

The Timurids, c. 1365-c. 1506



“Art” as a Primary Source: the building of a reputation...

The “Lame one”: Timur & His Successors

Timur-i lang = “Tamerlane” c. 1328-1405

- Turcoman origin

- already Islamized - “useful” aspect of Islam: *Ghazi* warfare & raiding

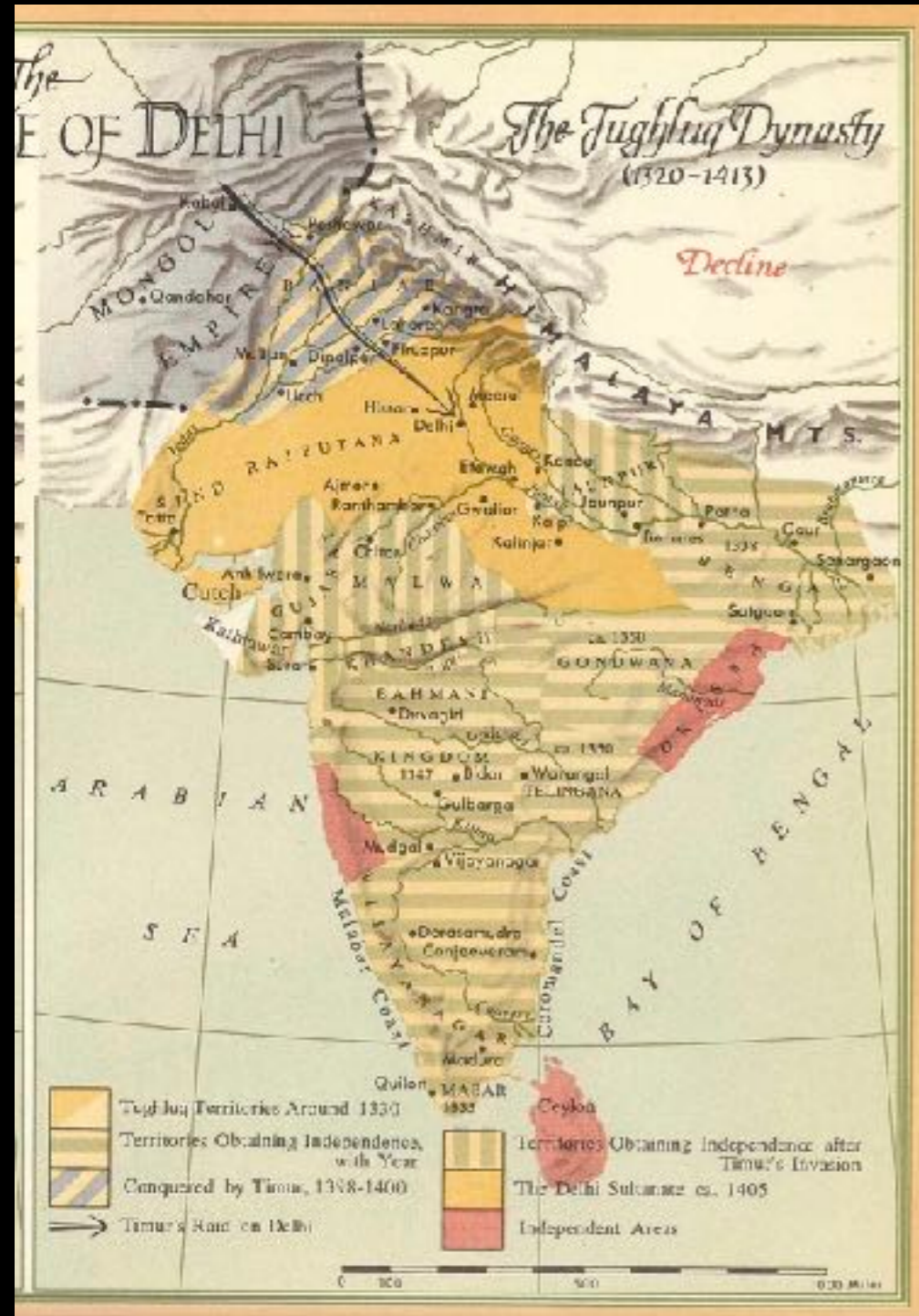
- development of Persianate traditions - “parvenu” status seen in patronage

- self-styled heir to Chinggis (Genghis) Khan for justification of rule

- future rulers used Timur as a legitimizing figure...

more brutal & impactful than the Mongols

Invasion of India & sack of Delhi, 1398



States of South Asia, c. 1400-1526

Defeat of Sultan Bayazid (r. 1389-1403) I at Ankara, 1402

Anadolu Beylikleri (14. yüzyıl)



**Timurids = sons & grandsons of Timur through early 16th century
(important successors only)**

- fragmentation of Transoxiana (e.g. Samarqand) and Khurasan (e.g. Herat)

- Shahrukh, Herat 1405-1447

- Ibrahim Sultan b. Shahrukh, Governor of Shiraz (Iran) 1415-1435

- Ulugh Beg, 1447-49

- Baysunghur b. Shahrukh (1397-1433) = younger brother, great patron of the arts

[intervening short reigns & internecine struggles]

- Husain Bayqara, r. Herat 1470-1506



Gur-i Mir, Samarqand. Ordered by Timur in honor of his grandson Muhammad Sultan; also later in memory of Shahrukh, Mirahshah, Pir Muhammad and Ulugh Beg, who also ordered additions. 1403, additions in 1424.

