





THE SCORPION

DR. ORA BERGER Ph.D. ART HISTORY

orabberger@yahoo.com

The phenomenon of pilgrimage to Ta‘izz, south west Yemen, to the grave of the Jewish and Yemeni Poet Shalom (Salim) al-Shabazi (1619-1680+) is well known. However, THE SCORPION in that context has been less scrutinized.

I wish to focus on the phenomenon of pilgrimage to his grave, by Jews and Muslims, from the point of view of Art History.

The target is to shed light on THE SCORPION as a symbol of fertility. The basis is the belief that visiting his grave will cure infertility. While being there, the appearance of a live scorpion was considered a sign of a cure.

THE SCORPION will be shown in Jewellery in Yemen, as well as, its origin in Jewish / Islamic Art / Egyptian Art and belief.

Death, Burial, and the Transition to the Afterlife in Arabia and Adjacent Regions.
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