



DOLDOL

DOLDOL (or Doldūl, in Ar. lit., “large porcupine”), name of a female mule that Moqawqes, governor of Egypt, sent to the Prophet Moḥammad as a gift. Toward the end of his life the Prophet gave it and his armor to ‘Alī b. Abī Ṭāleb, an act that is viewed by Shi‘ites as one of the important indicators of ‘Alī’s special status.

In the Islamic folk tradition Doldol is sometimes confused with Borāq, the mount upon which the Prophet is believed to have ascended physically to heaven; in popular paintings of the Prophet’s ascension Bor’āq is usually depicted with a horse’s body and a human face, however. Although in biographical and mystical texts in Arabic and Persian, as well as in much Persian poetry, the name Doldol is reserved for the Prophet’s mule, the phrase *šāh-e doldol sawār* “the king riding the *doldol*” refers to Imam ‘Alī (Sa’dī, p. 36; Dehḡodā, s.v.).

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