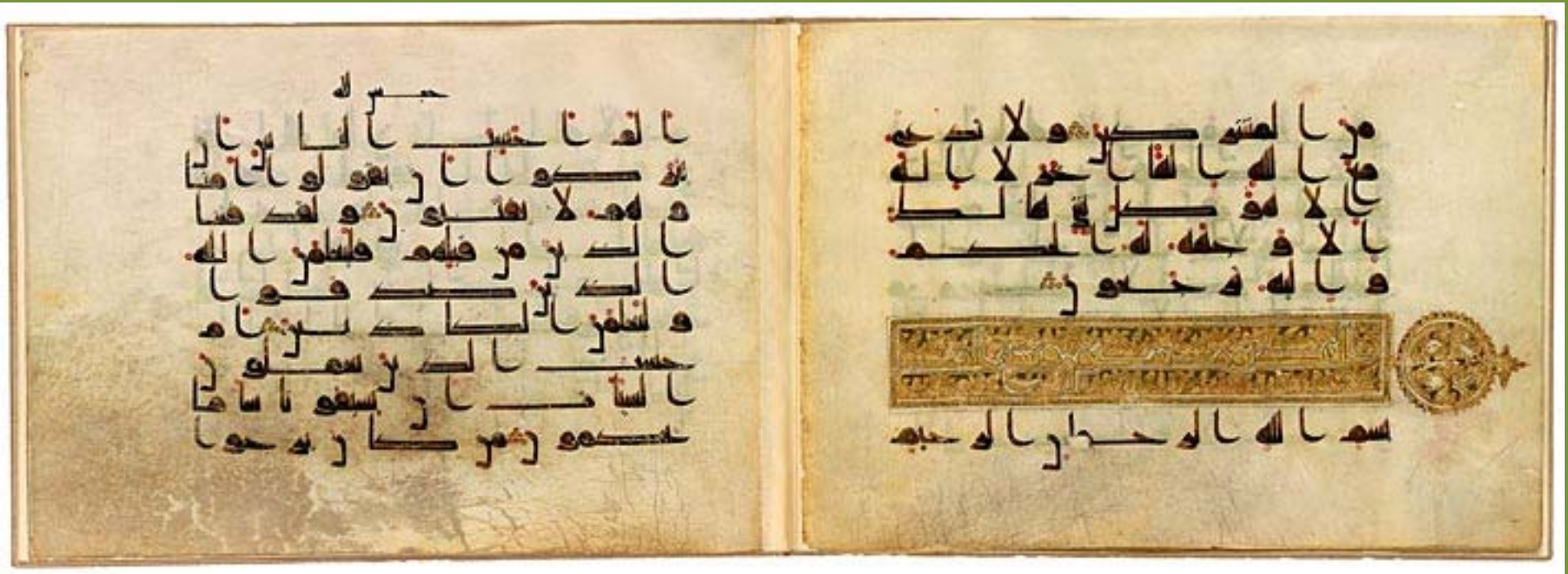
Ink, color, and gold on parchment.

9" x 12.5"



MS M. 712, fols 19v-20r - Surat Al-'Ankabut (The Spider)