Scale: Persianate traditions “on steroids”...

Reproduction of forms & scale - not specific to function



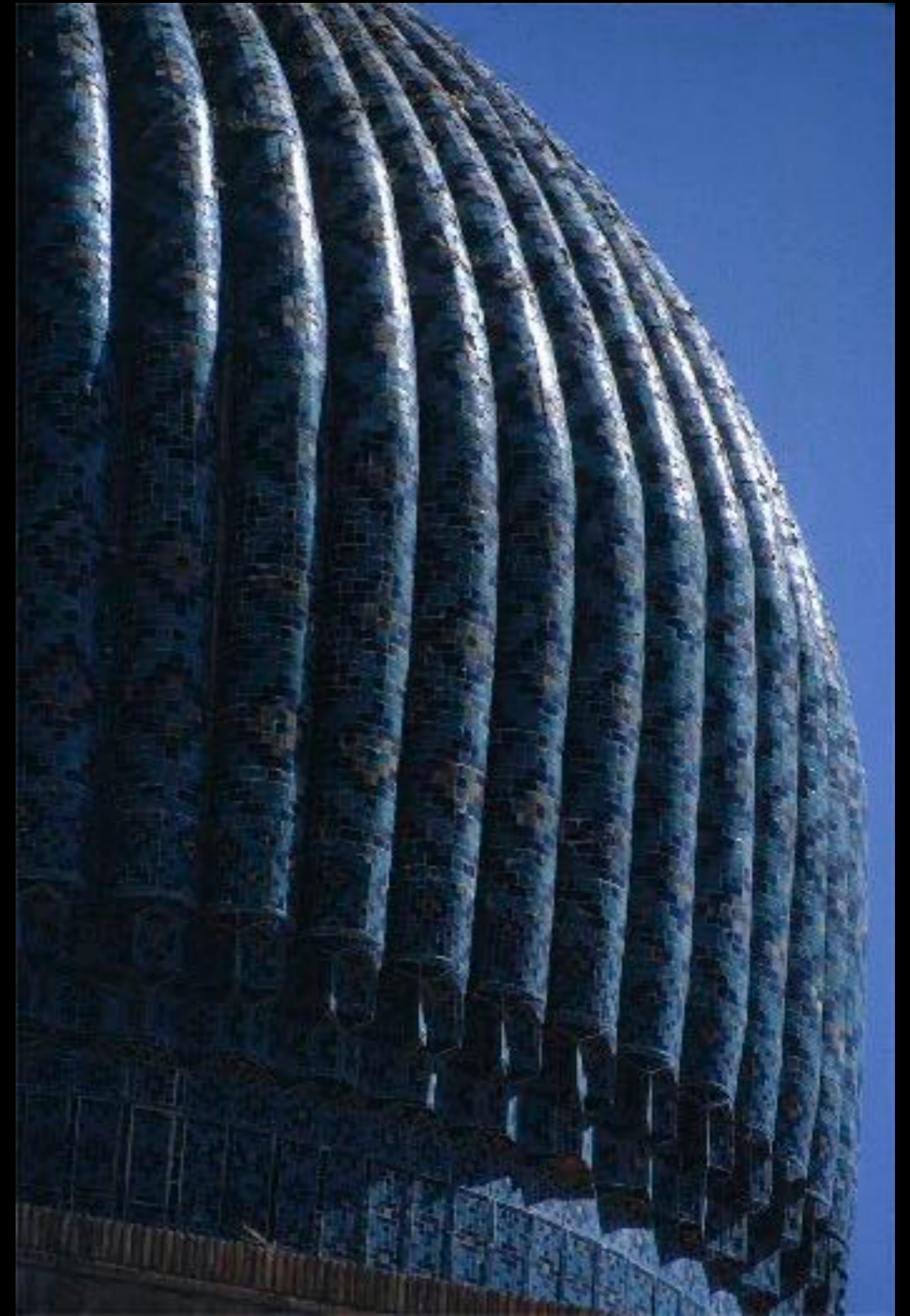
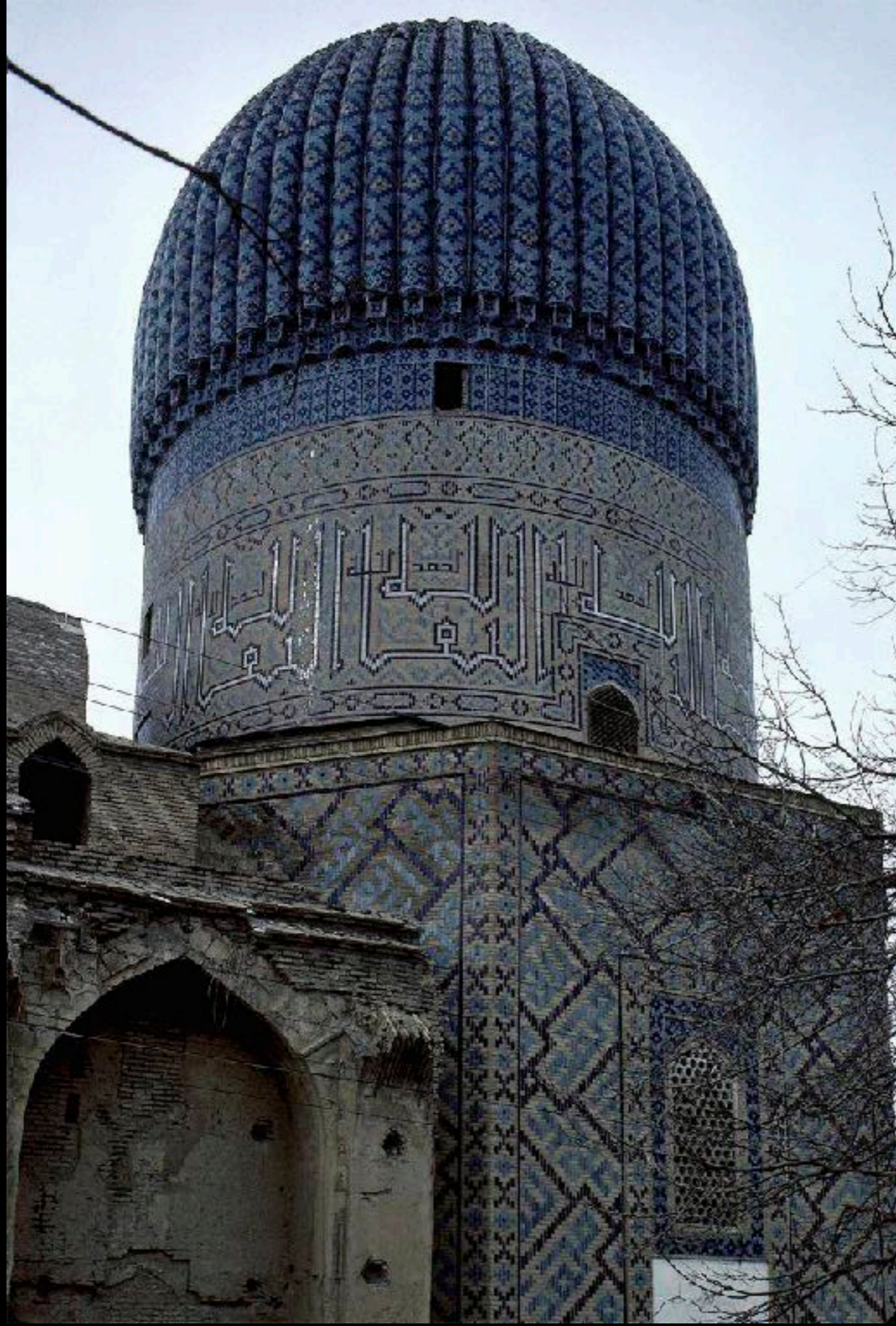
Gur-i Mir



