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Mary in Medieval Christian and Shi'ī Iranian Devotional Drama: A Preliminary Comparison

Mary (Maryam) mother of Jesus is not only a figure of paramount importance within Christianity; Islamic tradition holds her in high esteem as the mother, not of God incarnate but of Jesus (Isa) the prophet. This paper compares her portrayal in medieval Christian drama and in the Shi'ī dramatic tradition known as *ta'ziyeh*, focusing on the treatment of events that occur in both traditions and particularly on the birth of Jesus. It also begins to evaluate the parallels between the *ta'ziyeh* treatment of Maryam and of Fatimah Zahra, daughter of the Prophet Muhammad and the mother of Imam Husain, with whom Maryam/Mary shares certain typological similarities. This research is taking place within the framework of the [WOMARD project](#).