

“Lessons from Agrabah: Women and “Others” and their Relationship with Art and Architecture in the Medieval Islamic World”

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The Problem of Visual Representation and Women

The World of Disney and their Princesses



Perceptions of Muslim, Middle Eastern, Oriental, and/or non-Western women
and their histories in popular media

THE CASE OF PRINCESS JASMINE



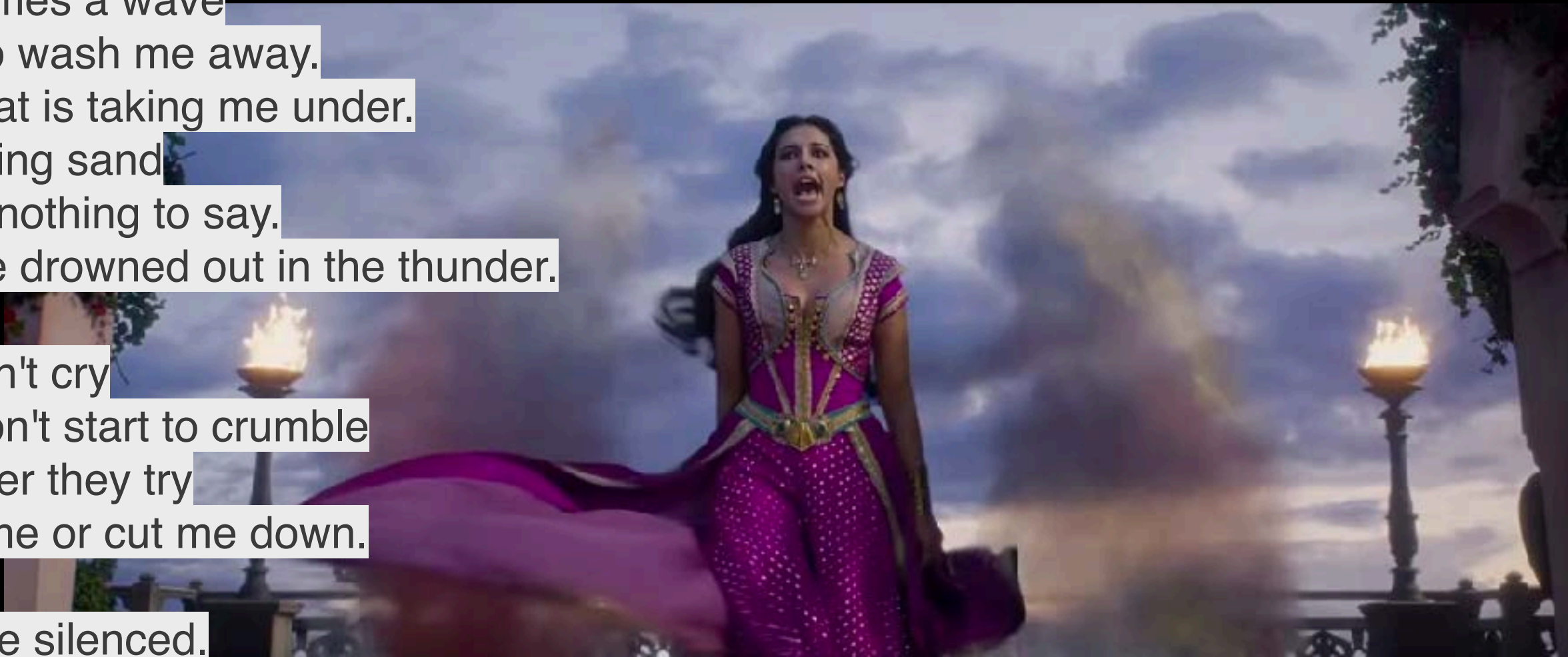
Lyrics of New Song Introduced in the 2019 Film

“Speechless”

Here comes a wave
meant to wash me away.
A tide that is taking me under.
Swallowing sand
left with nothing to say.
My voice drowned out in the thunder.

But I won't cry
And I won't start to crumble
Whenever they try
to shut me or cut me down.

I won't be silenced.
You can't keep me quiet.
Won't tremble when you try it.
All I know...
Is I won't...
Go speechless.



