





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

McMaster Association of  
Religious Studies invites  
you to the 2013 Symposium



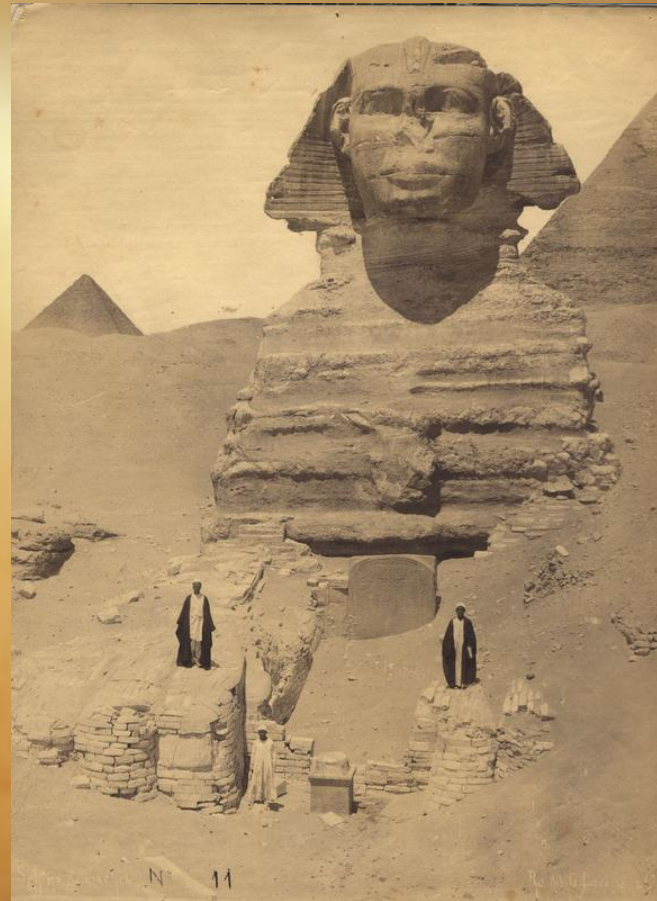
We are honoured to have Sayyid Ahmed  
Amiruddin as our guest speaker.  
He will be giving a lecture on: "The Secret  
History of the Ark of the Covenant:  
Hermes, Hagar and the Bloodline of  
Muhammad"

When: Thursday February 7, 2013  
Time: Meet and Greet at 6:30. Presenting will begin at 7:00pm  
Location: Chester New Hall room: 104



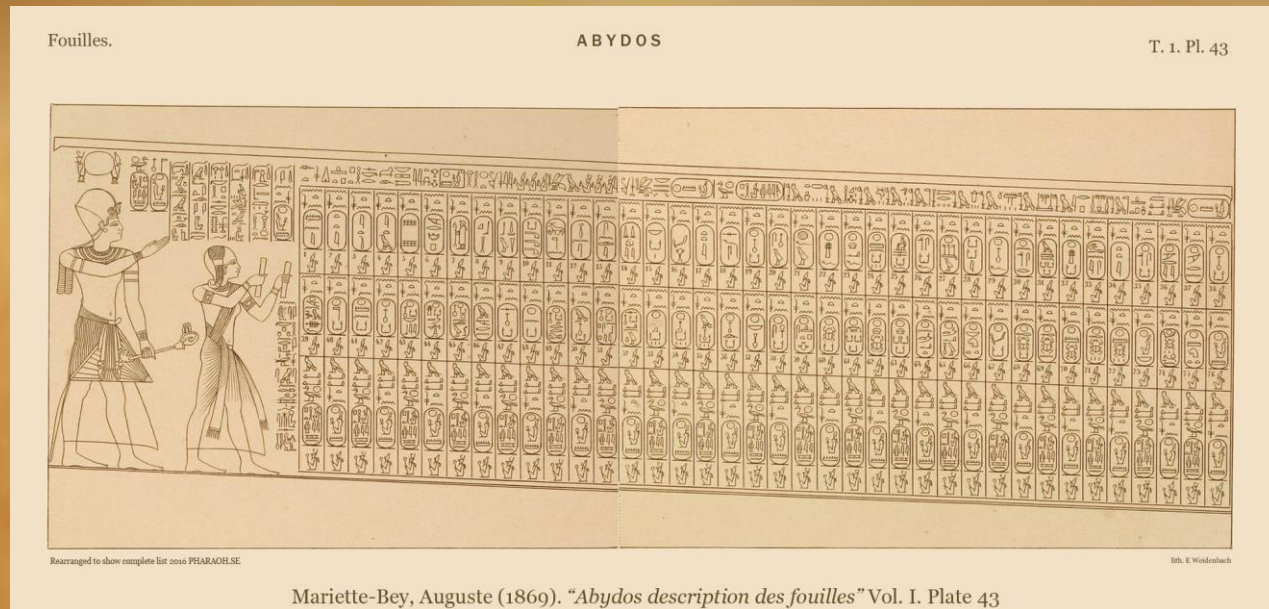
# Origins : Adam & the Ark

The Dream Stele, also called the Sphinx Stele located at the Sphinx reads: "Look at me, observe me, my son Thutmose. I am your father Horemakhet-Khepri-Ra-Atum. I shall give to you the kingship [upon the land before the living]....[Behold, my condition is like one in illness], all [my limbs being ruined]. The sand of the desert, upon which I used to be, (now) confronts me; and it is in order to cause that you do what is in my heart that I have waited." The ancient Egyptians referred to the Sphinx as Seshep-Ankh Atum, or the living image of Atum (Adam).





