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FRAGMENT OF A SILK TEXTILE, SINGLE-SIDED SAMITUM

TURKEY; 16TH-17TH CENTURY

H: 38; W: 64 CM

This textile – like one made somewhat later (20/1971) – served as a cover for the tomb of a holy man or important Muslim.

The profession of faith, “There is no god but God and Muhammad is His messenger,” was woven in with elegant *Thuluth* calligraphy. In smaller, slightly wrinkled *Naskh* is the sentence, “Help from God and imminent victory: Proclaim the good message to the believers.”

The textile’s design is highly reminiscent of the one that was commissioned by Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent (1520-1566). The museum’s textile, however, is unusual in that the texts are read alternately from above and below.

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