Women and Spatial Representation in the Modern Imagination



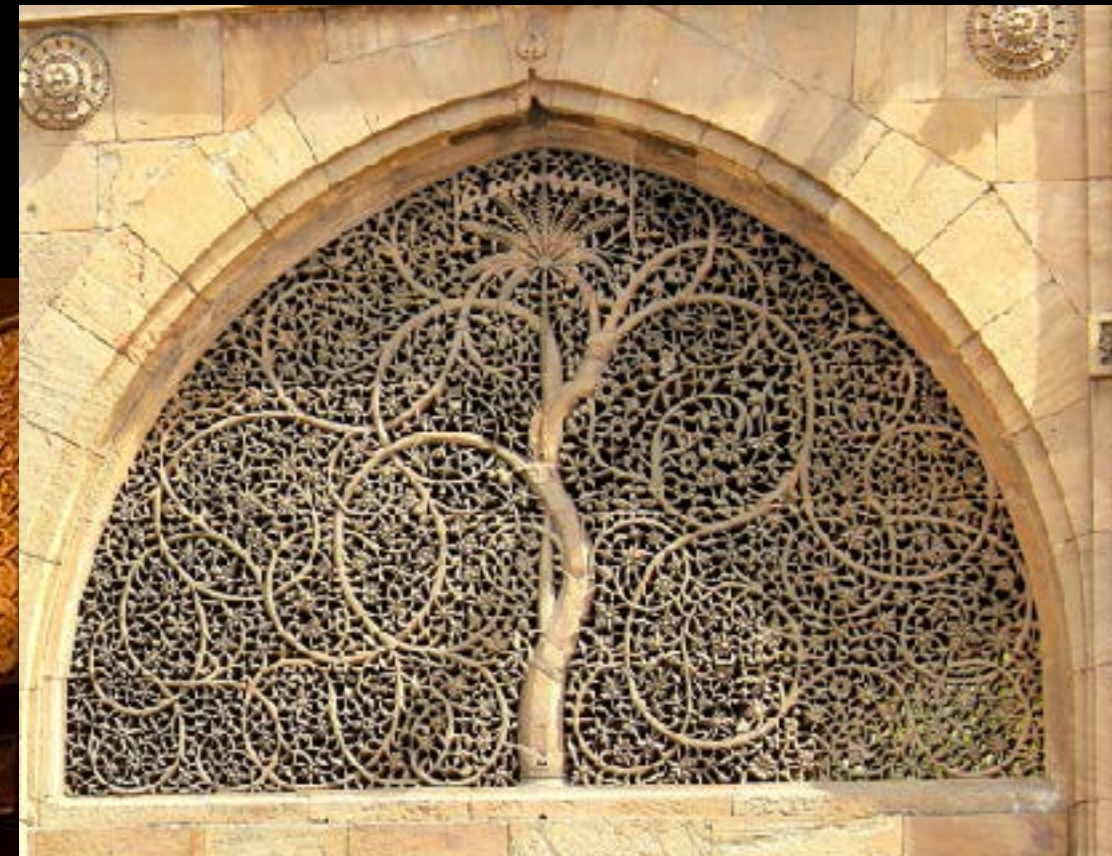


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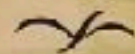




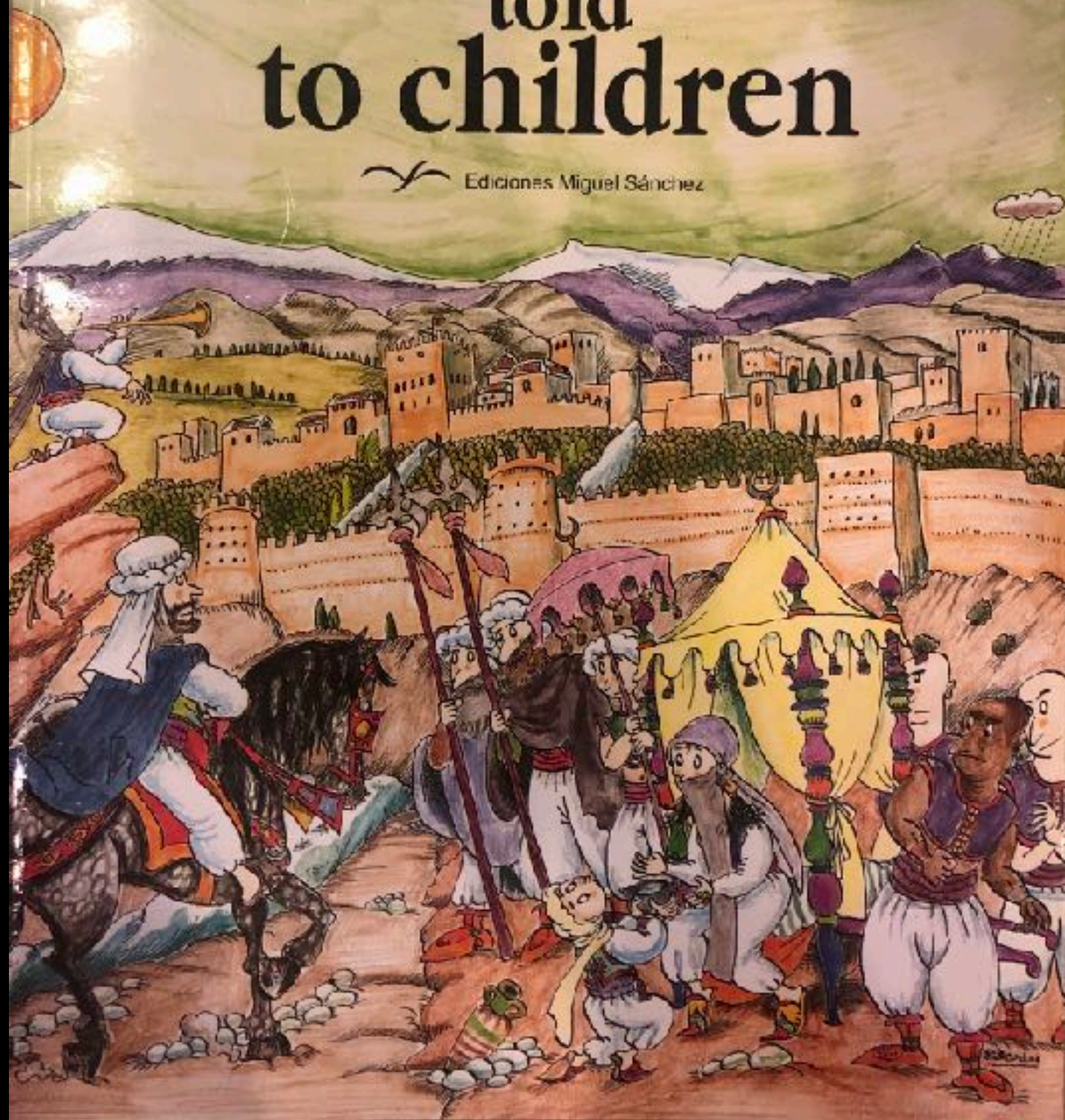


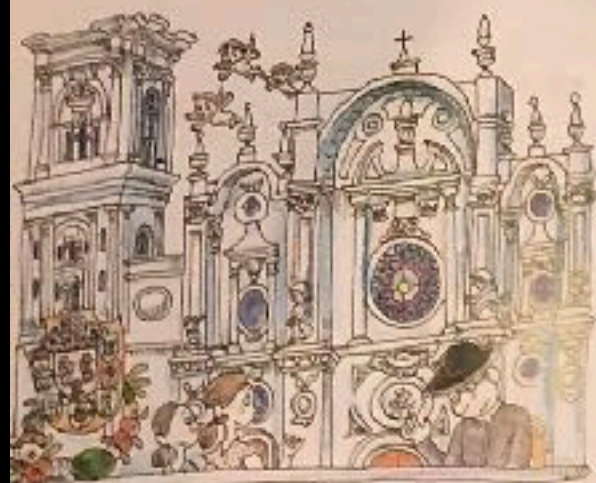
External Window of
Sidi Sayyid Mosque
c. 1573
Carving, stone
Ahmedabad, India