**Bibi Khanum
1398-1405**



Gur-i Mir, Samarqand, 1403 etc.



The typical Timurid dome...

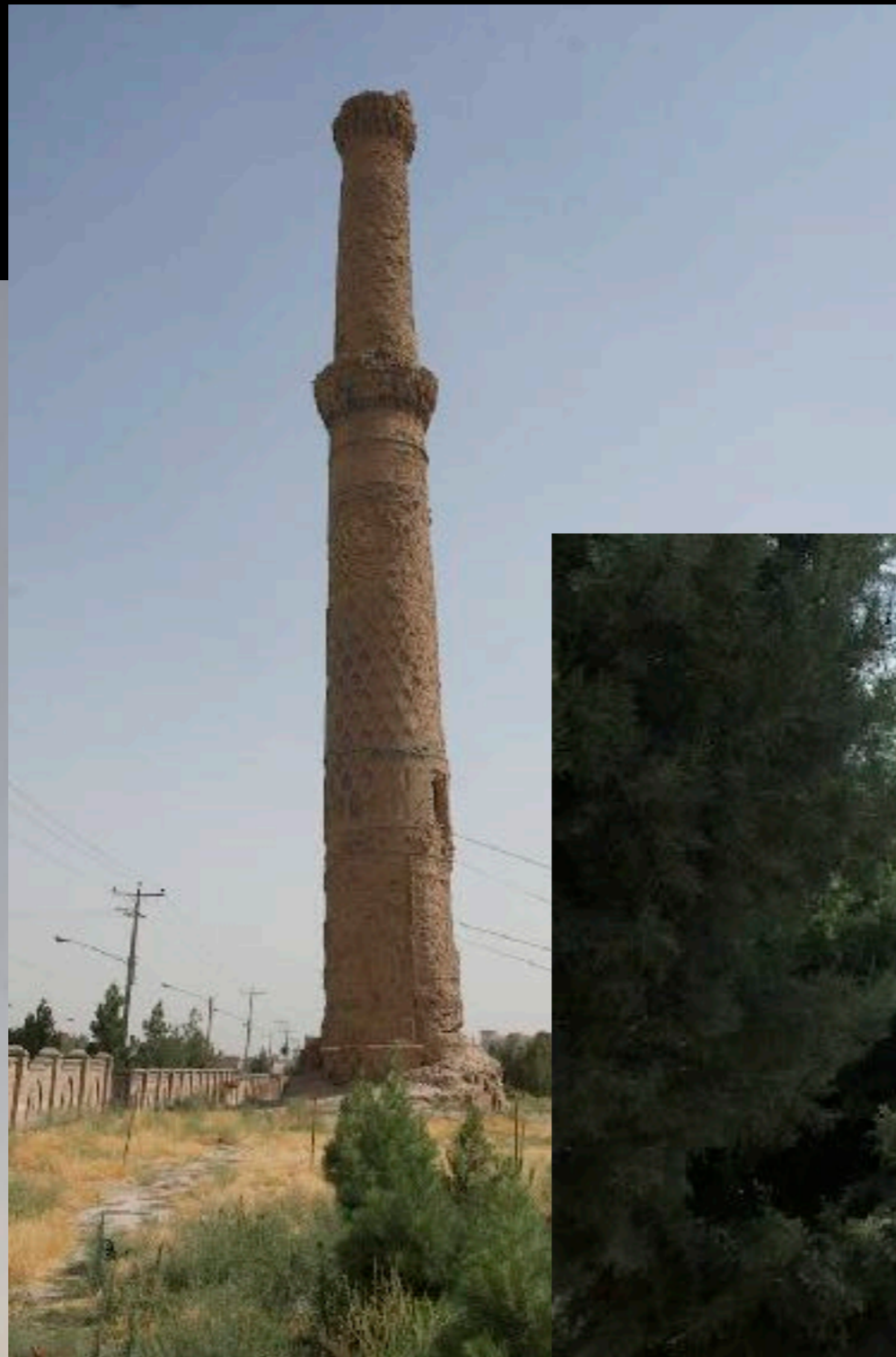


Gur-i Mir, Samarqand, 1403 etc.

Shift of the Timurid capital to Herat - Scale still emphasized!



Gawhar Shad Complex. Herat (Afghanistan). 1417-38. © Alka Patel 2011.
Importance of women patrons



Originally a large complex with mosque, *madrasa* and tomb...



THE MASALLAH, HERAT.

