



BRILL

MEDIEVAL ENCOUNTERS 25 (2019) 150–179

Medieval  
*Jewish, Christian and Muslim Culture*  
Encounters  
*in Confluence and Dialogue*

brill.com/me

# Demons and Diversity in León

*Pamela A. Patton*

Index of Medieval Art, Princeton University

## Abstract

This article examines a wall painting of the temptation of Saint Martin in the so-called Panteón de los Reyes of San Isidoro in León, focusing on its unorthodox portrayal of Satan as an Ethiopianized, dark-skinned figure wearing a robe reflective of Fatimid textile traditions. Tracing the scene's divergent sources within the complex network of images, texts, and ideas then circulating in León, it argues that the unusually configured image constituted an innovative, intervisual response to the concerns of a palatine viewership that in the first decades of the twelfth century remained preoccupied with its own dynastic and political position, both within the Leonese kingdom and with reference to its wider European sphere.

## Keywords

San Isidoro – León – Panteón de los Reyes – Satan – blackness – skin color – Saint Martin – *ṭirāz*

## Supplementary Material



Figure 1 Temptation of St. Martin, Panteon de los Reyes, San Isidoro,  
Leon

Photo: James D'Emilio; reproduced by permission

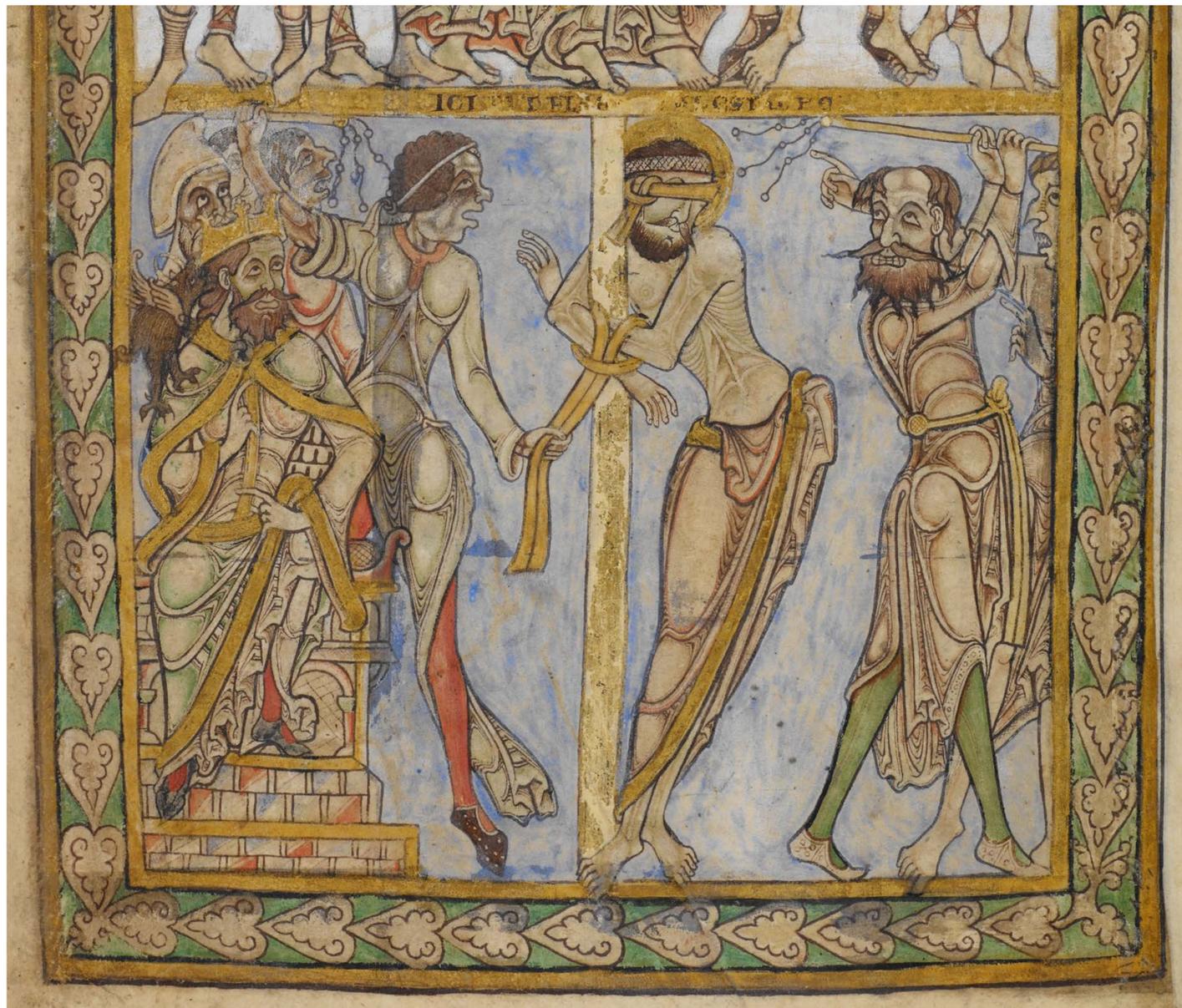


Figure 2 Detail: Flagellation of Christ, Winchester Psalter (London, British Library, Cotton MS Nero C IV), fol. 21r  
Photo c British Library Board, Cotton MS Nero C IV; reproduced by permission





Figure 4 Temptations of Christ from San Baudelio de Berlanga (New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 61.248)