The Alhambra told to children



Ediciones Miguel Sánchez





A LITTLE HISTORY

Once upon a time there was, and still is, a city in the south of Spain full of charm and life, of history and art, called Granada. Fine palaces, an imposing cathedral, a fascinating Chapel royal, churches and convents without number, quarters such as the Albaicin, full of streets and alleys, winding and mysterious.

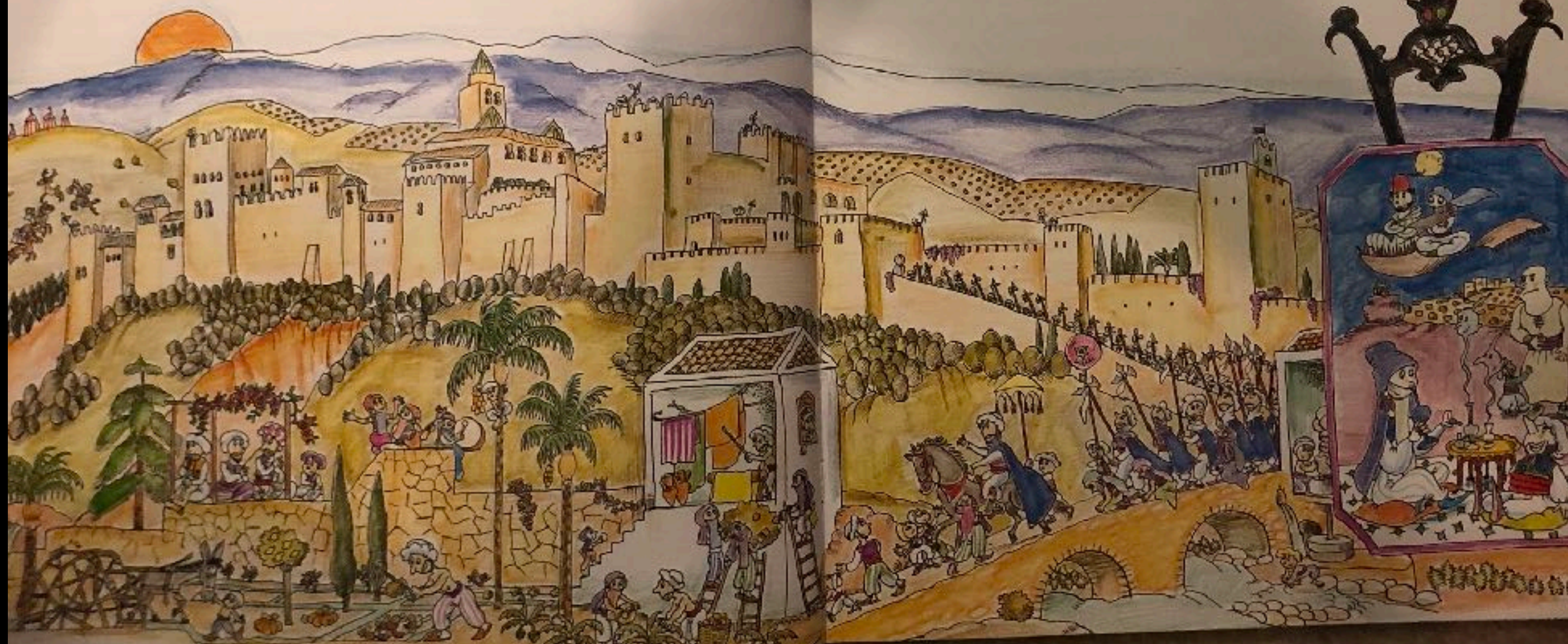
But of all these many monuments, there is one that surpasses them all. I refer to

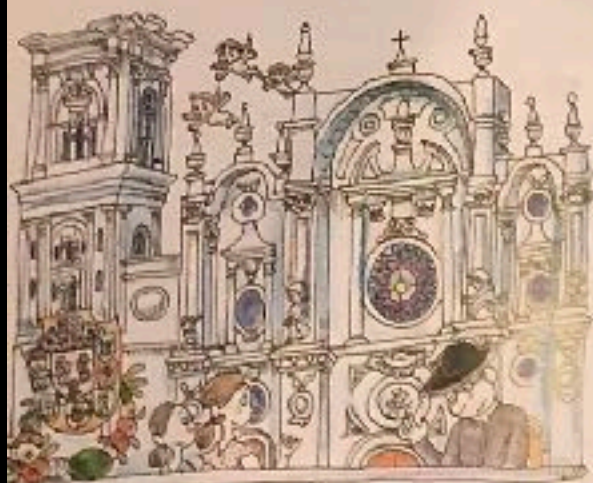
the Alhambra. Inside its walls the imagination and fancy take wing unchecked. As it is Oriental, whoever visits it dreams of fairies and genii, ogres and hidden treasures, of sultanas and princesses, and mysterious events, just as in *The Thousand and One Nights*.

But look. We aren't dealing now with a fantasy, but reality. We are going to leave dreams behind and are going to describe the Alhambra as it really is. But beforehand it would be very convenient

if you were to know something of its history.