E. Durand (artist), sketch c. 1830s.

Alka Patel (photographer), 2011



**Robert Byron (photographer),
c. 1935**

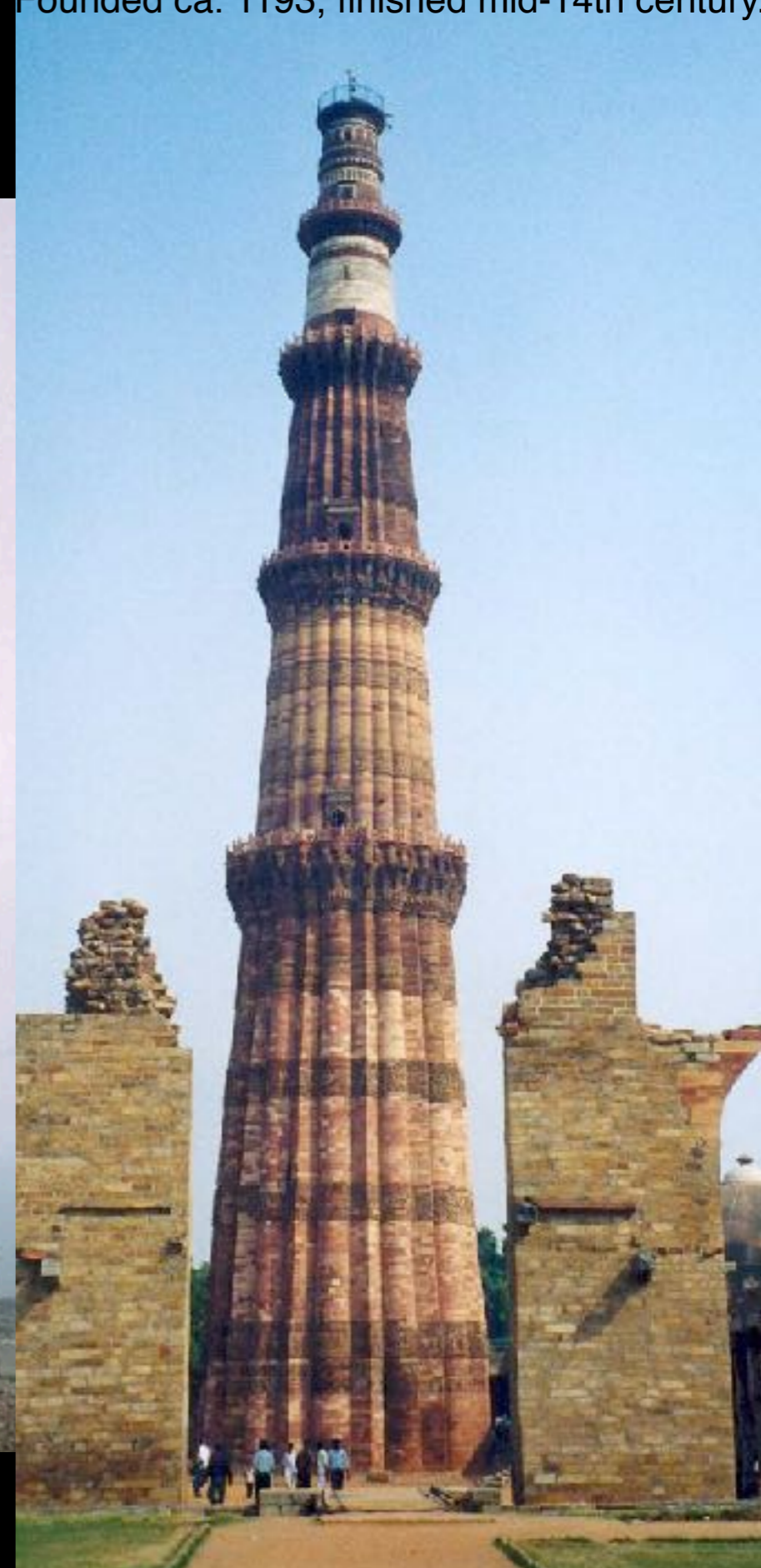
Gawhar Shad Complex. Herat (Afghanistan). 1417-38. © Alka Patel 2011.