187. Folio from a Qur'an open 2 page spread



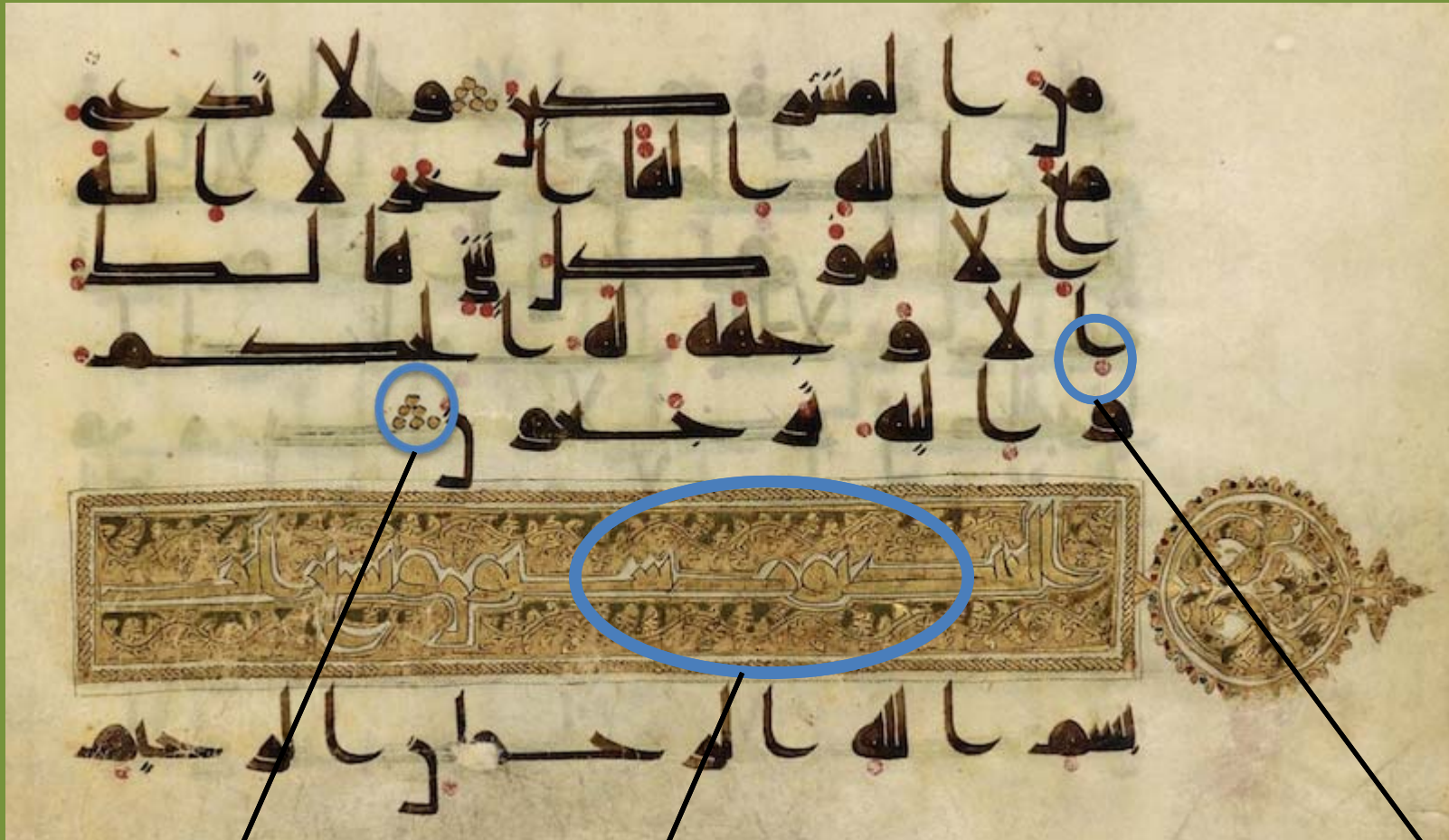
Theme: Calligraphy

Organization of the Qur'an

- Qur'an is NOT chronological
- Suras are organized by decreasing length, with few exceptions (Sura 1, 15, 40).
- Sura 2 is the longest; Sura 114 is the shortest
- Qur'an didn't exist as a single book in Muhammad's lifetime, but is believed he had determined its structure
- Every Sura, except 9, begins with the basmala – "in the name of Allah the compassionate, the caring."

Characteristics of Kufic Script

- Angular
- Reed Pen
- Brown-Black Ink
- Same distances between letters
- Written work – like calligraphy – is very important/ honored



5 gold circles are located at the end of each verse

Identifies end of a Sura

Short vowels such as a, u, and I are not normally written in Arabic. These red dots are added to ensure proper pronunciation of holy text

- Mushaf (pronounced muss-hoff) = the way manuscripts of the Qur'an are referred to
- Read right to left
- Several consonants share the same basic letterform
- Red dots to help give precise instructions for pronunciation
- Large gold leaf foliation used to mark end of a Sura
- Much planning went into spacing before it was written

188. Basin (Baptistère de St. Louis)



Muhammad ibn al-Zain
c. 1320-1340 C.E.