As you probably know, Spain has always been invaded by foreign peoples. The Phoenicians and the Greeks came to trade. The Carthaginians came to conquer. The Romans arrived and for centuries they were the country's rulers. Among many other things they gave us





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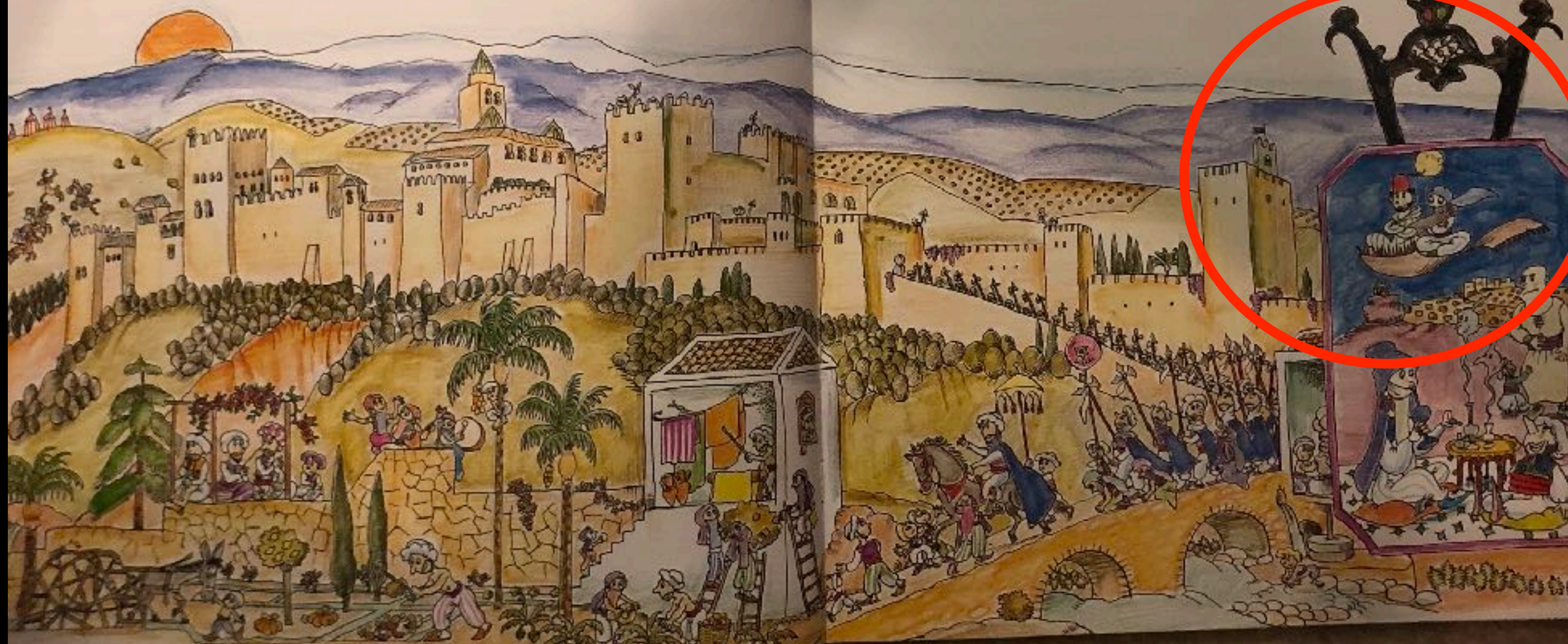
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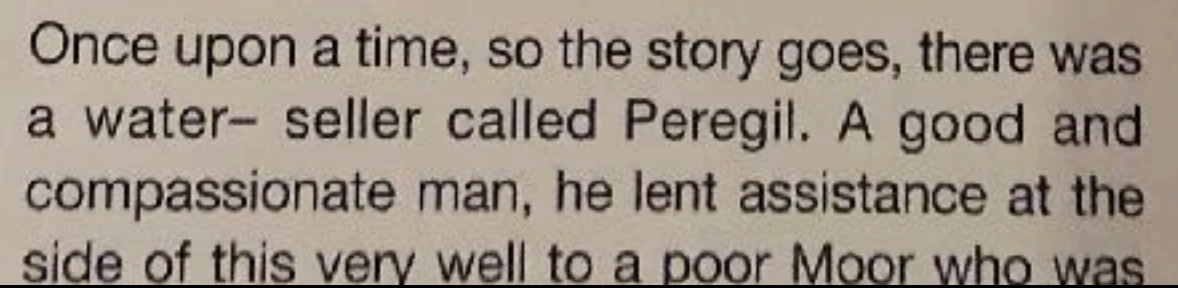
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Once upon a time, so the story goes, there was a water-seller called Peregil. A good and compassionate man, he lent assistance at the side of this very well to a poor Moor who was



The Baths. The Arabs were very clean and hygienic. They loved water and the bath. This is a scene from the story of Aladdin.

GARDENS OF EL PARTAL AND THE TOWERS. Light and colour, and every shrub,



“The Guard of the Harem,”
Jean-Léon Gérôme, 1859,
Oil on Oak Panel, 9 1/2 x 6 inches.
Wallace Collection, London.



“The Snake Charmer and His Audience,”

by Jean Leon Gerome

c. 1880

Oil on Canvas.