Precedents??

The Qutb Minar at the Qutbi Complex. Delhi
Founded ca. 1193, finished mid-14th century.

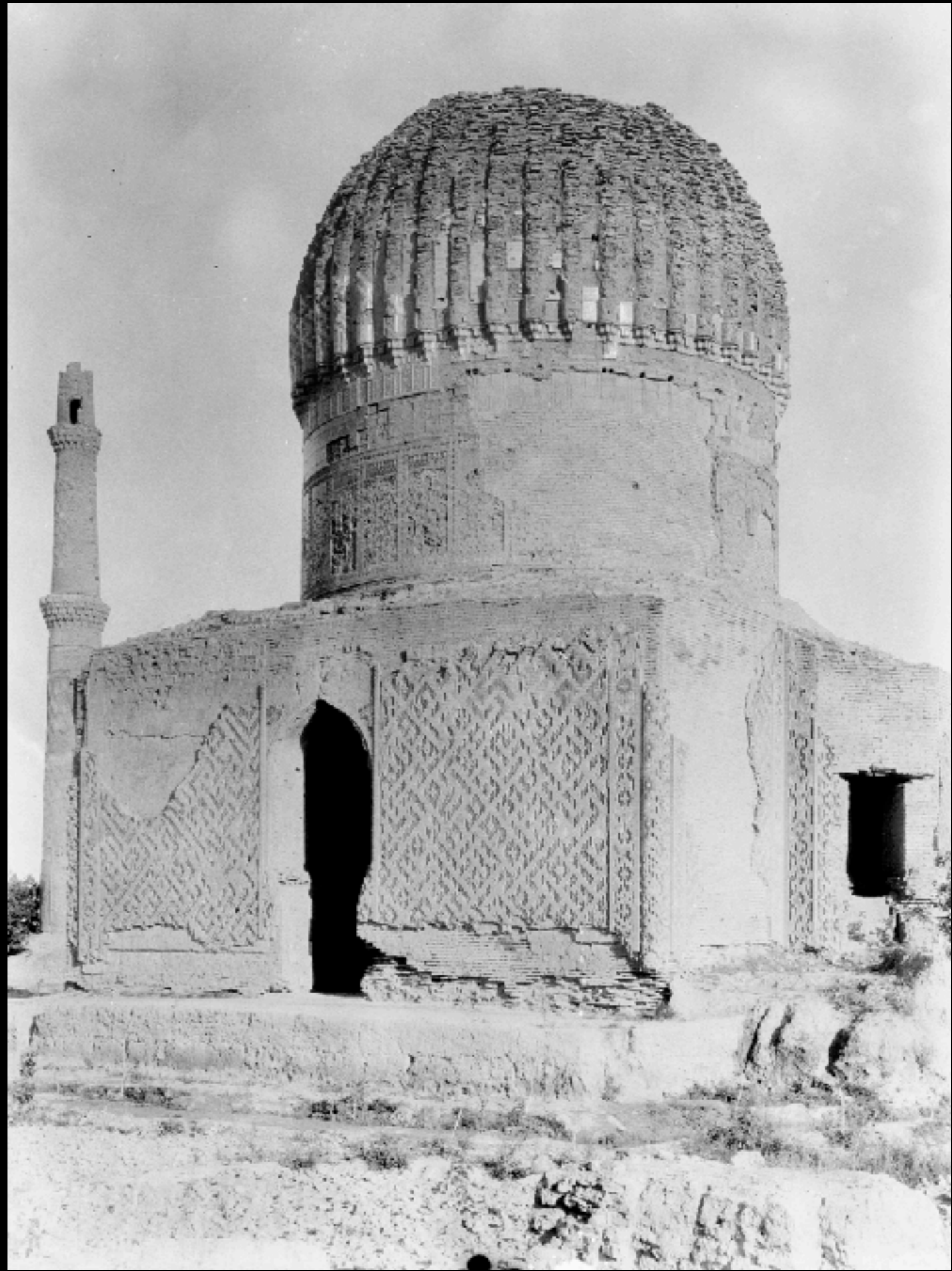
Minaret of Mas'ud III, Ghazna, Afghanistan. 1099-1115.