# Origins : Adam & the Ark



The Abydos Tablet contains the complete Egyptian record of the genealogical line of the Pharaohs back to Adam. It shows Adam (Atum) as the first Pharaoh, and Noah (Nu) the twentieth. These names, including Idris (Thoth) of the Pharaohs who were Prophets have royal ovals to indicate their royal status.

# Origins: Adam & the Ark

- According to Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Adam descended from Heaven with Eve down to planet Earth
- Ibn Abbas narrates, “When Adam left Heaven, there was nothing he passed by from which he did not take. It was said to the Angels, “Let him take what he wants” (Ibn Kathir)
- Tabari narrated, “Adam brought down to Earth the Black Stone, the Rod granted to Moses, the Ring granted to Solomon, anvils, mallets, hammers and tongs”
- The fifth Shi’ite Imam Muhammad al-Baqir is narrated to have said, “The staff of Moses belonged to Adam. It was passed to Jethro, and from him to Moses” (al-Kafi)

# Seth & Idris (Hermes)



Early Muslim and Christian sources report that Idris built the Great Pyramids of Giza to bury Seth after his death. Some narrations say both Idris and Seth are buried in the two largest pyramids on the Giza plateau near Cairo. In Islamic tradition, Idris (Hermes), Ilyas (Elijah), al-Khidr and Isa (Jesus) are still alive



# Seth & Hermes

- Muslim and Christian sources report that some people believe Idris and Seth to have been buried in the Great Pyramids of Giza
- Ibn Ishaq: “Enoch b. Jared is Idris the prophet. He was the first of Adam's children to be given prophecy and the first to write with a pen”
- Ibn Kathir: As for Idris, he is in the genealogical chain of the Prophet
- Ibn Ishaq says he was the first who wrote with the pen. There was a span of 380 years between him and the life of Adam...they call him Thrice-great Hermes [Hermes al-Haramisah].

# Idris, Thoth, Hermes Trismegistus

- According to Abbasid era sources, Hermes Trismegistus is recognized as the Egyptian Thoth, who has an identical function to that of Hermes.
- The earliest record of the Emerald Tablet of Thoth is to be found in Arabic Shi'ite-Sufi sources by Jabir ibn Hayyan (Geber), a student of Ja'far al-Sadiq; Husayn ibn 'Ali's grandson
- Idris defeated death and was the teacher of Abraham, his descendant





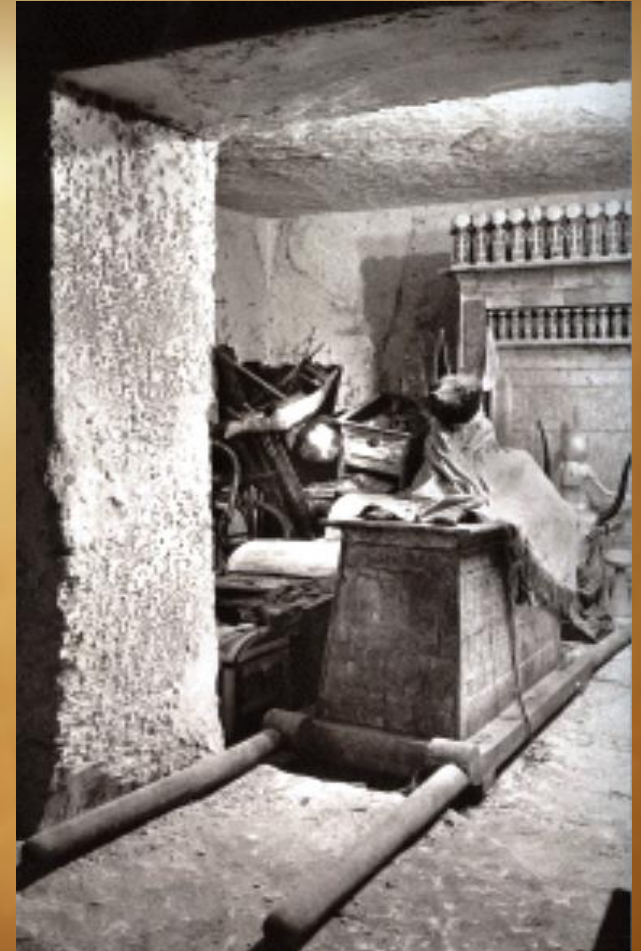
# Ancient Egypt: Treasures of the Pharaohs

- The Ark was kept in ancient Egypt, guarded by the Pharaohs
- According to the University of Texas Pan-America's King Tut Exhibit Curator, King Tutankhamun's treasures were replicas of the treasures of the Pharaoh before him
- Each Pharaoh's treasures were replicas of the treasures of their predecessor Pharaoh, back to the beginning of the dynasty.