33 x 48 inches

Clark Art Institute



“The Moorish Bath,”
 Jean-Léon Gérôme
 c. 1870
 20 x 16 inches
 MFA Boston, 24.217



“The Slave Market”
 Jean-Léon Gérôme
 c. 1866
 33.3 x 24.9 inches
 Clark Art Institute



Jean-Lion Gerome, "Tiger on the Watch," c. 1888, Oil on Canvas,
25 x 25 x 5/8 inches, Museum of Fine Arts Houston

The Medieval Islamic World





Illustration of the Round City of Baghdad, 10th Century, Jean Soutif, Science Photo Library

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“Forbidden”



Abbasid Painting of Dancing Slave Girls
Samarra, Iraq, 9th century
Recreation by Ernest Herzfeld
Excavation 1911-1913







Tang (Zhou Dynasty) 7th century, molded buff mud, engobe, polychrome paint

Abbasid Dynasty Silver Dirham Coin Minted in the Name of Queen Zubayda (799-800 CE)

Abu Ja'far Harun al-Rashid ibn al-Mahdi, Zubayda bint Abi Ja'far (the wife of Harun al-Rashid)

Mint name

Jazirat al-Raghistan – The Island of Raghistan, probably a palace compound near Baghdad



Reverse

REVERSE

Field

amr al-sayyida / umm wali al-'ahd / abqaha Allah / ghaya
"by order of the Lady, mother of the heir, may God preserve her! So be it"

Margin

muhammad rasul Allah salla Allah 'alayhi wa sallam
"Muhammad is the messenger of God, may God's praise and peace be upon him"



Obverse

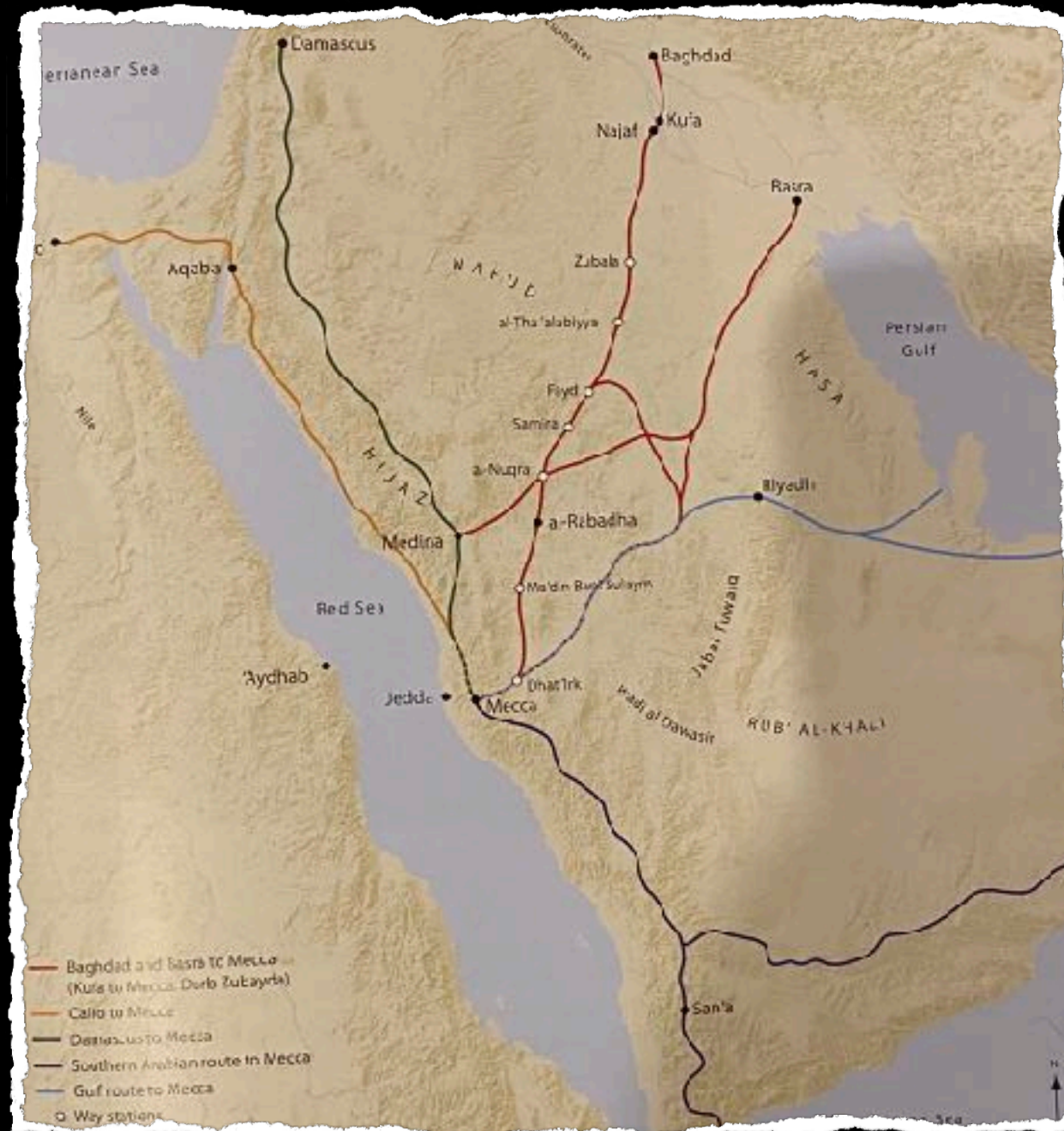
OBVERSE

Field

la ilah illa Allah / Allah wahdahu / la sharik lahu
"no god but God, unique, He has no associate"

