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PANEL OF CARVED, PAINTED WOOD

IRAN OR CENTRAL ASIA; C. 1450

33 × 37.5 CM

A fairly hard type of wood was used for the panel that enabled a very high level of detailing when it was carved. It was probably one of several panels in a double door to a religious building, as indicated by the text in the large, uncolored inscription in the central part of the panel: “God is the guardian of prosperity; God is the opener of doors.”

The smaller, dark inscription carved on a lower level is from the Koran’s *sura* 2. The carvings’ flat background was stippled throughout, and the contrast to the letters was further highlighted with colors that were originally brighter.

Around the inscriptions is the delicate type of arabesque that is characteristic of Timurid carving in both wood and stone.

Published in:

Christie’s, London, 10/4-2014, lot 57;

Joachim Meyer, Rasmus Bech Olsen and Peter Wandel: *Beyond words: calligraphy from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2024, cat. 21, pp. 148-149;