# The Tomb of Tutankhamun

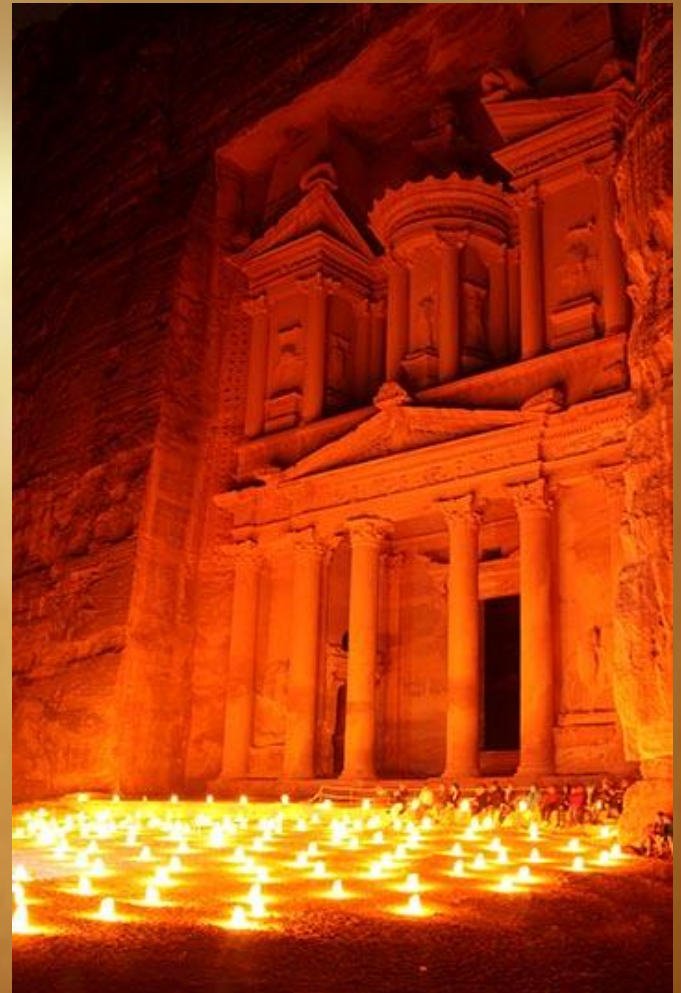
- In 1922 in the Egyptian Valley of the Kings the Tomb of Tutankhamun (KV62) was opened by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon. Among the artefacts was a processional Ark, listed as Shrine 261, the Anubis Shrine. Almost immediately after publication of the photographs of this sensational archaeological find some claimed that the Anubis Shrine could be the Ark of the Covenant.
- According to Islamic sources, the ancient Egyptians possessed the original contents of the Ark of the Covenant
- These relics were guarded in Egypt by Thoth, or Idris until the era of Abraham





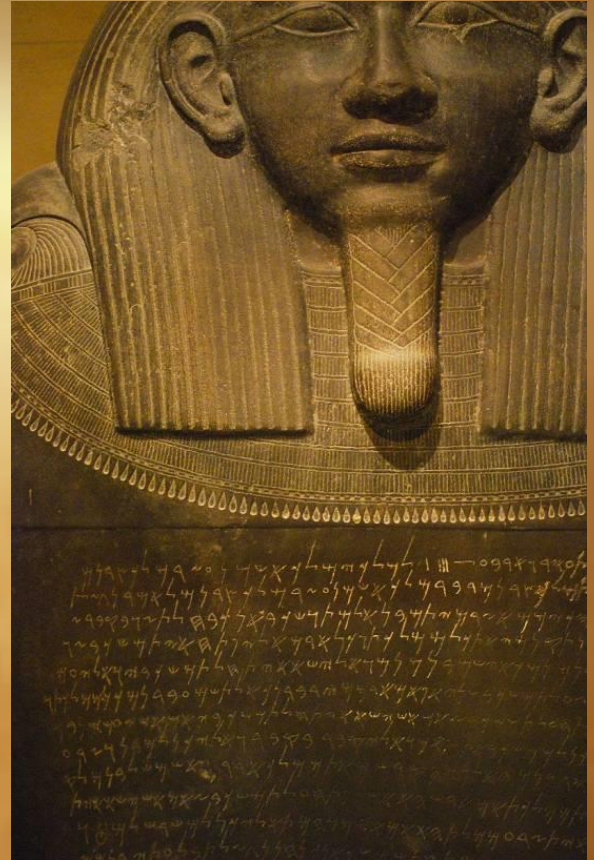
# Al Khazneh Firoun (Treasury of the Pharaoh), Petra, Jordan

- According to Rabbinical commentators in the *Midrash Genesis Rabbah*, Ishmael's mother Hagar was the daughter of the Pharaoh of Egypt, making Ishmael the grandson of the Pharaoh of Egypt
- According to Arabic sources, the Nabateans were descendents of Nabat (Nabajoth), from the Twelve Tribes of Ishmael, son of Hagar and Abraham
- Al Khazneh was built by the Nabateans, whose empire stretched from modern day Saudi Arabia, through Syria to Petra. Its purpose remains "unknown".
- According to Islamic sources, the Ark of the Covenant passed to Ishmael, from Hagar, who received them from Thoth, Hermes Thrice-Great
- In Islamic tradition, Idris (Enoch), Ilyas (Elijah), al-Khidr and Isa (Jesus) are still alive