Photo dedicated to the public domain and reproduced under a CCo 1.0 universal license



Figure 5 Second Temptation of Christ, Gospels of Matilda of Tuscany (New York, J. Pierpont Morgan Library & Museum, MS M. 492), fol. 43v  
Photo: The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York; reproduced by permission



Figure 6 Detail of Satan, from the illustration of Apoc. XII:1–18, Morgan Beatus (New York, J. Pierpont Morgan Library & Museum, MS M. 644) fol. 153r  
Photo: The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York; reproduced by permission



Figure 7

Detail of Satan, from the illustration of  
Apoc. XII: 1–18, Beatus of Fernando I and  
Sancha (Madrid, Biblioteca nacional de  
Espana, MS vitr. 14/2), fol. 187r  
Photo by Hamid Shams; reproduced  
by permission



Figure 8 Temptation of Gog and Magog, from the illustration of Apoc. XX, 7–8, Burgo de Osma Beatus (Burgo de Osma Cathedral, MS 1), fol. 155v  
Photo by Hamid Shams; reproduced by permission

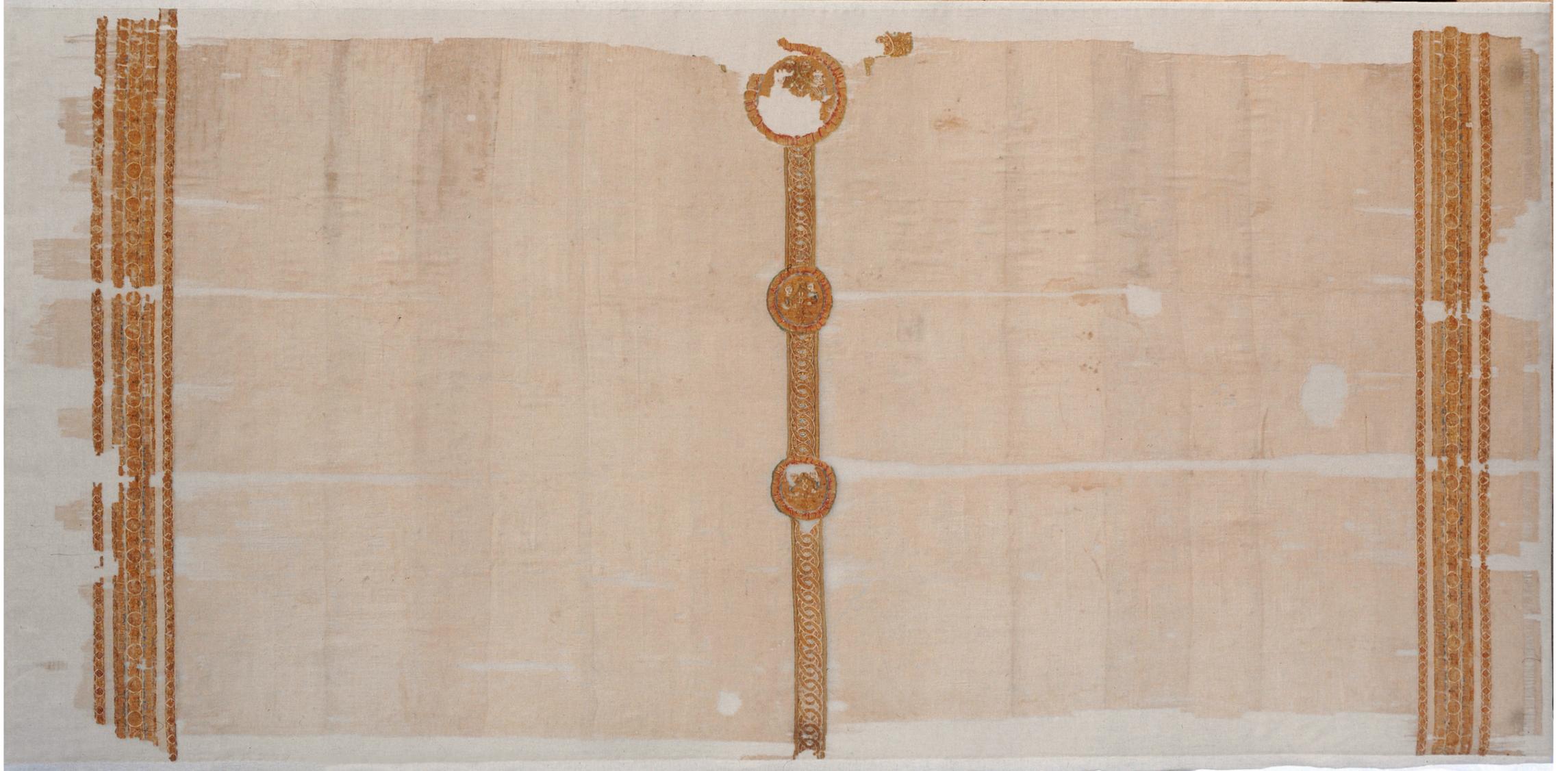


Figure 9 *Ṭirāz* dated 1097 and known as the “Veil of Ste.-Anne” (Apt, Cathedral of Ste.-Anne)

Photo: Grand Angle/Phillippe Gromelle; reproduced by permission



Figure 10 St. George battling the devil, Panteon de los Reyes, San Isidoro, Leon  
Photo c Museo de San Isidoro de Leon. All rights reserved;  
full and partial reproduction prohibited. Reproduced here by  
permission

