

104. **Persian 11**, Iran, arguable Isfahan, 17th century.

Contents: Qazwini, Persian translation of the Arabic *'Ajā'ib al-makhlūqāt* (The Wonders of Creation).

Folios: 89 fols. (with one fly-leaf at each end); paper, 27.8 x 20.5 cm.

Folios are repaired and rebound. They are numbered bottom left of verso, in Persian.

Ruling: 18 lines per page; single column of text.

Script: *Nasta'liq*, black ink with red used for certain words after fol. 78r.

Seals: One on inside cover at each end.

Binding: Dark brown leather, stamped the same front and back, with floral motifs in a central medallion and corner pieces. This is probably contemporary with the restoration of the folios in the 19th century.

Provenance: Arguably Isfahan, 17th century. One indicative feature of the manuscript's illustration is the wearing of European-style dress, including broad-rimmed hats (e.g. fol. 36v, reproduced here, plate 45).⁶⁹

Illustrations: The profuse illustrations are interspersed through the text, with between one and three rectangular panels per page.⁷⁰ Pink or pale blue backgrounds are often employed and for the figures and animals etc. soft colours, especially grey, green, yellow and pink, with some orange. Rock shapes in purple-pink are common.

⁶⁹ A parallel for this is an illustration in London, Add. 7801 (43a), a *Jārūn-nama* by Qadrī reproduced in Titley, *Persian Miniature Painting*, fig. 46. Another 17th-century Qazwīnī manuscript (from Isfahan) is in the John Rylands Library in Manchester (Ryl. Pers. 3), dated 1041/1632: Robinson, *Persian Paintings in the John Rylands Library*, 295-329, with figs. and plate XIV in colour; Titley, *Id.*, 121. Like M. Pers. 11 this has an extensive cycle, but there are also notable differences between the two, including differences in style and colour. Waley, *List*, attributes the manuscript to Iran or India, probably 17th or 18th century.

⁷⁰ For a considerable number of the illustrations the rubricated captions have been omitted. The miniatures can be identified with the help of those in another manuscript of the same text (MS Leiden, University Library, Or. 8907).