

## Exploring the Symbolic Depictions of Animals and Mythical Creatures in Gilan Tomb Wall Paintings

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**Abstract :** The article discusses the rich tradition of mural art in Gilan, Iran, particularly focusing on its religious and cultural significance, with a specific emphasis on tombs and Imamzadehs (descendants of imams). It examines the presence of animals and supernatural beings in these murals, such as horses, lions, birds, snakes, and angels, each carrying symbolic meanings within the religious narratives depicted. It discusses the multifaceted symbolism of these creatures and their portrayal in various scenes, enriching the narrative and conveying spiritual themes. Moreover, the article delves into the geographical and cultural context of the Gilan region, where many of these murals are found, and the challenges posed by environmental factors on their preservation. The article concludes by emphasizing the importance of preserving these artworks as valuable cultural heritage and calls for further research into their social, religious, and artistic dimensions. It utilizes a multifaceted research approach involving library research, image analysis, field investigations, and interviews with local inhabitants to gain a deeper understanding of the significance of these murals.

**Keywords :** cultural ritual, Shiite imams, mural, belief foundations, religious paintings

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