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Cosmopolis of law: Islamic legal ideas and texts across the Indian Ocean and Eastern Mediterranean Worlds

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Cosmopolis of Law

Islamic Legal Ideas and Texts across the Indian Ocean
and Eastern Mediterranean Worlds

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Cover painting, “Amr has the Infidels Thrown into the Sea”, is from the *Khāvarān nāmeḥ* (Book of the East) of Mawlānā Muḥammad ibn Ḥusām al-Dīn (d. 1470) aka Ibn Ḥusām, a gathering of tales on the adventures of ‘Alī ibn Abī Tālib, son-in-law of the Prophet Muḥammad, and his companions fighting against demons, dragons, and kings. © The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City. www.metmuseum.org.

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To my mother



قُلْ لَوْ كَانَ الْبَحْرُ مَدَادًا لِكَلِمَاتِ رَبِّي لَنَفِدَ الْبَحْرُ قَبْلَ أَنْ تَنْفَدَ كَلِمَاتُ رَبِّي وَلَوْ جِئْنَا بِمِثْلِهِ مَدَدًا.



Say, “If the ocean was ink for [writing] the words of my Lord, the ocean would be exhausted before the words of my Lord were exhausted, even if We brought another ocean like it as a supplement.”

“How many seas must a white dove sail
Before she sleeps in the sand?
How many years can a mountain exist
Before it’s washed to the sea?
The answer, my friend, is blowin’ in the wind.”

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Note on Transliteration and Dates

In translating Arabic words, mostly I have followed Brill's simple Arabic transliteration system, with an exception of *jīm* (ج), *khā'* (خ), *shīn* (ش), and *ghayn* (غ). For a few Persian and Ottoman Turkish words, I have followed the system of the *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*. For Malayalam, and Tamil words, I have followed the schemes of *ALA-LC Romanization Tables*, except for the Malayalam *ra* (റ) and *tta* (റ്റ). For Arabic-Malayalam, Arabic-Tamil (Arwī) and Jāwī I have mixed the Brill's style for Arabic with the ones of *ALA-LC* identifying the root-language of the words. I have given only Common Era years, and avoided the Hijri era for the sake of smooth readability and comprehension. All dates I converted thus have been cross-checked with the Hijri months and years. For a few dates, I have depended on the secondary sources. If the month of the year is not known, and thus not convertible into a single year, I have chosen the year with certainty and mentioned "d. on or after".

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