Gawhar Shad Complex. Herat (Afghanistan).
1417-38. © Alka Patel 2011.



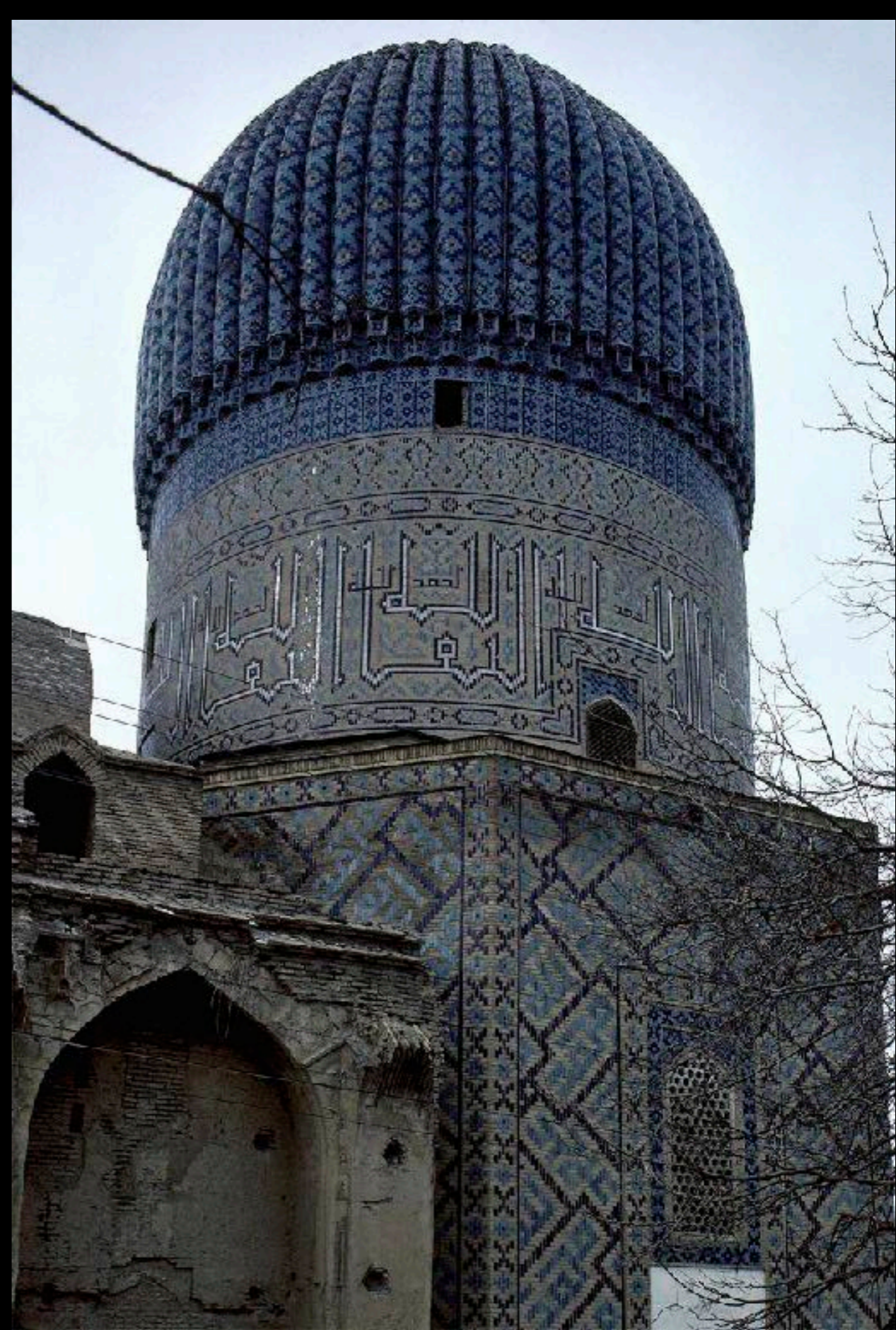
Gawhar Shad, Herat, 1417-38. © Alka Patel 2011.



