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Swash-Buckle With *The 99*

It's 1258. The Mongols have just invaded Baghdad. They destroyed the library, but the Guardians of Wisdom manage to preserve 99 "stones of enlightenment," which are scattered to the winds. So begins *The 99*, a comic book in which each superhero possesses one of Islam's godly attributes, like wisdom, farsightedness or healing power. The series has become a phenomenon in the Arab world; when Teshkeel Comics--exclusive Arabic-language distributor of Marvel Entertainment comics like *Spider-Man* and *The Hulk*--launched *The 99* in Kuwait in 2006, regional sales of the Muslim comic book were second only to *Superman*. *The 99* debuted in the U.S. in 2007.