THE ADVENTURES OF HAMZA
Painting and storytelling in Mughal India

The illustration "Adventures of Hamza" is a series of fantastic tales based loosely on the exploits of Hamza, an uncle of the Prophet Muhammad, who traveled the world spreading the teachings of Islam. The narrative tells of giant-vampires and dragons, of battles and carnage, and of heroism and sacrifice. The panels of the tales were both shaped into a public performance and distributed from hand to hand on the steps of such temples. An example is the famous story of the Lollor, a giant who was defeated by the Mughal emperor.

A remarkable feature of the Mughal manuscript traditions was their emphasis on the visual arts. The illustrations, which were often executed in gold and silver, were considered as precious as the manuscripts themselves. They served to enhance the text and to convey the story in a way that was accessible to those who could not read.

The development of Mughal painting in India is an important aspect of the study of art history. The Mughals were known for their patronage of the arts, and their commissions often resulted in the creation of magnificent manuscripts. These manuscripts were not only works of art, but also valuable records of the history and culture of the Mughal Empire.

THE AUTHOR
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radial illustration: detail from Transvaal Shik Plate with the group to be realized by flying through the dimensions and by resemblance.