

ISLAMIC ENCOUNTERS

LECTURE SERIES

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The lecture enacts a conversation between Islam and psychoanalysis on the forms and reality of unconscious knowledge. Drawing on my ethnography in Morocco, it reflects on the medical-religious liturgy of 'the lawful/divine cure' (*al-ruqya al-shar'iyya*), which will be addressed as a stage of imagination and a dramaturgy of the soul. In the mode of a dream at the threshold of the Law, and as the condition for reclaiming the spiritual capacity of the soul, the task of the Qur'anic cure is to 'encircle' the desire of the jinn, which 'possesses,' but also 'is' the soul (*nafs*). At once registering a historical reality of trauma and devastation, and unfolding in a temporality that exceeds human life, the cure evokes the pathos of a prophetic genre where the time of calamity indexes the time of creation, and affliction points to the ordeals of repeated divine 'testing' and 'trial' (*ibtīlā*).

DREAMING AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE LAW: AN ISLAMIC LITURGY OF HEALING

MAR
14
5:30 - 7:30 PM

SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Birks Heritage Chapel, 2nd Floor
3520 University Street, Montreal



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