“Whet one’s appetite, increase sexual potency.”
A Comparative Look at the Sacredness of Body through Food and Sex in Medieval Byzantine and Muslim Traditions
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Sex and food are common necessities for the survival of all animal species. Undeniably, they both have biological components. And yet attitudes towards these essential elements of survival varied quite differently in the medieval Byzantine and Turkish-Muslim societies, in relation to the Christian and Muslim approaches to body and soul. These differences became part of the polemic literature between the Byzantines and Muslims: While the Byzantine polemical texts against Islam accuse Muslims of promoting carnal pleasures, in some Turkish-Muslim texts, one can find criticism of the Byzantines for their unbalanced attitudes towards body and soul.

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