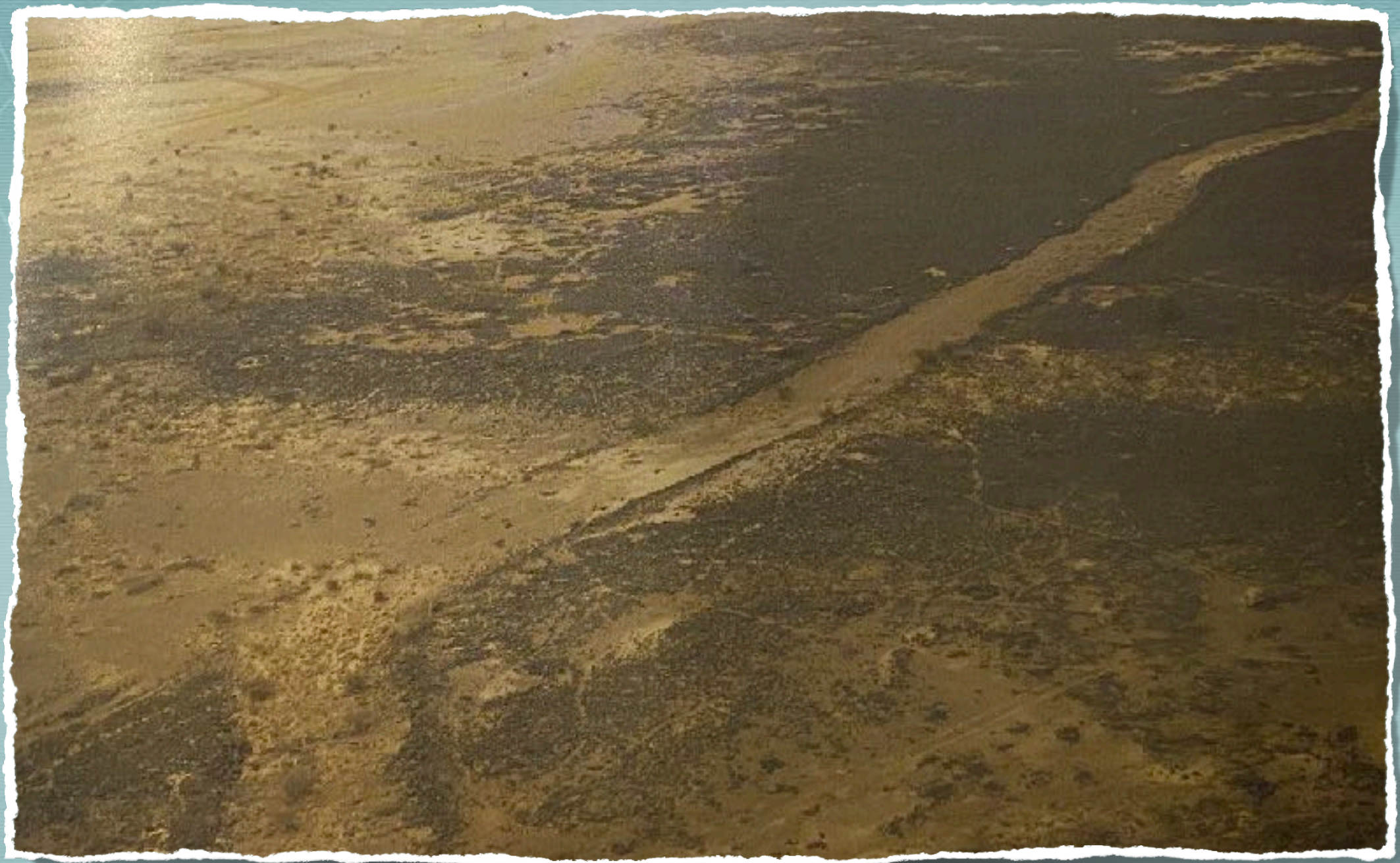
Margin

bism Allah duriba hadha'l-dirham bi-jazirat al-raghistan sana thalath wa thamanin wa mi'a
"in the name of God this dirham was struck in Jazirat al-Raghistan the year three and eighty and one hundred"



Darb Zubayda

The Roadway with Hydraulic Structures of the Abbasid Queen
Zubayda (d. 831)
From Kufa to Mecca



