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MINIATURE FROM A COPY OF THE *TUTINAMA* (TALES OF A PARROT). 'THE SHEIKH WITH THE TALKING PARROT OF WOOD AND THE MUTE COPY'

INDIA, MUGHAL; C. 1580

MINIATURE: 10.1 × 10.4 CM

The miniature comes from a copy of the “Tales of a Parrot” that was originally in the Great Mughals’ library, but most of which is now found in the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin.

The *Tutinama* consists of 52 stories told by a parrot to its owner to keep her at home. The motif refers to an intrigue in which three men, each of whom is having an affair with the wife of one of the others, try to cheat one another in various ways.

The scene is played out in an Indian interior with red-sandstone architecture and with the characteristic lobed tops of doors and niches. The visitor is wearing a flat Mughal turban and a katar-type dagger.

Published in:

Georgina Fantoni: *Indian paintings and manuscripts*, Sam Fogg Rare Books and Manuscripts, London 1999, cat.no, 11, p. 18;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 59;

Kjeld von Folsach: *For the Privileged Few: Islamic Miniature Painting from The David Collection*, Louisiana, Humlebæk 2007, cat.no. 66;