

## **Images of Houriyat Al Janna**

If a Houri looks down from her abode in heaven onto the earth, the whole distance shall be filled with light and fragrance. This lecture-performance works with the images of Houriyat Al Janna; the 70 or so virgin wives offered in paradise as a reward to martyrs. The Houriyat Al Janna are a recurring theme in current political and religious flux in the region referred to as the Middle East. Provoking various Islamic groups and sub-groups these invisible Houriyat present an ultimate aim to a large number of young boys joining these religious groups. I used to feel very envious and jealous from these women of paradise but right now I fantasize about how they might end up being my best friends and only wish for my husband to get lots of these beautiful Houriyat. This ritual conjures the invisible images of the Houriyat Al Janna, provoking lyrical and imaginary spaces associated with these virgins. A Houri's face is more radiant than a mirror, and one can see one's image in her cheek. Starting from the belief of their existence as the ultimate delights and pleasures offered only to those most faithful believers, the martyrs, the Houriyat Al Janna invite you to offer yourself to them in this ritual. Your contribution is invaluable to our forces.