# Canaanite-Egyptian Connection

- The sarcophagus of Eshmunazar II, a Phoenician king of Sidon and the son of King Tabnit. It was unearthed in 1855 at a site near Sidon, Lebanon and is now in the Louvre.
- Archaeologists have found evidence of a definite connection between the Canaanites and the Phoenicians, linking them to the Egyptians.
- Arabic historical references dated back as far as the 9th century by Al Tabari and later by Ibn Khaldun the founder of sociology that the Phoenicians who were a major group of Arabs known as Banu Kinanah, or Canaanites.
- The Phoenician alphabets are mutually comprehensible to Arabic language speakers.
- Arabic, like Phoenician is written from right to left and the resemblance is striking between the Phoenician, Nabatean and Palmyrene script from which the Kufic and earliest Hejazi writing developed.





# Lihyan Kings of Northern Arabia

• **Pharaonic Tayma Inscription:** The Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities (SCTA) announced in year 2010 that Saudi archaeologists have discovered an ancient hieroglyphic inscription mentioning an Egyptian Pharaoh on a rock near the ancient oasis of Tayma, Tabuk province. The discovery, about 400 km north of Madina and northeast of the ancient Nabatean site Madain Saleh, marks the first confirmed hieroglyphic inscription discovered in the Kingdom.

• (Right: Lihyanite (Pharaoh) Kings of Arabia)

• The Ark of the Covenant was guarded by the Ishmaelites, who were proud of their maternal Pharaonic ancestry



## *Qasr al-Bint Firoun* (Palace of the Daughter of Pharaoh), Petra, Jordan

- The Nabateans also built *Qasr al-Bint Firoun*, or (Palace of the Daughter of Pharaoh). Its purpose also remains “unclear”





# Jethro: Shu'aib

- 7:85: To the people of Madyan (Madian) (We sent) their brother Shu'aib (Jethro) ”
- Islamic traditions identify Jethro as an Ishmaelite Prophet sent to the Midianites
- The term “Ishmaelite” is synonymous with the term “Midianites” (Achtmeier, Paul J., *Harper's Bible Dictionary*, San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1985)
- The Ark was confiscated from the Ishmaelites by Jethro, and passed to Moses through his marriage to Zipporah, daughter of Jethro
- Moses met Jethro at Wadi Musa in Petra, Jordan



# Moses and the Israelites

- The Ark is passed to Moses, who uses it to free the Israelites
- The Israelites rise to power with possession of the Ark after Joshua invades Canaan for its leadership
- Judges 3:5-6, “The children of Israel dwelt *among* the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hittites, and *Jebusites*: and they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons...”
- The Al-Mawsu’at Al-Filastinniya (Palestinian encyclopedia) states, “The Palestinians are the descendants of the Jebusites, who are of Arab origin”, and describes Jerusalem as an “Arab city because its first builders were the Canaanite Jebusites, whose descendants are the Palestinians.”





