



AN ISLAMICATE SENSORIUM

The Supernatural and the Muslim everyday in Kolkata

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“ . . Within this ensemble, I shall try to locate the practices that are foreign to the ‘geometrical ‘ or ‘geographical’ space of visual, panoptic, or theoretical constructions. These practices of space refer to a specific form of *operations* (‘ways of operating’), to another spatiality (an ‘anthropological’, poetic and mythic experience of space) and to an *opaque and blind* mobility characteristic of the bustling city”

-Michel de Certeau, *Walking in the City*

**Narratives of supernatural encounters
(quranic as well as non –quranic such
as Jinns, Angels, Ghosts, Satan) in the city**

**Imagining an alternate
cartography of Kolkata
through a survey of
Islamicate religious sites
(often ignored in the
‘official’ representation
of the city)**

**Healing practices
(‘*Jhaar phoonk*’ and
the economy of the
supernatural)**

**CITY
AND THE
SUPERNATURAL**

**Changing forms of piety in
a changing city**

**Imagining Kolkata as a distinct
Islamicate sensorium- a coalescence
of senses, imagination, fiction,
history and memory.**

**‘Religions ought to have been the richest field in which the functions of
the *imaginaire* could be identified, described and differentiated from the
interventions of reason and rationalization’**

-Mohammed Arkoun, *Islam: To Reform or to Subvert.*