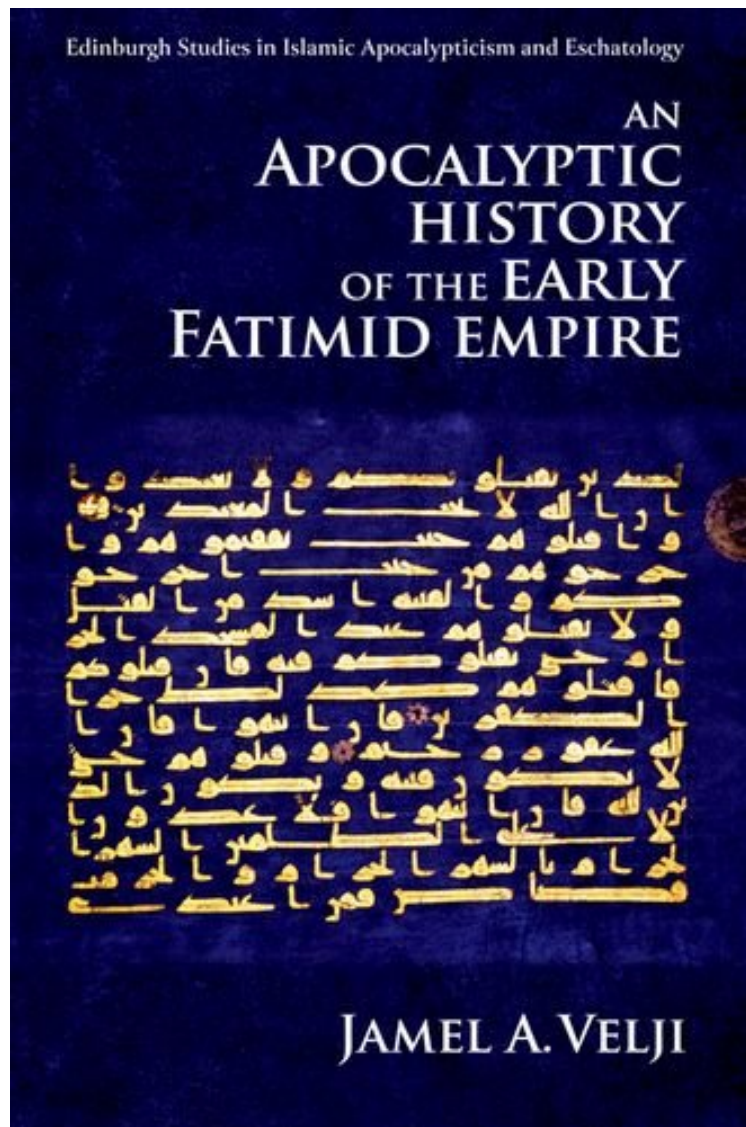


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An Apocalyptic History of the Early Fatimid Empire (Edinburgh Studies in Islamic Apocalypticism and Eschatology)

Jamel A. Velji

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Jamel A. Velji : An Apocalyptic History of the Early Fatimid Empire (Edinburgh Studies in Islamic Apocalypticism and Eschatology) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Apocalyptic History of the Early Fatimid Empire (Edinburgh Studies in Islamic Apocalypticism

and Eschatology):

How can religion transform a society? This book investigates the ways in which a medieval Islamic movement harnessed Qur'anic visions of utopia to construct one of the most brilliant empires in Islamic history. The Fatimids' apocalyptic vision of their central place in an imminent utopia played a critical role in transfiguring the intellectual and political terrains of North Africa in the early tenth century. Yet the realities that they faced on the ground often challenged their status as the custodians of a pristine Islam at the end of time. As well as examining the organisational features of the Fatimid revolution, Jamel Velji shows how the Fatimids viewed their mission as bringing about an imminent utopia. He then looks at how they re-examined their place in history when the expected end failed to materialise.

"An Apocalyptic History of the Early Fatimid Empire makes a compelling case for the prominence of messianic hopes and eschatological expectations in the rise and early rule of the Fatimids." -- Mehdy Shaddel, Reading Religion (American Academy of Religion) "[Velji's] analysis is insightful and provocative. In demonstrating the ways in which Fatimid and Nizari texts collapse and elide various temporal registers, he makes these complicated and perplexing texts sing for his readers ... [Velji's] approach will provoke incisive and important questions about apocalyptic phenomena that can easily appear as bizarre and unsettling. Readers will benefit from the glimpse that An Apocalyptic History of the Early Fatimid Empire offers of both the seething creativity and logical elegance of these Fatimid sources." -- William E. B. Sherman, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Religion About the Author Jamel Velji is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California.