Preserved Pages Activity #2: Construct a Timeline

![Timeline Image]

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Preserved Pages: Book as Art in Persia and India 1300-1800, October 13, 2018 – January 6, 2019
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A glance at the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

- **570 CE**: Born in Mecca
- **576 CE**: His mother passed away. His father was always absent and his grandfather passed away when he was six. He was brought up by his grandfather and then his uncle.
- **593 CE**: Travelled to Syria for the second time and met Khadija, who later became the first female follower of Islam.
- **612 CE**: Passed away in Kauhajah.
- **614 CE**: Married Khadija and his wife welcomed the prophet and his childhood companion.
- **619 CE**: Received the first revelation from God in the month of Ramadan.
- **620 CE**: Travelled to Syria for the second time and met Khadija.
- **623 CE**: Passed away at the age of 63.
- **624 CE**: Migrated to Madinah, the capital of Hijaz, and introduced Islam to the探知 of the city.
- **626 CE**: Commanded Muslim forces to take over Mecca.
- **630 CE**: Syria conquered by the Arabs, and the Syriac people yield to the Islamic Empire.
- **632 CE**: Passed away.
- **744 CE**: Migrants fought battles against the Muslims.

In 1260, the Mongol Empire expanded, conquering Persia and India, and establishing dynasties that shaped the region's art and culture.
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The Prophet Muhammad was born in Mecca in 570 CE. Shortly after his birth, his mother died. His father was already dead before his birth, and so he became an orphan. During this time, his uncle and his grandfather took care of him. At the age of nine, he started going on trade trips along with his uncle- a nomadic trader. He met people of many different nations and religions. At the age of 25, he married his first wife- the wealthy widow Khadija, who was 40 years of age at the time of their marriage. He became a nomadic trader like his uncle until his vision in the cave.

After the conflict with Mecca was finally settled, Muhammad took his first true Islamic pilgrimage to that city and in March, 632, he delivered his last sermon at Mount Arafat. Upon his return to Medina to his wife Ayesha’s home, he fell ill for several days. He died on June 8, 632, at the age of 62, and was buried at al-Masjid an-Nabawi (the Mosque of the Prophet) one of the first mosques built by Muhammad in Medina.
The Qur’an, or Koran, is the Islamic sacred book, believed to be the word of God as dictated to Muhammad by the archangel Gabriel and written down in Arabic. The Koran consists of 114 units of varying lengths, known as suras; the first sura is said as part of the ritual prayer. These touch upon all aspects of human existence, including matters of doctrine, social organization, and legislation.

The Five Pillars of Islam

1. The Profession of Faith- The Shahada: The Profession of Faith, the shahada, is the most fundamental expression of Islamic beliefs. It simply states that “There is no God but God and Muhammad is his prophet.” It underscores the monotheistic nature of Islam.

2. Daily Prayers- Salat: Muslims are expected to pray five times a day. This does not mean that they need to attend a mosque to pray; rather, the salat, or the daily prayer, should be recited five times a day. Muslims can pray anywhere; however, they are meant to pray towards Mecca. The faithful pray by bowing several times while standing and then kneeling and touching the ground or prayer mat with their foreheads, as a symbol of their reverence and submission to Allah. On Friday, many Muslims attend a mosque near midday to pray and to listen to a sermon, khutba.

3. Alms-Giving- Zakat: The giving of alms is the third pillar. Although not defined in the Qu’ran, Muslims believe that they are meant to share their wealth with those less fortunate in their community of believers.

4. Fasting during Ramadan- Saum: During the holy month of Ramadan, the ninth month in the Islamic calendar, Muslims are expected to fast from dawn to dusk. While there are exceptions made for the sick, elderly, and pregnant, all are expected to refrain from eating and drinking during daylight hours.

5. Pilgrimage to Mecca—Hajj: All Muslims who are able are required to make the pilgrimage to Mecca and the surrounding holy sites at least once in their lives. Pilgrimage focuses on visiting the Kaaba and walking around it seven times. Pilgrimage occurs in the 12th month of the Islamic Calendar.
1258: Mongols siege Baghdad and found the Ilkhanate—one of four khanates under the Mongol Empire

1346 Black Death spreads through the Ilkhanate, starting the fall of the empire
1501 Ismail enters Tabriz and declares himself shah, founding the Safavid Dynasty in Persia

1722: Afghan warriors, tired of being mistreated by Safavid rulers, besiege Isfahan and end the Safavid Dynasty
The Mughal Empire was founded in India by Babur (reigned 1526–1530), a Central Asian ruler who was descended from the Turco-Mongol conqueror Timur (the founder of the Timurid Empire) on his father's side and from Chagatai, the second son of the Mongol ruler Genghis Khan, on his mother's side.

1857 Mughal Empire falls to imperial British forces, which cruelly quashed the Indian people in the 1857 Revolt
In 1518, the Bahmani Sultanate split into five splinter states known as the Deccan sultanates, one of which was Bijapur, ruled by the kings of the Adil Shahi dynasty (1490–1686).

