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MINIATURE PASTED ON AN ALBUM LEAF. 'PORTRAIT OF SULTAN  
IBRAHIM ADIL SHAH II OF BIJAPUR'

INDIA, DECCAN, BIJAPUR; C. 1590

PORTRAIT: 27 × 16.3 CM

This impressive three-quarter-profile portrait of Ibrahim Adil Shah at about 19 years of age is a unique masterpiece in every way. Portraiture was only in its infancy in Mughal India at this point, and such a monumental depiction from the Deccan must undoubtedly be attributed to the direct influence of printed European models.

Ibrahim (1579-1626) ascended the throne as a boy, but did not begin to rule until around 1590. He was a great patron of all the fine arts in Bijapur, and the inscription on the splendid turban extols the young man to the heavens, comparing him to the patriarch Abraham and to King Solomon.

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Mark Zebrowski: *Deccani painting*, London 1983, fig. 49 and p. 54, pl. VI;

Stuart Cary Welch: *India: art and culture 1300-1900*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York 1985, cat. 193, p. 291;

Francesca Galloway and J. P. Losty: *Paintings from the royal courts of India: exhibition held at the Peter Findlay Gallery*, Fuller Building, 41 East 57th Street, New York 18-27 March 2008, London 2008, cat. 20;

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