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MINIATURE FROM A COPY OF FIRDAWSI'S SHAHNAME. 'MUBAD-I MUBADAN BRINGS FOOD TO THE CAPTIVE VIZIER IZAD-I GASHASP'

IRAN, TABRIZ (?); BETWEEN 1300 AND 1340

LEAF: 24.5 × 18.5 CM

The manuscripts that were made in the Mongol or Il-Khanid period have both features from 'Arab painting' and elements from Far Eastern art. This painting is quite Arab in expression, while scenes with warriors and landscapes display Chinese inspiration to a higher degree.

The first extant copies of Firdawsi's famous 11th-century Persian epic, the *Book of Kings*, were written under the Il-Khanids. This miniature comes from one of the "small *Shahnamas*" that are considered by some to be precursors of the period's more mature masterpiece, the great 'Mongolian *Shahnama*.'

Published in:

Sotheby's, London, 7/7-1975, lot 22;
Sotheby's, London, 12/10-1990, lot 156;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat. 26;
Kjeld von Folsach: *For the Privileged Few: Islamic Miniature Painting from The David Collection*, Louisiana, Humlebæk 2007, cat. 7;
Oliver Watson: "The case of the Ottoman table" in *Journal of the David Collection*, 3, 2010, fig. 25, p. 39;
Joachim Meyer and Peter Wandel: *Shahnama: the Colorful Epic About Iran's Past*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2016, cat. 54;
Joachim Meyer, Rasmus Bech Olsen and Peter Wandel: *Beyond words: calligraphy from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2024, cat. 89, pp. 246-247;
<http://shahnama.caret.cam.ac.uk/new/jnama/card/cemanuscript:1077277358>;