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'THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S MYSTICAL ASCENSION TO HEAVEN'.
MINIATURE FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED MANUSCRIPT

IRAN; C. 1580

H: 12.7; W: 9.5 CM

Figurative depictions of the Prophet Muhammad are unusual, though some are found in manuscripts. In such contexts the Prophet Muhammad is generally shown with a veil covering his face and a flaming halo around his head. A few examples of depictions of the Prophet Muhammad without a veil also exist, however. See the miniature from Nizami's *Khamsa* in section 1.

The Prophet Muhammad's mystical ascension to heaven on the winged creature *Buraq* is an important part of the Muslim tradition that is also mentioned in the Koran. In heaven Muhammad met the great figures from both the Bible and the Koran: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus. Only Muhammad, however, was permitted to come into Allah's presence.

Published in:

Joachim Meyer and Peter Wandel: *Sufisme: islams mystiske vej*, Davids Samling, København 2011, pp. 52-53;

Marie Fahlén (ed.): *Bildens kraft: religion och samtida utmaningar*, Lund 2014, p. 62, fig. 3.1;

Patrick Lennon, Lise Connellan (eds.): *Sacred places: pilgrimages in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*, MAS, [Antwerpen] 2014, p. 128, cat.no. 127;

Stig T. Rasmussen: *Klassisk arabisk litteratur i oversættelse til dansk: en litteraturhistorisk vejvisende antologi*, København 2018, pp. 86-87;