AN INVESTIGATION OF ‘NUMBER 4’ AND QUADRUPLE ‘VEILS’ IN THE MINIATURE OF SEVENTY THOUSAND VEILS OF SHAHROKHI’S MERAJ NAMEH

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Abstract:
The miniature of seventy thousand veils is one of the miniatures of Shahrokhi’s meraj nameh (book of ascension). One of the most significant points springing to mind at first glance is the unique division of the frame of this miniature into four vertical veils which is probably without equal in Persian painting. A number of questions come to the mind regarding the name and theme of this miniature: 1) Why has quadruple division been used for representing seventy thousand veils? 2) Has the usage of “four” veils been intentional? 3) Is there any relationship between the used four veils and quadruple veils? This article tries to study the word Hijab (veil) in Islamic culture, express the relationship between Veil and Number 4, and show that the quadruple division is used for showing the concept of quadruple veils in Islam. According to Islamic mysticism, there are four types of veils which are the very vicious characteristics of mankind and prevent him reaching the Truth. The quadruple division of the miniature represents the quadruple internal impediments. The aim of this study is to show that the seventy thousand veils of light and darkness are the same as quadruple veils in the nature of mankind. Regarding the Nabavi Hadith (prophetic saying) that “my Satan has converted to Islam”, these veils were taken off the eyes of the Prophet in the night of Ascension and, in fact, such quadruple division implies taking off the veil. The method of this research is descriptive-analytic and the data is collected via library sources.

Keyword(s): MINIATURE, ISLAMIC MYSTICISM, VEIL, NUMBER4, SHAHROKHI’S MERAJ NAMEH, NIGHT OF ASCENSION, SEVENTY THOUSAND VEILS

Given the NUMBER, identify the WORD NAME. (For ‘Fill in the blanks’, do not type ‘and’ in your answer.) 1. 521 • five hundred twenty-one • five hundred thirty-one • five hundred forty-one • five hundred fifty-one. Answer: Answer: five hundred twenty-one.  The number 2893 is written as two thousand eight hundred ninety-three. 6. 3974 • three thousand nine hundred seventy-four. Answer: Answer: three thousand nine hundred seventy-four.