Robert Byron (photographer), c. 1935



Gawhar Shad, Herat, 1417-38. © Alka Patel 2011.



Gur-i Mir, Samarqand, 1403 etc.



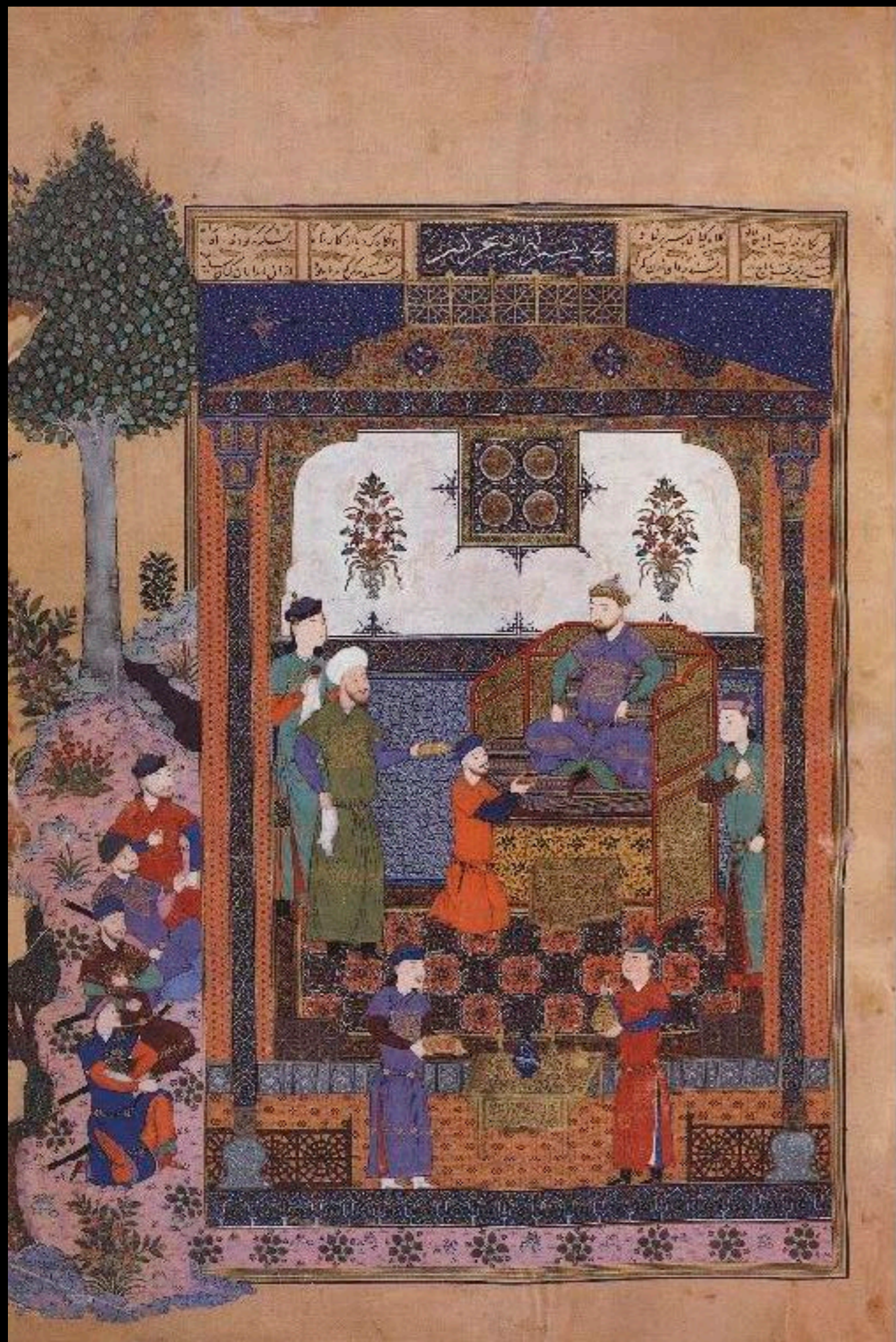
Gawhar Shad, Herat, 1417-38. © Alka Patel 2011.