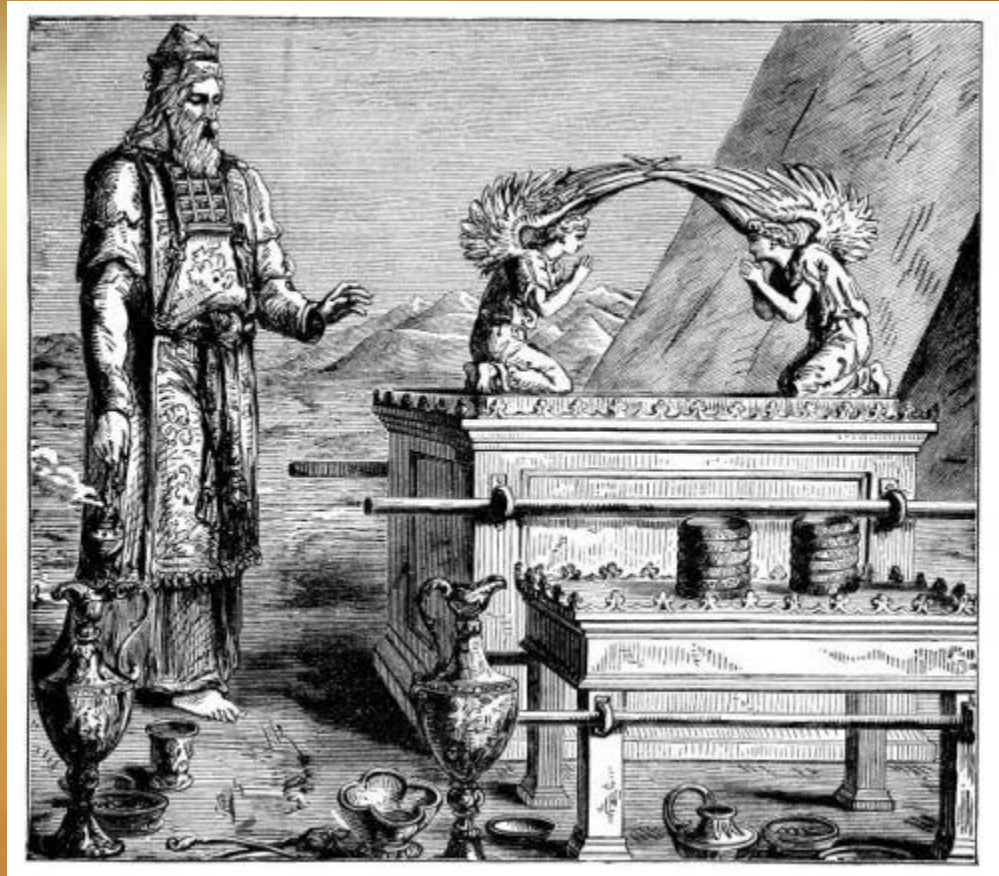
# Joshua the Successor of Moses

- According to Islamic sources, Joshua was the successor of Moses. He led the Israelites in battle against their cousins the Canaanites (Phoenicians). The Phoenicians or Canaanites were the most powerful of all tribes in Palestine at the time of its invasion by Joshua. They built Baalbek in Lebanon (right)
- Biblically speaking, the Phoenicians were enemies of Israelites. Jericho was the first city of the Canaanites to be conquered by the Israelites immediately after the Exodus. Joshua 6:1-27 gives the Biblical account of the conquest of the land of Canaan by the Israelites under the command of Joshua
- Following the rise of Nebuchadnezzar II, who destroyed the Temple, the Israelites, were exiled from Jerusalem, as were the 'Adnanites from Arabia, who fled to Yemen.



# Samuel & Saul

- 2:248: “And their Prophet (Samuel) said to them (Israelites): “A Sign of his authority is that there shall come to you the Ark of the Covenant therein of security *from your Lord*, and the relics left by the family of Moses and the family of Aaron, carried by angels. In this is a symbol for you if ye indeed have faith”
- According to Islamic sources, and others, after a temporary disappearance, the Ark of the Covenant is retrieved by the Israelites through King Saul, who is anointed by Samuel





# David, Solomon & the Queen of Sheba

- 2:25 1: “And David killed Goliath, and God gave him kingship and wisdom, and taught him whatsoever He pleased”
- David marries Saul’s daughter, inherits the Ark of the Covenant from him
- 27: 16. “And Solomon inherited David and he said: ‘O people! We have been taught the language of the birds, and we have been granted of everything; verily this is the manifest favour’.
- According to the Quranic narrative, Solomon marries the Queen of Sheba whose vast kingsom stretches from Ethiopia to Yemen. She conceives a son for him (Menelik I), who would become the first Emperor of Ethiopia
- The Kebra Nagast, or The Glory of the Kings, an account written of the origins of the Solomonic line of the Emperors of Ethiopia, narrates the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Ethiopia by Menelik I, while a replica is kept in the Temple
- In his book The Lost Ark of the Covenant (2008), Tudor Parfitt suggests that the Ark was taken to Arabia following the events depicted in the Second Book of Maccabees, and cites Arabic sources which maintain it was brought in distant times to Yemen, which was part of the Kingdom of Sheba.

# David, Solomon & the Language of Birds

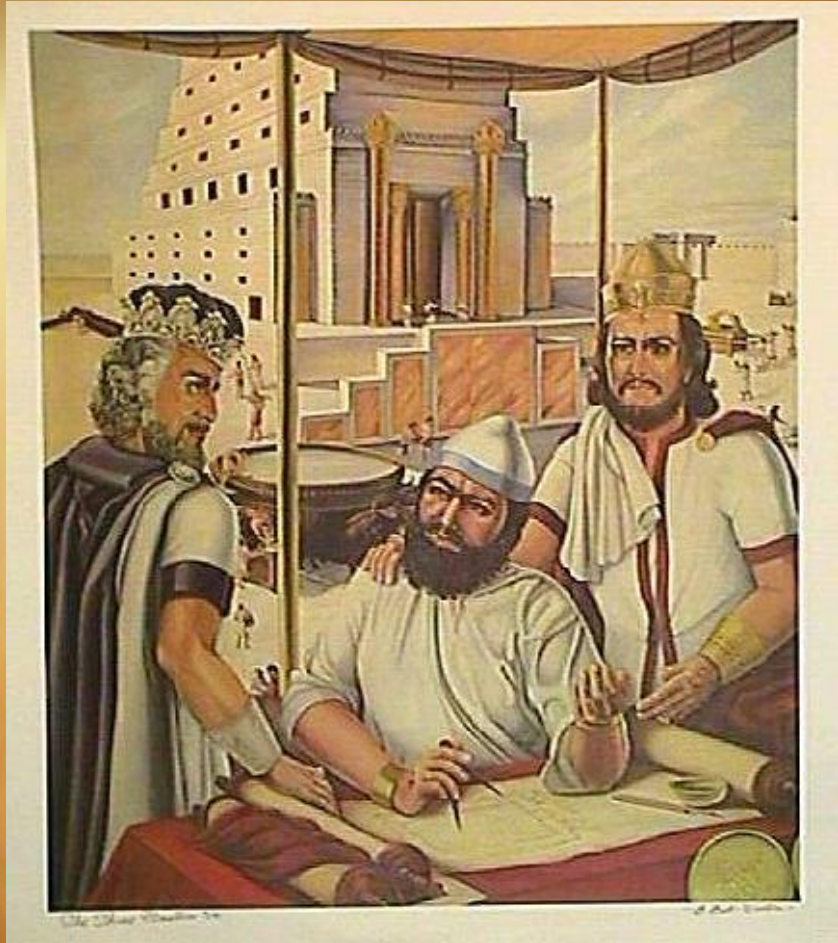
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# King Hiram of Tyre, & Hiram Abiff

