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MINIATURE FROM A COPY OF THE RAMAYANA. 'SITA SHIES AWAY FROM HANUMAN, BELIEVING HE IS RAVANA IN DISGUISE'

INDIA, MUGHAL; 1594

LEAF: 37.8 × 25.6 CM

The Great Mughal Akbar was known for his religious tolerance, and he did what he could to give his fellow Muslims insight into Hindu culture. He had holy Hindu scriptures translated into Persian, and he presented the magnificent copy of the *Ramayana* from which this miniature comes to his mother in 1594.

Sita, wife of the protagonist, Rama, has been captured by the evil demon Ravana. The artist displays unusually great psychological insight in dramatically depicting the moment when with horror Sita begins to doubt whether it really is her good friend, the monkey general Hanuman, standing before her.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 62;
Steen Estvad Petersen: *Drømmen om Paradiset: islamisk havekultur*, Valby 2005, p. 340;
Kjeld von Folsach: *For the Privileged Few: Islamic Miniature Painting from The David Collection*, Louisiana, Humlebæk 2007, cat.no. 69;
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Kjeld von Folsach: *Flora islamica: plantemotiver i islamisk kunst*, Davids Samling, København 2013, cat.no. 4;
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John Seyller, Marika Sardar, Audrey Truschke: *The Ramayana of Hamida Banu Begum, queen mother of Mughal India*, Cinisello Balsamo 2020, cat. 29, pp. 110-111;