Brass inlaid with gold and silver.

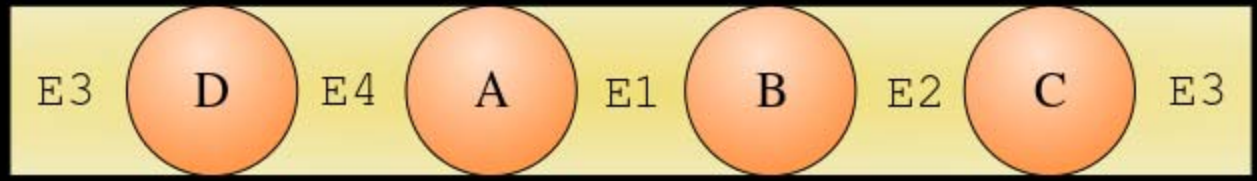
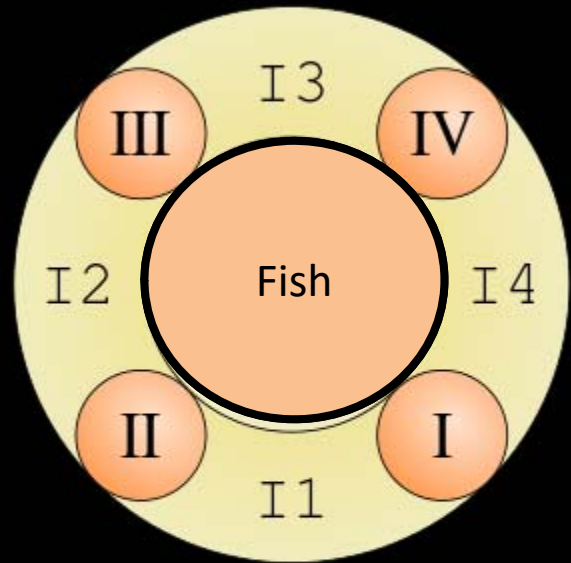
8.75" high
19.75" diameter

Created by the Mamluks, the majority of whom were ethnic Turks, a group of warrior slaves who took control of several Muslim states and established a dynasty that ruled Egypt and Syria from 1250 until the Ottoman conquest in 1517.



Theme: Cultural Diversity
Change over Time





Shahnama

With its 50,000 rhyming couplets the Shahnama, or "Book of Kings," is one of the most voluminous epics of world literature. The poem narrates the history of the ancient kings of Iran from the mythical beginnings to the Arab conquest in 651 A.D. It was completed around 1010 A.D. by Abu'l Qasim Firdausi Tusi (935–1020), and was dedicated to the Ghaznavid ruler Mahmud of Ghazna (r. 998–1030), who had succeeded in gaining power over eastern Iran and modern-day Afghanistan by the end of the tenth century. In the eyes of the poet, this king appeared as the long-awaited ruler who could end dynastic strife and reunify the region. Thus, he seemed the ideal dedicatee for a work meant to celebrate Iran's past glory.

These works are important because:

- They show the introduction of painting conventions in Persia
- Landscapes become more evolved
- Influence of Chinese art is evident
- European influence is clear as well
- Are considered some of the highest achievements in the arts of the book for their superb calligraphy, painting, and illumination.

