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CAT. 67. "MAN WITH A SALUKI." MINIATURE PAINTED ON COTTON FABRIC

IRAN; C. 1555

THE MINIATURE: H: 18.3; W: 13.8 CM

A man is walking his dog on a leash. He goes in one direction and the dog in another. Both turn their heads and send one another telling looks. The man's two little eyes are directed stiffly at the animal and his facial expression seems to break with normal conventions that dictate a form of standardized lack of expression regardless of the situation. Instead, he looks slightly irritated and suspicious.

In contrast to the quite muscular man, the dog is a thin Saluki. The dog's jaws are open and seem to contribute to their communication, as do its golden eyes with their long eyelashes. It seems to be defying his master. Which of us decides?

The painting is distinctive by seemingly both depicting an everyday situation and embodying a form of subtle humor and psychological dynamic in the interplay between man and dog. The motif could also

be viewed as an image of earthly tribulations in contrast to the afterlife's heavenly rewards.