Contents

List of Figures page x
List of Table and Charts xii
Acknowledgements xiii
List of Abbreviations xv
Note on Dates, Citation, Translations, and Transliteration xvii

Introduction
Reconceptualising the Dunyā/Ākhira Divide 4
The Muslim Eschatological Imagination 13
Premodern Views of the Islamic Otherworld among Non-Muslims 17
Modern and Contemporary Scholarship on Paradise and Hell in Islam 24
Overview of Chapters and Note on Illustrations 31

PART I TEXTUAL FOUNDATIONS: NARRATING THE OTHERWORLD
1 The Otherworld Revealed: Paradise and Hell in the Qur’ān 37
Time and Space in the Qur’ānic Otherworld 39
The Joys and Torments of the Qur’ānic Paradise and Hell 43
The Development of Qur’ānic Eschatology 48
Qur’ānic Eschatology in Its Late Antique Context 56
The Originality of the Qur’ānic Vision of Paradise and Hell 67

2 The Growth of the Islamic Otherworld: A History of Muslim Traditionist Eschatology 71
The Formative Period (ca. First–Third/Seventh–Ninth Century) 71
The Second Period of Expansion (ca. Fourth–Sixth/Tenth–Twelfth Century) 81
The Third Period of Expansion (*ca.* Seventh–Ninth/Thirteenth–Fifteenth Century)  
Late-Medieval Developments (*ca.* Tenth–Thirteenth/Sixteenth–Nineteenth Century)  

### 3 Hope, Fear, and Entertainment: Parenetic and Popular Muslim Literature on the Otherworld

- Parenetic Works up to al-Ghazālī  
- Cultivating Hope and Fear after al-Ghazālī  
- Popular Manuals  
- The Prophet’s Ascension and Other Prophetic Tours of the Otherworld

### 4 The Imagination Unbound: Two Late Medieval Muslim Scholars on Paradise and Hell

- A Prelude to the Otherworld  
- Time, Space, and Vision in the Muslim Paradise and Hell  
- Plants, Animals, and Spiritual Beings  
- Otherworldly Bodies  
- The Blessed and the Damned

### PART II DISCOURSES AND PRACTICES: DEBATING THE OTHERWORLD

### 5 The Otherworld Contested: Cosmology, Soteriology, and Ontology in Sunni Theology and Philosophy

- The Location, Creation, and Duration of Paradise and Hell  
- Salvation in Sunni Theology  
- The Reality of the Afterlife  
- Imagining the Otherworld

### 6 Otherworlds Apart: Shi'i Visions of Paradise and Hell

- The World of Image in Shi'i Thought  
- Traditionalism and Rationalism in Shi'i Eschatology  
- The Akhbārī Revival of Eschatology  
- Isma'ili Eschatology

### 7 The Otherworld Within: Paradise and Hell in Islamic Mysticism

- Fear and Longing in Early Sufism  
- *Contemptus Ultramundi*  
- The Immanentist View  
- Compulsory Return  
- Voluntary Return

### 8 Eschatology Now: Paradise and Hell in Muslim Topography, Architecture, and Ritual

- Eutopia/Dystopia  
- Architectural Visions of Paradise
Otherworldly Rituals 267
Interfused Worlds 277

Epilogue
  Modern Continuities and Discontinuities 279
  The Disappearing Boundary 286

Primary Sources 291
Secondary Sources 313
Index of Names 347
Index of Terms 357
# Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The devil tempts Adam and Eve to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree.</td>
<td>Tabriz/Persia, 707/1307-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The prophet Muhammad approaching the gate of heaven during his ascension.</td>
<td>Tabriz/Persia, ca. 705/1306 or 714/1314-15</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>An angel in the form of a heavenly horse.</td>
<td>Baghdad/Iraq, eighth/fourteenth century</td>
<td></td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Judgement scene and passage over the Bridge.</td>
<td>Golconda/India, ca. 1018-39/1610-30</td>
<td></td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Two prophetic figures in paradise.</td>
<td>Qazwin/Persia, 984/1577</td>
<td></td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The angels of the grave, Munkar and Nakir, torturing an inhabitant of the grave.</td>
<td>India, prob. late twelfth/eighteenth century</td>
<td></td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The eight gates and gardens of paradise.</td>
<td>Turkey, before 1147/1735</td>
<td></td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hell's angels.</td>
<td>Herat/Afghanistan, ninth/fifteenth century</td>
<td></td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Malik, the guardian of hell.</td>
<td>India, thirteenth/nineteenth century (?)</td>
<td></td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Muhammad, during his heavenly journey, prostrates before God.</td>
<td>Herat/Afghanistan, ninth/fifteenth century</td>
<td></td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Prophet's ascension.</td>
<td>Persia, 1076/1665-6</td>
<td></td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Muhammad with 'Ali, al-Hasayn and al-Hasan in paradise.</td>
<td>Punjab, 1097/1686</td>
<td></td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>A Shi'i Judgement scene.</td>
<td>Persian rug, ca. 1900-1930</td>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>The prophet Muhammad, during his heavenly journey, visits paradise.</td>
<td>Persian lithograph dated 1271/1854</td>
<td></td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>'Ali offers Muhammad an apple in paradise.</td>
<td>Persian lithograph dated 1271/1854</td>
<td></td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Allegory of heavenly drunkenness.</td>
<td>Tabriz/Persia 933/1526-7</td>
<td></td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
17 A dream vision of Najm al-Dīn Kubrā’s ascension. Agra/India, 1012/1603

18 An eschatological map of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Mecca, ca. 967/1559

19 The entry to heaven on top of mount Qāf. Turkey, 675/[1276]

20 The city of Iram. Tabriz/Persia, ca. 705/[1306] or 714/[1314-5]

21 The angel of death grabbing the soul of the king Shaddād. India (?), probably eleventh/seventeenth century

22 The mountain of ‘Ayr. India, probably late twelfth/eighteenth century

23 The Bridge, the valleys and mountains of hell, the eight gates of paradise, and the residences therein of the Prophet and the eponyms of the four Sunni schools of law. Turkey, twelfth/eighteenth century

# Table and Charts

## Table

| 1 | Occurrence of the terms *al-janna* ("the Garden") and *al-nār* ("the Fire") in some traditionist works of the third/ninth and later centuries | page 80 |

## Charts

| 1 | The *dunyā/ākhira* relationship: The diachronic view | 5 |
| 2 | The *dunyā/ākhira* relationship: The synchronic view | 12 |
| 3 | *Al-dunyā* and *al-ākhira* as *merismos* | 43 |
| 4 | Three types of unitive conceptualisations of the *dunyā/ākhira* relationship | 231 |
| 5 | Ibn al-'Arabī's ethical hell | 242 |