- King Hiram of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff who came together to assist King Solomon rebuild the Temple where the Ark was kept and Queen Zaynab Bint 'Amr Ibn Al Arab (Zenobia) – builder of Palmyra were Ishmaelite Canaanite Arabs.
- Phoenician colonists from modern-day Lebanon, led by Dido (also known as Queen Elissa), founded Carthage circa 814 BC. Queen Elissa (also known as “Alissar”) was an exiled princess of the ancient Phoenician city of Tyre. As late as the second century AD the descendants of the Carthaginians in North Africa called themselves Canaanites.



# Quraysh & the Hashemites

- The Canaanites (Banu Kinanah) were divided in four branches: An-Nadr, Abdumanat, Malakan, and Malak. Tabari wrote, "... the descendants of al-Nadr ibn Kinana were called Quraysh."
- Quraysh is a direct descendant in the 40th generation of Ishmael. Hashem b. Abd al-Manaf descends in the 11<sup>th</sup> generation from Canaan.
- Hashem is the progenitor of the Hashemites
- Hashem married Salma, the daughter of a noble named Amr of the Banu an-Najjar of the Banu Khazraj tribe, who are direct descendants of David and lived in Yathrib (Medina). Salma became pregnant immediately after marriage to Hashem, and Hashem left her in Yathrib to travel to Palestine
- Hashem died during this trip to Palestine in 497, before the birth of his son, who was named Shaybat al-Hamd (the White Streak of Praise), or simply Shaybah. His (Hashem) tomb is located beneath the dome of Sayed al-Hashim Mosque in Gaza (right)





# The Hashemites & The Emperor of Ethiopia

- After the advent of Islam, the Prophet Muhammad begins preaching to his clan, the Hashemites, who are the first community of Muslims
- The Hashemites become subject to socio-economic boycott and severe opposition by non-believers among the Quraysh
- The Hashemites are told to migrate (temporarily) to Ethiopia by the Prophet
- Ja'far ibn Abi Talib, the Prophet's first cousin, who resembles the Prophet so much in appearance, people often confuse him for the Prophet, leads this delegation
- Ja'far ibn Abi Talib secures audience of the Emperor of Ethiopia, Ashama bin Al-Abjar, a direct descendant of Solomon and Sheeba, and guardian of the Ark of the Covenant
- Ja'far converts the Emperor to Islam, and retrieves the Ark of the Covenant on behalf the Prophet, and returns with it to Mecca, where he places it before the Prophet
- The Prophet titles Ja'far "Tayyar", or Ja'far of the Two Wings, reads the funeral prayer for the Emperor of Ethiopia, and refers to him as a believer

# Medina: City of the Prophet ﷺ

- The Prophet places the Ark in care of Ja'far's younger brother, 'Ali ibn Abi Talib and migrates to Medina with Abu Bakr al-Siddiq
- The Quran corroborates the possession of the Tabut Sakina (Ark with the Covenant) by the Prophet prior to the migration in the following verses,
- 9: 26: But your Lord did send Sakina on the Messenger and on the Believers, and sent down forces which ye saw not: He punished the Unbelievers; thus doth He reward those without Faith”
- 9:40: “If ye help not (the Holy Prophet), (it is no matter): for his Lord did indeed help him, when the Unbelievers drove him out: he had no more than one companion; they two were in the cave, and he said to his companion, “Have no fear, for God is with us”: then Allah sent down Sakina upon him, and strengthened him with forces which ye saw not, and humbled to the depths the word of the Unbelievers
- and, 48:26: “Allah sent down Sakina to his Messenger and to the Believers, and made them stick close to the command of self-restraint; and well were they entitled to it and worthy of it. And Allah has full knowledge of all things.”
- 'Ali brought the Ark to Medina, where the Prophet purchased the Garden of Fadak, wherein it was buried in secrecy



# The Bloodline of Muhammad ﷺ

- Before his death, the Prophet gifts the Garden of Fadak to his daughter Fatima, the wife of 'Ali, through whom his bloodline is continued
- After the death of the Prophet, internal conflicts arise over his succession. Abu Bakr al-Siddiq and Umar ibn al-Khattab take possession of Fadak while the Hashemites, and the House of the Prophet are busy with his burial by winning support of many Companions
- The Prophet's daughter Fatima al-Zahra takes Abu Bakr to court over Fadak, but loses against him, and dies within six months of her father's death
- Abu Bakr becomes Caliph after the Prophet, followed by Umar, then Uthman
- After the death of Fatima, a peace treaty is brokered between 'Ali and the Caliph, and 'Ali shows support to the administrations to follow through direct involvement and guidance
- 'Ali becomes Caliph after the murder of Uthman, the third Caliph, but does not reverse the decision over Fadak during his rule. The Ark is returned to 'Ali ibn Abi Talib
- "The Imam ('Ali) has come out to you and he is wearing the shirt of Adam. He is wearing the ring of Solomon and in his hands, he has the Staff of Moses" (al-Kafi)
- Abu Bakr al-Siddiq's daughter Aisha, wife of the Prophet declares jihad on Imam 'Ali, and rises with a rebellion against Imam 'Ali, but is defeated at Jamal
- The battle of Siffin erupts, thousands more die in civil war
- 'Ali relocates the Ark, to protect it, and on his deathbed, reveals its location to al-Hasan, who becomes Caliph after him

