Recommended Reading for SHWEP Episode 223: Early Islamic 'Mahdism': Radical Politics, Apocalyptic, and the Esoteric

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1 On the Roots of 'Mahdism'

The AbuSulayman Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University has a great online bibliography on Islamic Messianism and Muslim Messianic Movements.

Brill's *Encyclopædia of Islam* has articles which provide good orientation, especially Wilferd Madelung. 'al-mahdī'. In P. Bearman et al., editor, *Encyclopædia of Islam 2*, volume V.3, pages 1230–40. Brill, Leiden, 1986c and Armand Abel. al-Dadjdjāl. In *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, volume II, pages 76–77. Brill, Leiden, new edition, 1965.

For the seminal discussion of how 'immanentist' the early Believers were, see Paul Casanova. *Mahomet et la fin du monde. Étude critique sur l'islam primitif*. Geuthner, Paris, 1911. Scholarly discussion has continued apace.

Also recommended:

Jan-Olaf Blichfeldt. *Early Mahdism: Politics and Religion in the Formative Period of Islam*. Number 2 in Studia Orientalia Lundensia. Brill, Leiden, 1985.

Reinhard Eisener. *Zwischen Faktum und Fiktion. Eine Studie zum Umayyadenkalifen Sulaimān b. ʿAbdalmalik und seinem Bild in den Quellen*. Harrasowitz, Wiesbaden, 1987.

Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje. Der Mahdi. In *Verspreide geschriften van C. Snouck Hurgronje*, pages I, 145–81. Kurt Schroeder, Bonn, 1923.

H. Kennedy. Al-Mahdī. In *Encyclopædia of Islam 2*, volume V.3, pages 1230–39. Brill, Leiden, 1986.

Wilfred Madelung. *Religious Trends in Early Islamic Iran*. Persian Heritage Foundation, Albany, NY, 1988.

Wilferd Madelung. The Sufyānī Between Tradition and History. *Studia Islamica*, 63: 5–48, 1986b

Abdulaziz Abdulhussein Sachedina. *Islamic Messianism: the Idea of Mahdī in Twelver Shī'ism*. State University of New York Press, Albany, 1981.

Stephen J. Shoemaker. "The Reign of God Has Come": Eschatology and Empire in Late Antiquity and Early Islam. *Arabica*, 61:514–558, 2014.

Stephen J. Shoemaker. *The Apocalypse of Empire: Imperial Eschatology in Late Antiquity and Early Islam*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA, 2018.

2 On Islamic 'Apocalyptic' Texts, Various

Suliman Bashear. Apocalyptic and other materials on early muslim-byzantine relations. *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 1:173–207, 1991.

Suliman Bashear. Muslim Apocalypses and the Hour: A Case-Study in Traditional Reinterpretation. *Israel Oriental Studies*, 13:75–99, 1993.

Michael Cook. An Early Islamic Apocalyptic Chronicle. *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, 52:25–29, 1993 [a good summary of Nu'aym al-Marwazī's chronicle, which you can read in English in Cook 2017, cited below].

David Cook. *Studies in Muslim Apocalyptic*, volume 21 of *Studies in Late Antiquity and Early Islam*. Darwin, Princeton, NJ, 2002a.

David Cook. Hadīth, Authority and the End of the World: Traditions in Modern Muslim Apocalyptic Literature. *Oriente Moderno*, 82(1):31–53, 2002b [a discussion of some modern, conspiracy-immersed neo-apocalyptic authors writing in Arabic].

David Cook, editor. *"The Book of Tribulations": The Syrian Muslim Apocalyptic Tradition. An Annotated Translation of Nu'aym b. Ḥammād al-Marwazī*. Edinburgh Studies

in Islamic Apocalypticism and Eschatology. University of Edinburgh Press, Edinburgh, 2017 [an annotated translation of the apocalyptic chronicle discussed in the episode].

Ofer Livne-Kafri. Some Notes on the Muslim Apocalyptic Tradition. *Quaderni di Studi Arabi*, 17:71–94, 1999.

Wilferd Madelung. Apocalyptic Prophecies in Ḥimṣ in the Umayyad Age. *Journal of Semitic Studies*, 31:141–85, 1986a.

Michael A. Sells. *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations*. White Cloud Press, Ashland, OR, 1999 [a cool introduction to the Makkan surahs of the *Qur'ān*; gives some of the flavour and a way in to how tricky they are to interpret].