Darb Zubayda - Mahd al-Dhahab

The Road and Waterway of the Abbasid Queen Zubayda (d. 831)
From Kufa to Mecca



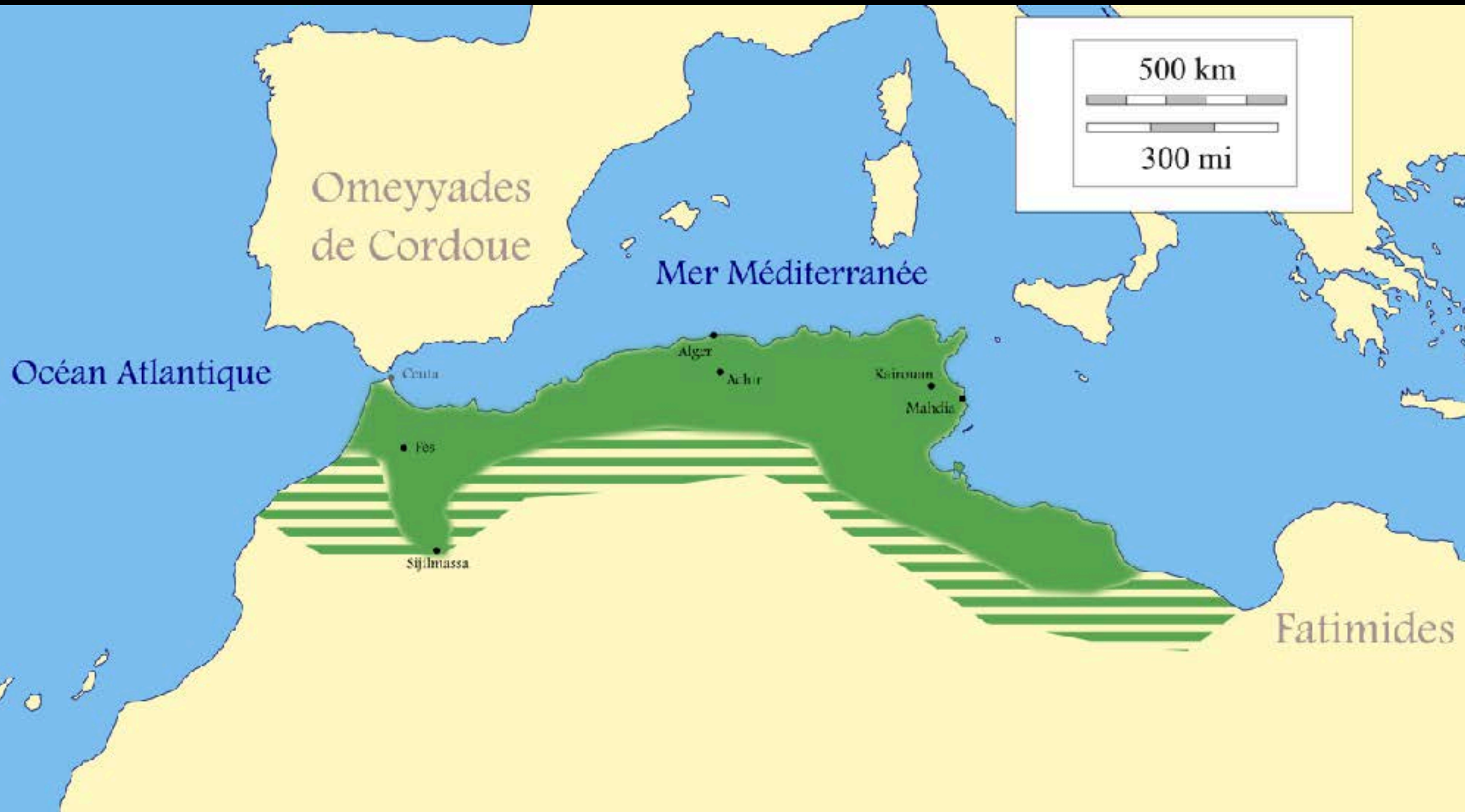
Birkat al-Aqīq

One of several water reservoirs built by Zubayda on the Hajj Route



Another Cistern Built by Queen Zubayda

996 - 1016 - Zirid North Africa



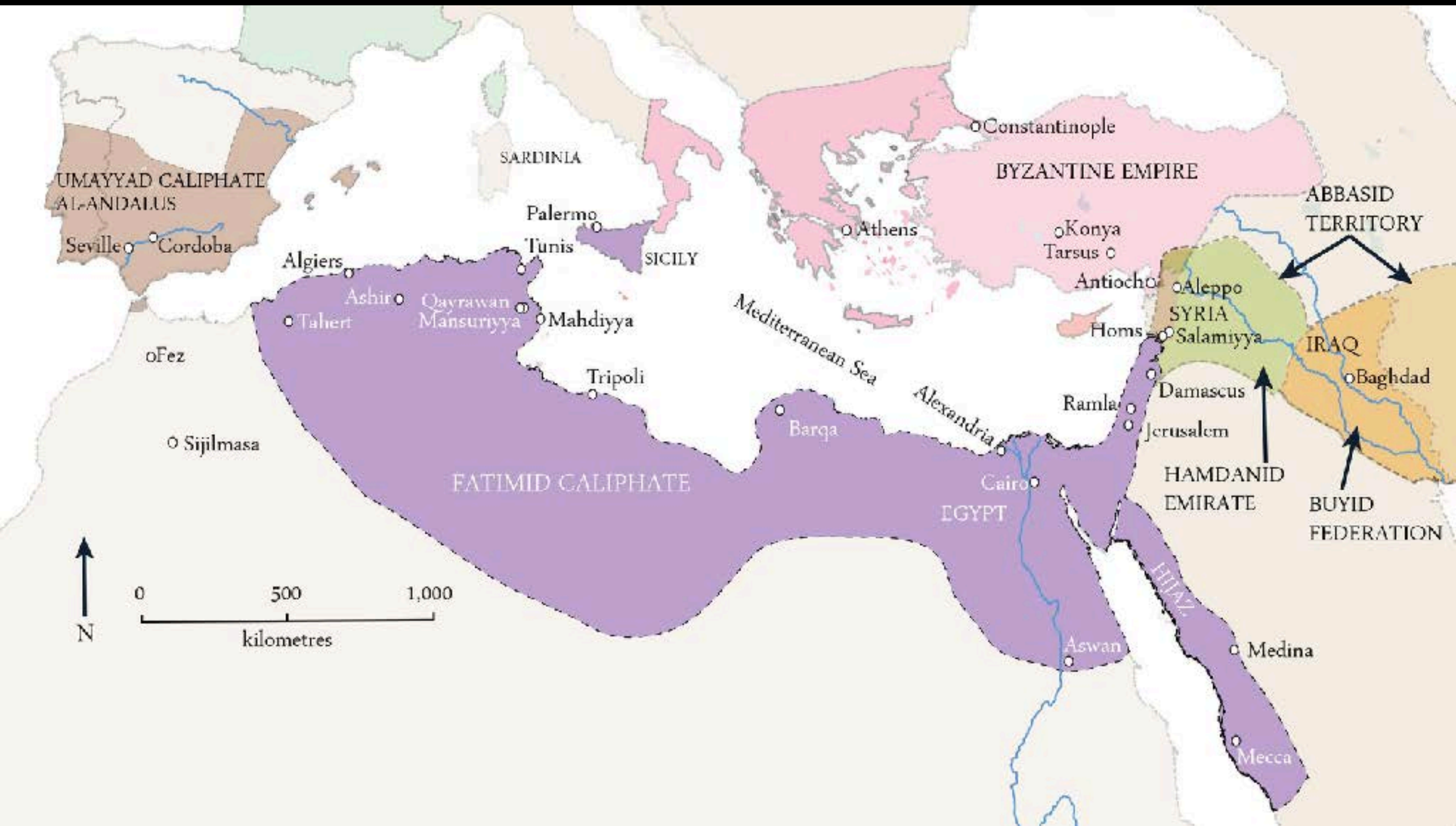
The Case Study of Medieval Islamic Female Patronage of the Arts



North Africa
(Tunisia)
Nurse's Quran,
1019 - 1020,
Ink, Opaque
watercolor,
Parchment,
Metropolitan
Museum of Art



Fatimid Empire - 909 - 1171





The Palace of Queen Arwa of Yemen, Dhu Jiblah, 11th century.