# The Bloodline of Muhammad ﷺ

- Narrated Imam Muhammad al-Baqir: “The Staff of Moses originally belonged to Adam. It was eventually passed down to Shu’ayb (Jethro) then Shu’ayb passed it to Moses ibn ‘Imran. Now it is with us. I have just, moments before, seen it. It is green in color just as if it were (the colour of) a branch freshly picked from its tree. It speaks if it is induced to do so. It is prepared for the one who will rise to establish the Divine Kingdom on earth. He will use it in the same way as Moses had done. It frightens and devours false things made to trick people and it accomplishes whatever commands it receives. If it would proceed for a task it devours the treacherous materials. It opens into two; one towards earth and the other towards the sky with an opening of forty yards in between and devours the deceptive materials.” [al-Kafi]
- Imam Ja’far al-Sadiq said: “The Tablets of Moses are with us. The Staff of Moses is with us. We are the heirs of the prophets.” [al-Kafi]

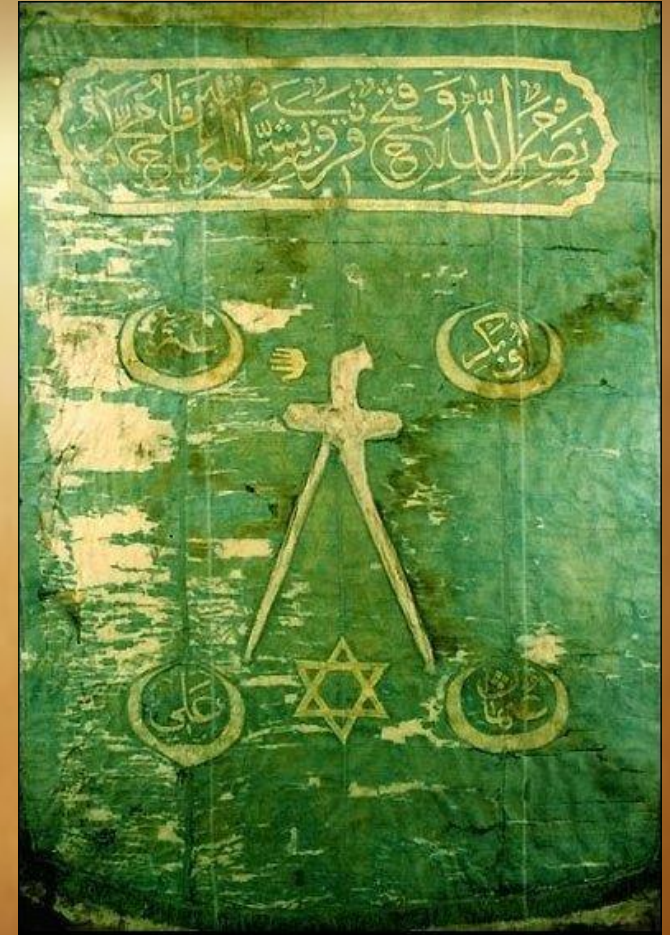


# The Bloodline of Muhammad ﷺ

- Al-Hasan ibn 'Ali is poisoned, and reveals the location of the Ark to his brother al-Husayn
- Al-Husayn is brutally murdered with his family at Karbala, and prior to his death, reveals its location to his sister Zainab, while according to other narrations, to Umm Salma, widow of the Prophet
- After al-Husayn, the Ark comes under the possession of 'Ali ibn al-Husayn, who is also poisoned, but on his deathbed reveals its location to his son Muhammad al-Baqir
- It is narrated from Muhammad al-Baqir: "The staff of Moses belonged to Adam. It was passed to Shu'ayb then to Moses ibn 'Imran. Now it is with us...It is prepared for the one who will rise to establish the kingdom. He will use it in the same way as Moses had done..." (al-Kafi)
- Al-Baqir is also murdered, and upon his deathbed, gives the Ark to his son Ja'far al-Sadiq, who retrieves it, and supports the Hashemite revolt in the battle of Zap, which overthrows the Umayyads and places them in power

