

Judaism and Shi'ism/Isma'ilism Commonalities and Intertextuality

Apparently, no conference has ever been convened to discuss the possible interaction between Judaism and Shi'ism/Isma'ilism in the multi-faceted areas of literature, theology or philosophy. The existence of long established Jewish communities in the lands dominated by Shi'ite Islam must have nurtured some forms of exchange. Indeed, scholars have already noted certain common philosophical sources such as the pseudo-Theology of Aristotle, similar cosmological constructions or the conception of prophetic cycles and messianic/mahdistic eschatology. Jewish themes are present in Shi'ite exegesis and gnosticism and Isma'ili influences on Judaism are discernable in Jewish thought. Shi'ite/Isma'ili propaganda and polemics were directed at Jews.

This workshop brings together scholars who in the course of their research have studied one or the other aspect of the engagement between these two religious traditions to elucidate the nature of their intellectual and spiritual encounter.



Thursday, 12 December 2013

PANEL I

Chair: Paul Fenton

- 10:00 **Introduction: Shi'ism and Judaism – the State of the Art**
Paul Fenton (Bochum/Paris)
- 10:30 **Fallen Demiurges, Angels, Demons, and Celestial Wars: Links and Affinities between a Kabbalistic and an Isma'ili Cosmogony**
Michael Ebstein (Jerusalem)
- 11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:30 **The Ismâ'îlî dâ'î Hamîd al-Dîn al-Kirmânî, a Forerunner of the Kabbalah? The Ten Cosmic Intellects and the Ten Sephirôt in Kitâb Râhat al-'Aql**
Daniel de Smet (Paris)
- 12:15 **What is so Secret in a Prophet's Message? A Glimpse of Ja'far b. Mansur al-Yamans (d. ca. 960 CE) *Sara'ir wa-asrar al-nutaqa***
Roy Vilozny (Jerusalem)
- 13:00 Lunch

PANEL II

Chair: Michael Ebstein

- 14:15 **References to Jews in Ābû Hâtim al-Râzi's *Kitâb al-islâh***
Paul Fenton (Bochum/Paris)
- 15:00 **Walad Zinah and Dajjal of Stone: Influences of Toledot Yesu on Shi'i-Sunni Polemic**
Alexandra Cuffel (Bochum)
- 15:45 Coffee Break
- 16:00 **Exposure of Jewish Writers to the Shi'i Heritage at the Heyday of the Jewish 'Golden Age' in al-Andalus**
Ehud Krinis (Beer Sheva)
- 16:45 **Conclusion – General Discussion**

DIRECTIONS

Public Transportation:

Take the U35 towards Bochum Querenburg (Hustadt) from Bochum Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) and get off at the stop »Ruhr-Universität«. From there you turn right and cross the pedestrian bridge keeping left while you pass the university library. The FNO building is on your left-hand side.

By Car:

The quickest route is via the motorway junction Bochum/Witten, where the A43 and A44 meet. Simply take the exit Bochum-Querenburg, follow the signs "Ruhr-Universität" and then the (electronic) information boards.



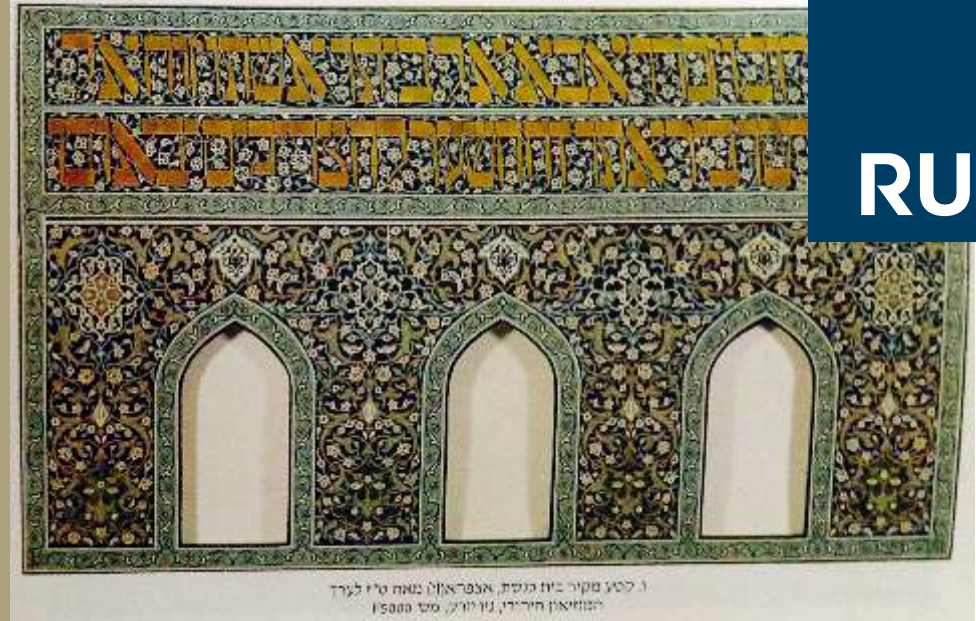
CONVENER

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RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

JUDAISM AND SHI'ISM/ISMA'ILISM COMMONALITIES AND INTERTEXTUALITY

12 December 2013 | FNO 02/40-46
Convener: Paul Fenton (Paris)

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