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EARTHENWARE BOWL, COVERED WITH A WHITE SLIP AND PAINTED WITH A RED AND BLACK SLIP UNDER A TRANSPARENT GLAZE

EASTERN IRAN, NISHAPUR OR SAMARKAND; 10TH CENTURY

H: 7.5; DIAM: 26 CM

The bowl has an inscription – a repetition of the same word six times – between two concentric, decorative bands. Both the ornamental bands and the inscription have the same interwoven, knotted character. While the ornamental bands have a rhythm almost like a regular progression of letters, the inscription is highly stylized and has so many embellishments that it is difficult to decipher.

It has, however, been suggested that it reads *al-yaquz*, Arabic for “the wise.”

Published in:

Art from the World of Islam. 8th-18th century, Louisiana, Humlebæk

1987, cat.no. 32;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 117;
Sabiha Al Khemir: *Beauty and belief: crossing bridges with the arts of Islamic culture*, Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Provo 2012, p. 245;