189. Bahram Gur Fights the Karg, folio from the Great Il-Khanid Shahnama

Theme: Battle Scene



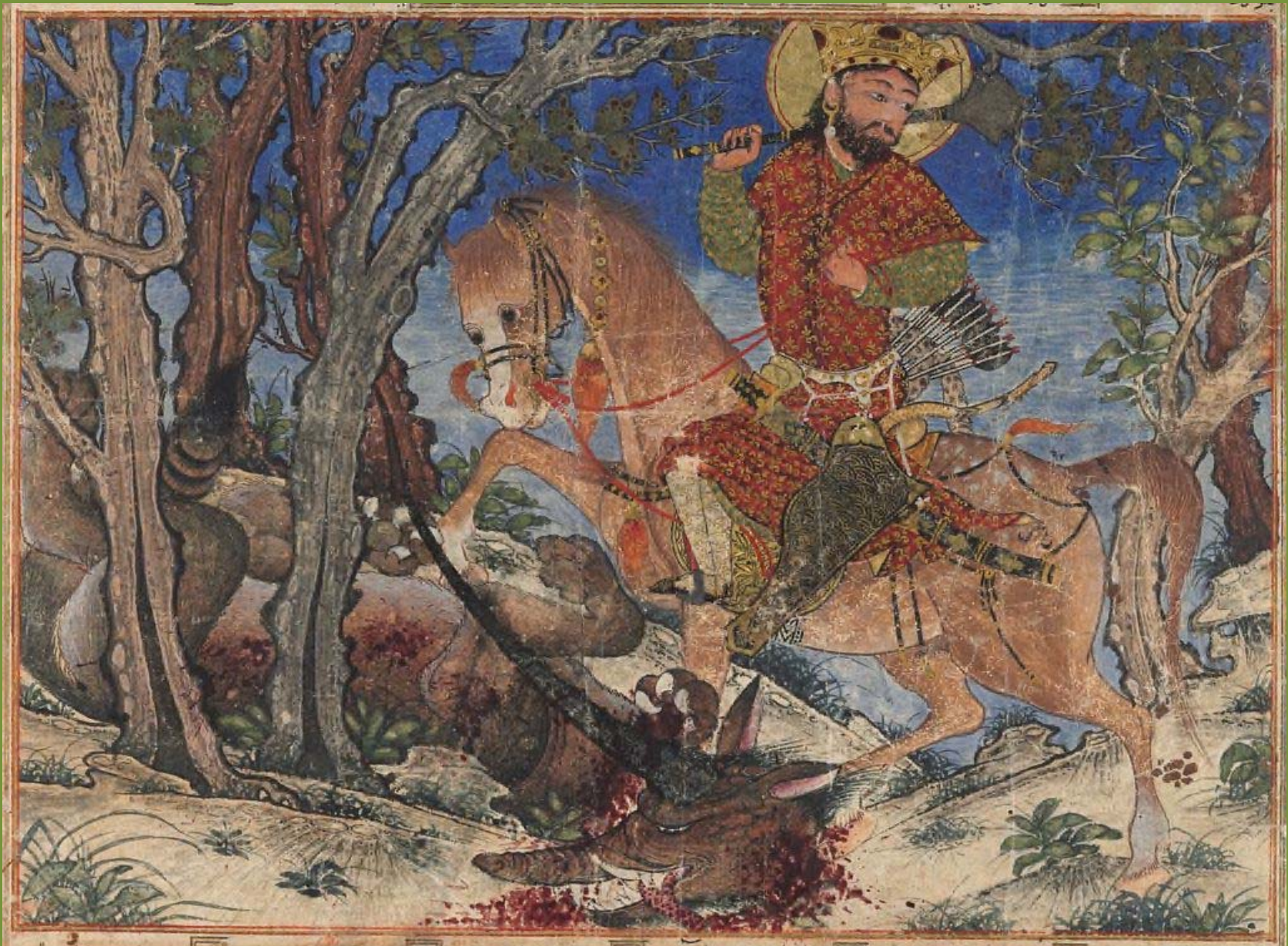
16.25" x 11.75"

Islamic; Persian, Il'Khanid
c. 1330-1340 C.E.

Ink and opaque watercolor, gold, and silver on paper.

Bahram Gur Fights the Karg

- Bahram Gur translates to “wild ass”
- He was a Sassanian King
- He was known for his hunting prowess
- A Karg is a horned wolf
- King shown in European clothes
- Shows the power of the King and Persian royalty



190. The Court of Gayumars, folio from Shah Tahmasp's Shahnama



14.5" x 9.25"

