

GREEN IN ISLAM

The colour green is one of great importance to all cultures, but in Islam it plays a very important role and carries deep meaning since its beginning.

Apart from being an important presence in Islamic art, the colour green also played multiple roles in Islamic life and history. For example, during the crusades, Islamic soldiers wore green to identify themselves¹, whereas Crusaders avoided using the colour in order to distinguish themselves from Muslims.

Green is the colour of nature and life. This is an essential aspect of Islam – fore it is forbidden to represent God in an anthropomorphic form, he is presented through his worldly creation, such as plants, trees, animals, flowers, and of course, through the written word. Green is perceived as the colour of the prophet Muhammad and as representing heaven, fertility, growth, birth, and nature; thus, it is another preferred colour for clothing², as well as for national flags of Islamic countries. Apart from being associated with nature in general, the importance of the colour green was also expressed through other natural materials, such as precious stones. Emeralds have played a great role even in pre-Islamic times, and they have continued to be of great importance throughout Islamic history, all the way up to contemporary times. In the Sufi tradition green is the colour associated with a higher stage on the mystical path.³

Green, due to its very close association to Muhammad, was frequently mentioned in the Quran, but also because the colour green is considered as one dear to Allah Almighty as well, as evident from many verses, such as this one:

Al-Kahf [18:31] For them will be Gardens of Eternity; beneath them rivers will flow; they will be adorned therein with bracelets of gold, and they will wear green garments of fine silk and heavy brocade; they will recline therein on raised thrones. How good the recompense! How beautiful a couch to recline on!

From this, we gather that green is associated with the divine, beauty and bliss.

In Islam, there's also the mention of a revered figure called Al-Khidr, the so called "the Green One", which some attributed it to Immortality.⁴

¹ <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2009/06/why-is-the-color-green-so-important-in-the-muslim-world.html>

² Richard C. Martin, *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World, Second edition*, Cengage Learning, Gale, 2016, p. 223

³ Imane M. Sadek Abaza, *Color Symbolism in Islamic Book Paintings*, The American University of Cairo, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, December 2017. P. 22.

⁴ Muhammad Fauzan bin Abu Bakar, *COLOURS OF ISLAM*,