

The story of Al-Zahhāk on Historical sources and Islamic Arts "An artistic study"

Abstract:

This paper aims to study the story of Al-Zahhāk in historical sources, as well as the impact of what was mentioned for this story in historical sources on Islamic arts, whether applied artifacts or manuscript images. The study will explain the personality of Al-Zahhak-one of the ancient Persian kings- in the Arab sources, and linking it with the personality of Al-Namruth bin Kanaan. This paper aims to explain of the story of the two snakes that grew from his shoulders and the difference about whether they were snakes or two meat that grew on his shoulder, and an explanation of this on Islamic arts through the images that Al- Zahhāk received on applied artifacts and illustrations of manuscripts and the appearance of snakes on Al-Zahhāk's shoulder in these images. The study deals with the pictorial topics in which Al-Zahhāk appeared on applied artifacts that embody his personality as mentioned in historical sources, the most important of which are the applied artifacts dating back to the Seljuk era in Iran, as well as studying the pictorial subjects in which Al-Zahhāk appeared on the images of manuscripts in various Islamic schools such as the Mughal school Iranian and Safavid schools, as well as the Indian Mughal school and the Ottoman school.