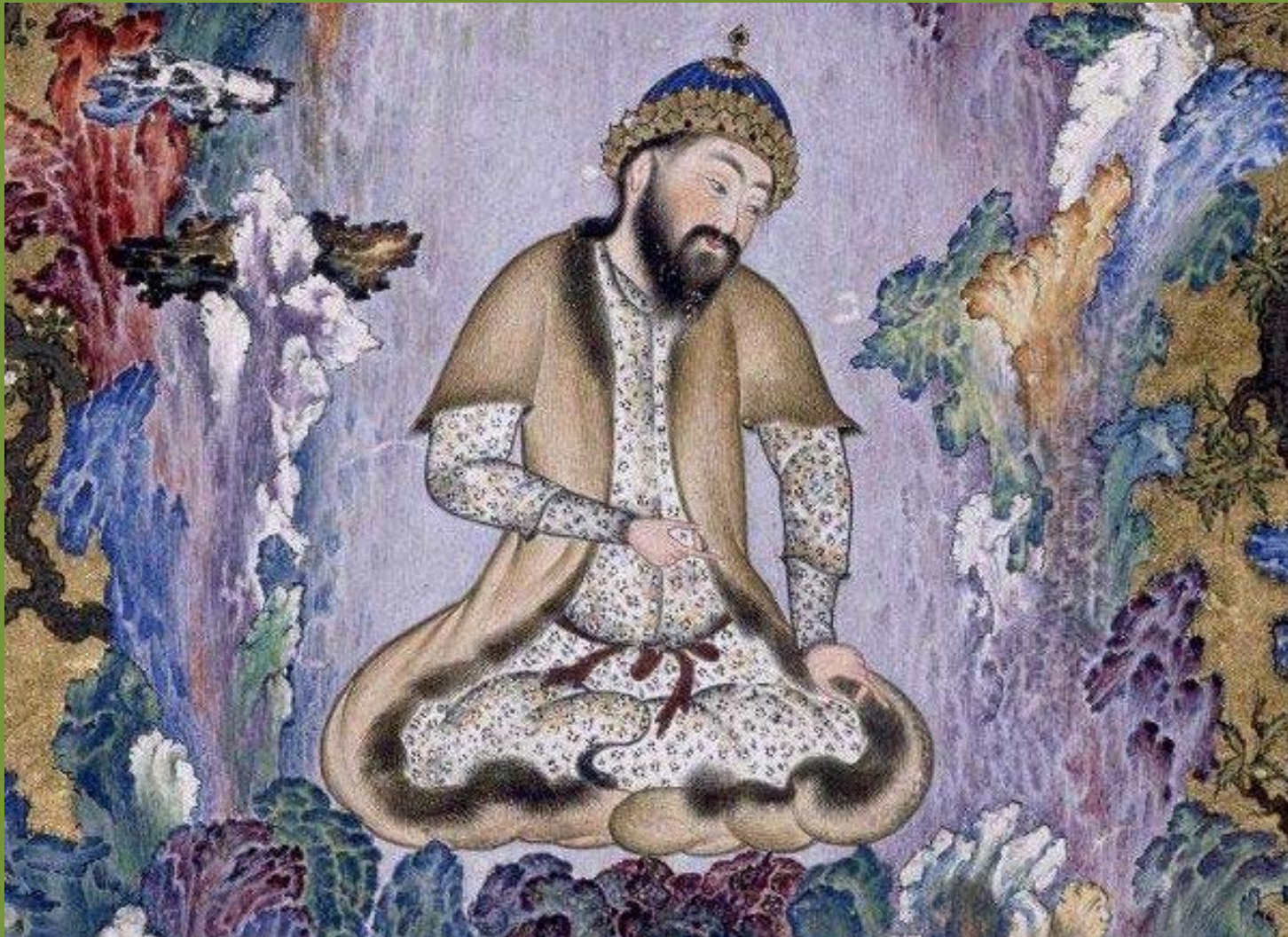


Sultan Muhammad
c. 1522-1525 C.E.

Ink, opaque watercolor, and gold on paper.

Court of Gayumars

- Surrounded by his son and grandson, the king addresses the court below him.
- The jewel-like intensity of the painting's colors and their variety and balance demonstrate Mohammad's exceptional mastery.
- The impeccable details and minute scale suggest the use of fine brushes, which at times were made of squirrel hairs. It took Mohammad three years to paint this masterpiece for his royal patron, Shah Tahmasp.



Theme: Royalty and Court



191. The Ardabil Carpet



Maqsud of Kashan
1539-1540 C.E.
Silk and wool
35ft x 18ft