In many ways, the artistic style of the Deccan was similar to that of the Mughal empire, and the sultans tried to put themselves on the same level as the emperors by presenting themselves in a very similar manner.
The Night Journey: also known as al-Isra and Laylat al-Miraj. Refers to the journey made by Muhammad from the Great Mosque in Mecca to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem on a winged horse-like creature known as Buraq, followed by Muhammad's ascension into heaven. During the journey, Muhammad traveled with Gabriel to see everything in heaven and earth and then to the Temple in Jerusalem, where he met with Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and other prophets there and led them in prayer. Then Muhammad was shown a ladder, which he climbed with Gabriel up to the Gate of Watchers in heaven, where he met Jesus, John the Baptist, Joseph, Idris, Aaron, Moses, and Abraham. Muslims debate whether this journey was physical or mystical in nature. The result of the journey was the reduction of daily prayers to five from fifty after lengthy debate with Moses. Muhammad argued that fifty prayers per day would represent too great a hardship for believers. Daily prayers were instituted after this event. The Night Journey made Jerusalem the third holiest city in Islam and affirmed the continuity of Islam with Judaism and Christianity. It is celebrated annually and is a popular theme for Islamic artwork and legends.

The Kaaba: a small stone building in the court of the Great Mosque at Mecca that contains a sacred black stone and is the goal of Islamic pilgrimage and the point toward which Muslims turn in praying. Predates Islam as a sacred site in Mecca.
The Great Mongol *Shahnameh*, also known as the Demotte *Shahnameh* or Great Ilkhanid *Shahnama*, is an illustrated manuscript of the *Shahnameh* (also rendered "Shahnama"), the national epic of Greater Iran. It is the oldest surviving illustrated manuscript of the *Shahnameh*, probably dating to the 1330s, and in its original form, which has not been recorded, was probably planned to consist of about 280 folios with 190 illustrations, bound in two volumes, although it is thought it was never completed. It is the largest early book in the tradition of the Persian miniature.

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June 1404: Egyptian diplomats gift Timur a giraffe

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Reign of Shah Abbas the Great 1588-1629- strongest Safavid ruler, moved capital to Isfahan

Shah Jahan builds Taj Mahal in honor of dead wife 1631-1648
Muhammad's first revelation was an event described in Islam as taking place in 610 AD, during which the Islamic prophet, Muhammad, while on retreat trying to decide which religion to follow, was visited by the archangel Gabriel (or Jibrīl), who revealed to him the beginnings of what would later become the Quran. The event took place in a cave called Hira, located on the mountain Jabal an-Nour, near Mecca.
1500s-1600s the Falnama is a book of omens used by fortune tellers in Iran and Turkey during the 16th and 17th centuries. Individuals seeking insight into the future would engage in a series of purification rituals, turn to a random page in the Falnama, and interpret the text and drawings thereon for good or ill. Falnama manuscripts were primarily created during the 16th and 17th centuries as the Islamic calendar was approaching the year 1000.

Kamāl ud-Dīn Behzād (c. 1450 – c. 1535), also known as Kamal al-din Bihzad or Kamaleddin Behzad (Persian: کمالالدین بیهژد), was a Persian painter and head of the royal ateliers in Herat and Tabriz during the late Timurid and early Safavid Persian periods.

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Reza Abbasi, Riza yi-Abbasi or Reza-e Abbasi, رضای عباسی in Persian, usually Reza Abbasi also Aqa Reza (see below) or Āqā Riżā Kāshānī (c. 1565 – 1635) was the leading Persian miniaturist of the Isfahan School during the later Safavid period, spending most of his career working for Shah Abbas I. He is considered to be the last great master of the Persian miniature, best known for his single miniatures for muraqqa or albums, especially single figures of beautiful youths.

1659 Aurangzeb killed his brothers and imprisoned his father, Shah Jahan, and becomes Mughal king of India
1686 Aurangzeb annexes Bijapur and it becomes part of Mughal empire

Timurid empire: in 1370, the eponymous founder, Timur (Tamerlane), who belonged to a Turko-Mongol tribe settled in Transoxiana, became master of this province and established Samarkand as his capital. Within thirty-five years, he subjugated all of Central Asia, greater Iran, and Iraq, as well as parts of southern Russia and the Indian subcontinent. To the west, Timurid forces defeated the Mamluk army in Syria and that of the Ottomans at Ankara (1400–1402). In 1405, while preparing to invade China, Timur died.
By bringing craftsmen from different conquered lands to his capital in Samarqand, Timur initiated one of the most brilliant periods in Islamic art. Timurid art and architecture provided inspiration to lands stretching from Anatolia to India. Though Timur’s extensive empire itself was relatively short-lived, his descendants continued to rule over Transoxiana as leading patrons of Islamic art. Through their patronage, the eastern Islamic world became a prominent cultural center, with Herat, the new Timurid capital, as its focal point. Timurid rulers were sympathetic to Persian culture and lured artists, architects, and men of letters who would contribute to their high court culture. Some of these rulers were also great patrons of the arts of the book, commissioning manuscripts that were copied, compiled, and illustrated in their libraries. Due to the flourishing of manuscript illumination and illustration, the Herat school is often regarded as the apogee of Persian painting. The Timurid period saw great achievements in other luxury arts, such as metalwork and jade carving. This cultural efflorescence found its ultimate expression at the court of Sultan Husain Baiqara (r. 1470–1506), the last effective Timurid ruler.

Timurid Manuscript Art
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