Queen Arwa Mosque, Dhu Jiblah, 11th - 12th c., Yemen





Queen Arwa Mosque - Dhu Jiblah, Yemen











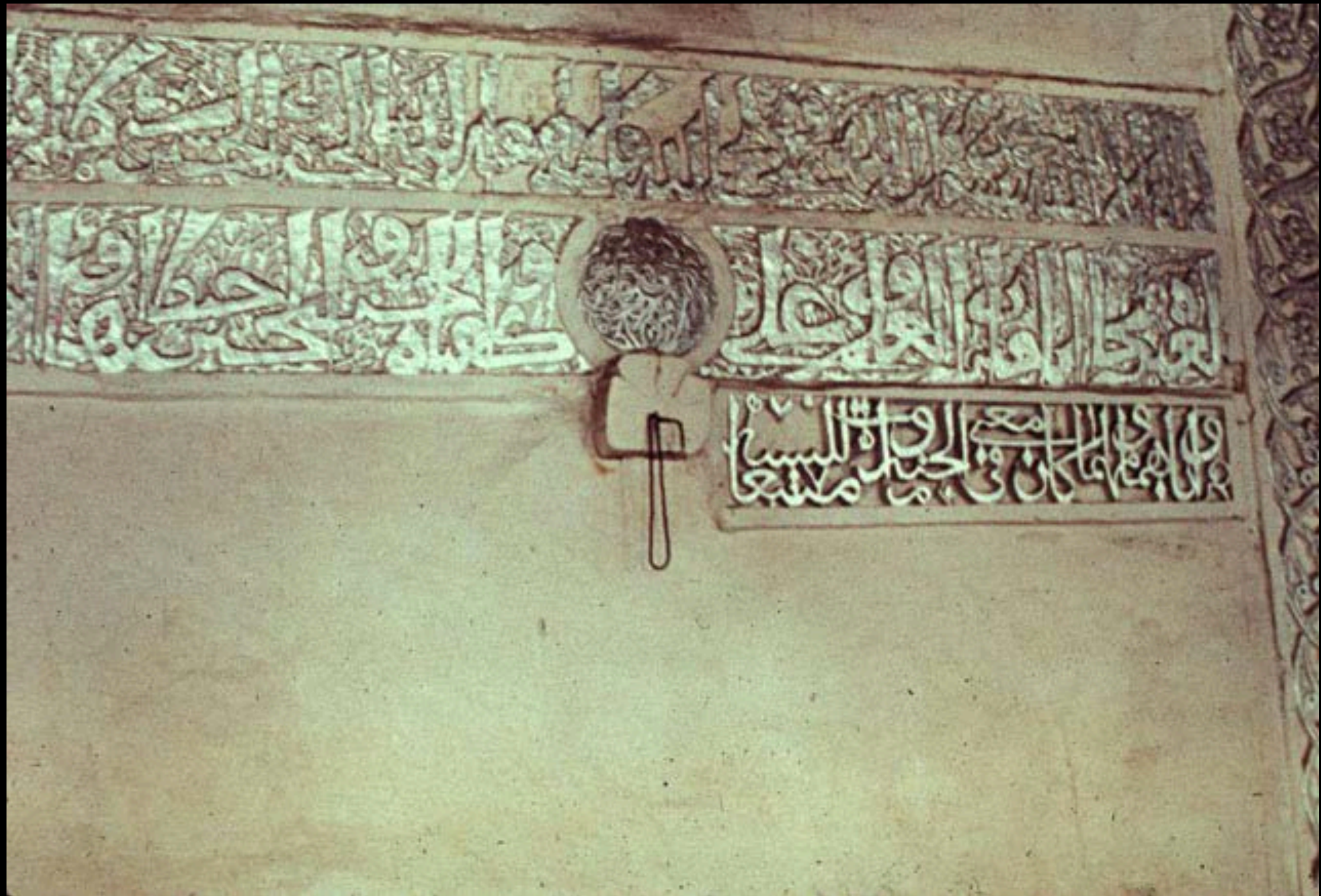
Jami' Mosque of Sana'
Original Construction 630 CE
Renovations of Queen Arwa 11th and 12th centuries



Jami' Mosque of Sana'
Original Construction 630 CE
Renovations of Queen Arwa 11th and 12th centuries
Western Minaret Attributed to Queen Arwa's Patronage



Jami' Mosque of Sana'
Original Construction 630 CE
Renovations of Queen Arwa 11th and 12th centuries
Inscriptional ornament added by the Queen





Pyxis of al-Mughira
10th century
Spain
Hispano-Umayyad Court



Pyxis of al-Mughira
10th century
Spain
Hispano-Umayyad Court

Dedication Plaque Attributing the Construction of a 10th c. Mosque to Mushtaq, A Concubine of the Umayyad Caliph in Cordoba



In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate
There is no power or strength except in God, the Unique. The Lady (Sayyidah)
Mushtaq
Mother of the Brother [of al-Hakam II] al-Mughīra
Ordered the construction of this minaret and the gallery
Adjoining it and the renovation of the decoration of this
Mosque and it was completed with the help of God under the direction
Of 'Atiq ibn 'Abd al-Rahmān, [his] eunuch servant (*fatā*)
In the month of Ramadān in the year
three [hundred] and sixty-[...].¹³

See Glaire Anderson, "A Mother's Gift: Astrology and the Pyxis of al-Mughira" (quoted above)

Mushtaq's description in the historical chronicles of Ibn Hayyan, a 11th c. Muslim historian of Spain and North Africa

The favour [of ‘Abd al-Rahmān III] was transferred to [al-Mushtaq] the delegate (*al-m[udab-bira]*) of al-Nāṣir li-Dīn Allāh's authority, the mother of his youngest son, al-Mughīra, [and] who acted *with his authority* (*amri-hi*) at the end of his [the caliph's] life.²²

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The Medieval Islamic World