Gawhar Shad, Herat, 1417-38.
© Alka Patel 2011.



Gur-i Mir, Samarqand, 1403 etc.



Folio from *Shahnama* of Baysunqur. Herat, c. 1430.

Example of Herat style of painting...

- one of the main centers of manuscript production
 - architectural presence
 - more full-page illustrations
- great refinement of details, including textiles
 - faces somewhat differentiated
 - “spilling out” of the frame

Folio from *Shahnama* of Ibrahim Sultan. Rustam slays the dragon. Shiraz, c. 1430.



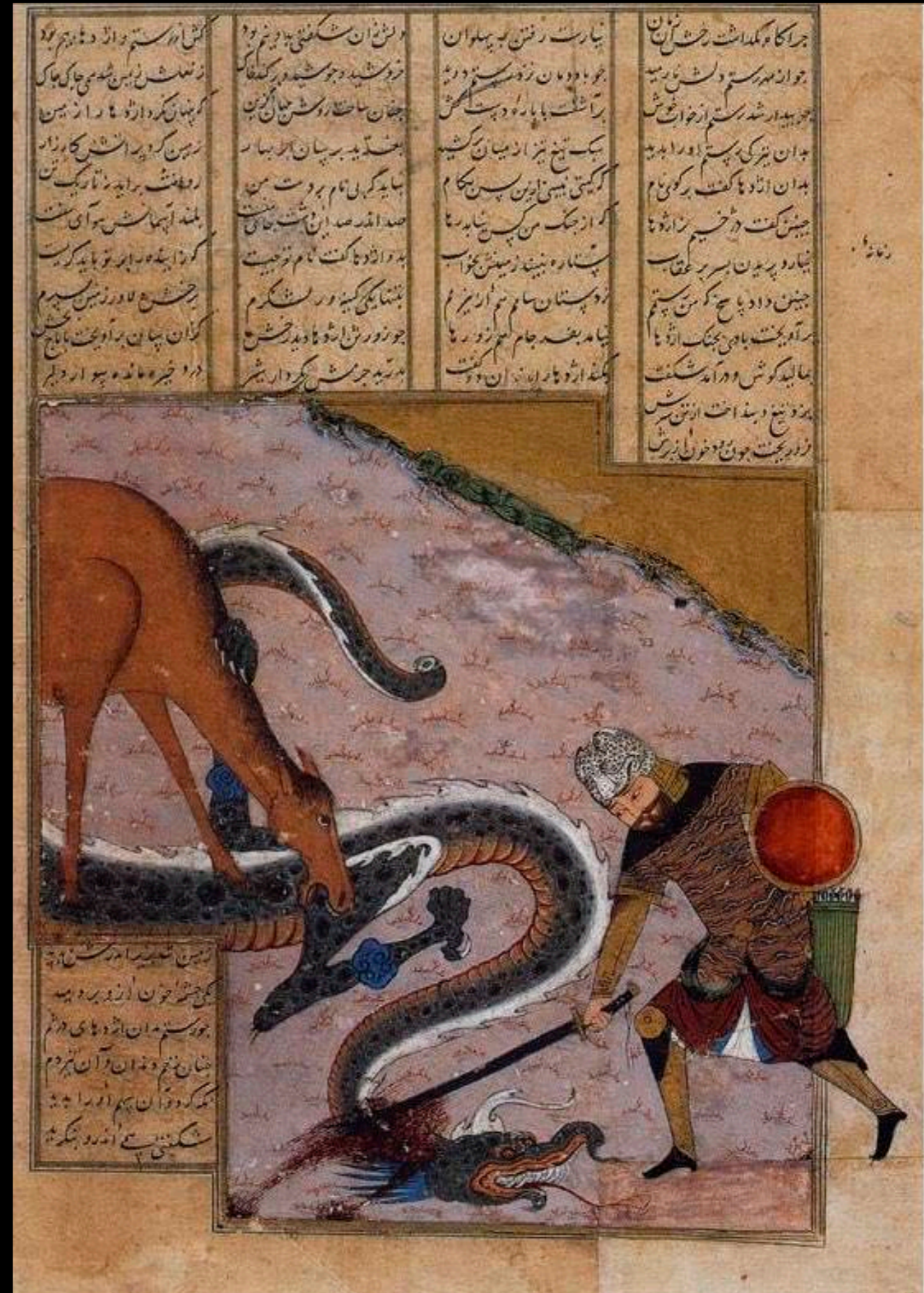
Example of Shiraz style of painting...

- another center of manuscript production
- NO architectural presence; landscape
- typical “Shirazi” face
- half-page illustrations common
- also “spilling out” of the frame

Style & Iconography



Herat, c. 1430



Shiraz, c. 1430

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