



Inv. no. 1/2004

SIDE OF A CENOTAPH (SANDUQ), CARVED WOOD

IRAN OR CENTRAL ASIA; C. 1100

H: 112; W: 157 CM

The wooden panel made up one of the narrow sides of a large, box-shaped structure, called a *sandug*, that was placed over a grave as a monument to the deceased.

Both the central section's polygon panels and the inscription bands were masterfully carved. Entwined foliage on these bands forms the background for a cursive inscription that flows in great, thick letters, as if it had been squeezed from a tube.

The script is linked with the foliage by tendrils that wind up and down around the letters, creating a complicated structure of interwoven layers. The inscription identifies the deceased as "Bikra, the daughter of Ishaq, the son of Mardawij."

Published in:

Sheila S. Blair and Jonathan M. Bloom (eds.): *Cosmophilia. Islamic Art from the David Collection, Copenhagen*, McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, Boston 2006, cat.no. 116;

Catherine B. Asher: *Delhi's Qutb complex : the minar, mosque and*

Mehrauli, Mumbai 2017, fig. 1.9, p. 19;
Brian Wichmann, David Wade: *Islamic design: a mathematical approach*, Basel 2017, fig. 17.2, pp. 186-187;