# The Bloodline of Muhammad ﷺ

- It is narrated Jafar al-Sadiq said: “The Tablets of Moses are with us. The Staff of Moses is with us. We are the heirs of the prophets” (al-Kafi)
- And, “With me is the flag of the Messenger of Allah, the victorious. With me is the Staff of Moses. With me is the ring of Solomon son of David. With me is tray on Moses used to offer offerings...” (al-Kafi)
- From Ja’far al-Sadiq it is passed in his bloodline, to his son Musa al-Kadhim, then to his son ‘Ali al-Rida, who becomes the Crown Prince of the Abbasid Empire. From ‘Ali al-Rida, it is inherited by Muhammad al-Taqi, ‘Ali al-Hadi, Hasan al-Askari and from him by his eldest son Imam Muhammad al-Mahdi who joins Idris in the heavens.
- According to Ismaili sources, Ja’far al-Sadiq gave it to his son Ismail, who founded the Fatimid Empire thereafter and connected the lineage of the House of the Prophet to the ancient Egyptian Pharaohs





# “It will be brought forth by Al Mahdi”

- Al Suyuti wrote, “The reason he will be known as the Mahdi is that he will show the way to a hidden thing. He will bring the Ark (of the Covenant) to light from a place called Antioch.” (Suyuti, al-Hawi li'l Fatawa, II, 82,)
- Related by Sulaiman ibn Isa: “I was informed that the Ark of the Covenant will emerge from the Tabariyya Sea through the efforts of Imam al-Mahdi. It will be placed before him at the Sacred House in Jerusalem..” (Ibn Hammad transmitted in al-Fitan (1:360#1050); and Suyuti copied it in al-Hawi li'l Fatawa (II:83)
- It is reported in Tazkia Lil Qurtabi on Page 704-706 that Huzaifa, a trusted Companion of the Prophet, once asked him about the Ark of the Covenant, where upon the Prophet informed him “it would be brought forth by Al Mahdi”.

# “It will be brought forth by Al Mahdi”

- Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq said: “...With me is the Sword of the Messenger of Allah, prayers and salutations be upon him, with me is the Flag of the Messenger of Allah, his Coat of Arms, his Pennon, and his Helmet. If they are truthful, let them describe the Coat of Arms of the Messenger of Allah? With me is the Flag of the Messenger of Allah, the Victorious. With me is the Staff of Moses. With me is the Ring of Solomon, son of David. *With me is Tray of Moses, used for offerings.* With me is the Greatest Name of God Almighty that the Messenger of Allah would place between the Muslims and the Ingrates during war, so no arrow from the Ingrates would reach the Muslims. With me is the (object similar to the)...object that the Angels carried, *“As the evidence of his kingship, he will bring to you the Ark of the Covenant, which will be a security to you from your Lord, and relics of the House of Moses and the House Aaron. It will be carried by the Angels. This is the evidence for you if you have faith”*(2:248). The Ark with us is as the Ark among the Israelites. The family at whose front-door the Ark arrived would receive Prophethood. To whomever of us the Arms are transferred, he receives Imamate. My father wore the Coats of Arms of the Messenger of Allah. It would reach the earth, and leave marks. I wore it also, and it reached the earth and sometimes it would not. When the Qaim from us will come, it will fit him perfectly, if Allah would so will.” [al-Kafi]



## “It will be brought forth by Al Mahdī”

- “Narrated Abi Abdullah Ja’far b. Muhammad from his father al-Baqir who narrated from his father the Master of the Worshippers ‘Ali b. al-Husayn, who narrated from his father the Master of the Martyrs al-Husayn b. Ali who narrated from his father Amir al-Muminin ‘Ali b. Abi Talib, who said: During his final illness the Messenger of Allah salutations be upon him said to me: “O Father of al-Hasan, bring me a pen and paper”, and he dictated his will (for his family) until he came to a position where he said, “O ‘Ali, there will be twelve Imams from my House and after them, there will be twelve Mahdis from their descendants...” [Shaykh Tusi, Ghayba li Tusi p.150]
- “Abu Basir said: I told al-Sadiq, Ja’far b. Muhammad: “O son of the Prophet, I once heard your father saying that after the Qa’im there shall be twelve Mahdis”. Then al-Sadiq said: “Indeed, he said ‘twelve Mahdis’ and he did not say ‘twelve (more) Imams’. Rather, they are from our followers, who shall call upon people to support us (i.e., the Twelve Imams) and who shall identify our right (“al-mawaddat fil-qurba” ~ to be loved).” [Kamaluddin, Chapter 2, p.358, Hadith.56]

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• Related by Sulaiman ibn Isa: “I was informed that the Ark of the Covenant will emerge from the Tabariyya Sea through the efforts of Imam al-Mahdi. It will be placed before him at the Holy Ka'aba (Ba'it al-Haram). When the Israelites see this (Ark), all except a few will embrace Islam.” (Ibn Hammad transmitted in al-Fitan (1:360#1050); and al-Hawi li'l Fatawa (II:83).

• Right: Names of the Twelve Imams of Ahl al-Bayt at the Holy Prophet's Mosque Haram Medina and close up on the name Hasan al-Askari

• “Ja'far al-Sadiq said: “O Abi Hamza, verily there will be from us, after the Qa'im (Imam Muhammad al-Mahdi b. Hasan al-Askari), eleven Mahdis from the sons of al-Husayn.” (Ghayba li Tusī, p.478, #504)







Interior view of the Holy Ka'aba [lit. The Sacred Cube] at the Haram al-Sharif  
the Grand Mosque of Mecca.

The End

[sayyidamiruddin.com](http://sayyidamiruddin.com)