The Corrupt Preacher: Maqamat 28 - Of Samarcand:

Author: Emily Lewis

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| Begin Time: 0:00 | End Time: 0:42 |
| Transition Type | PAUSE (0:00-0:09)  PAN RIGHT(0:09-0:25)  PAN LEFT(0:25- 0:42)  PAUSE |
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In the 13th century Arabic story Of Samarcand, a man named Al Harith is travelling and stops in a town called Samarcand. After going to the public baths and refreshing himself he goes to a mosque to hear a sermon, since Al Harith is a religious man. Al Harith is impressed by the sermon, but while he is listening something about the preacher seems familiar to him. He soon recognizes the man as his old friend Abu Zayd, who has a past history of trickery and deceptive behaviour in the time Al Harith had known him.

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| Begin Time: 0:43 | End Time: 1:20 |
| Transition Type | CHANGE TO IMAGE 2  PAN LEFT  PAN RIGHT  PAUSE |
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Seeing Abu Zayd as a preacher in a mosque is therefore surprising to Al Harith, who did not know Abu Zayd to be a man of high moral standards. Even so, Al Harith is overjoyed to see his old friend. When the sermon is finished Al Harith goes to Abu Zayd, and the two men rejoice in their reunion. Abu Zayd then invites Al Harith to his home, and Al Harith accepts. They go to Abu Zayd’s abode, where all is innocent until darkness falls.

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| Begin Time: 1:21 | End Time: 2:10 |
| Transition Type | CHANGE TO IMAGE 3  ZOOM IN  PAUSE |
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After the day is over and it is dark, Abu Zayd brings out pitchers of wine which he intends to share with Al Harith. Thinking Abu Zayd is now a man of God, Al Harith is shocked and confronts Abu Zayd, passing judgement upon him for his sinful ways. He asks, “Dost thou quaff it before sleep, and thou the prayer-leader of the people?” Abu Zayd will have none of this, and replies: “Hush, I by day am preacher, but by night make merry.” Al Harith again suggests this is wrong, and Abu Zayd turns away in disgust and then recites poetry to his friend in order to convince him that there is no error in his ways.

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| Begin Time: 2:11 | End Time: 3:11 |
| Transition Type | CHANGE TO IMAGE 4  PAN LEFT (@ 2:35)  PAN RIGHT(@2:54) |
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In the image from the Maqamat al-Hariri, Abu Zayd and Al Harith are depicted sitting across from each other with decanters of wine between them. This image has been noted for its simplicity and lack of any extraordinary characteristics, being one of the least ornate images in the Maqamat al-Hariri.

(2:35) On the left sits Al Harith dressed in a red robe, whose palm is extended as he attempts to question Abu Zayd’s immoral behaviour. Al Harith is sitting cross-legged, facing Abu Zayd.

Across from him on the right of the image is Abu Zayd, (2:54) depicted as a man with a white beard wearing a blue robe. Abu Zayd is shown kneeling and pointing a finger at Al Harith as he gives Al Harith a lecture on why he believes there is no problem with drinking wine and claiming to be a religious man at the same time.

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| Begin Time: 3:12 | End Time: 3:47 |
| Transition Type | CHANGE TO IMAGE 5  ZOOM IN (@ 3:21) |
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Between the men there are decanters, and in the painting some of the decanters appear to be either unfinished or damaged. (3:21) They appear as outlines whose inner boundaries are unpainted, unlike the other decanters in the picture which have designs painted on them. You can see the paper of the manuscript inside the outlines of the two damaged or unfinished decanters in the image. After Abu Zayd’s poetic lecture, Al Harith gives in to his friend and decides to drink wine with him.

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| Begin Time: 3:48 | End Time: 4:11 |
| Transition Type | CHANGE TO IMAGE 4  PAUSE |
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Abu Zayd tells him not to tell anyone, and Al Harith agrees to this. The two men drink wine and enjoy one another’s company until Al Harith eventually departs, leaving Abu Zayd to persist in hypocrisy.