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TABBY-WOVEN TEXTILE, SILK, DECORATED WITH PATTERN WEFTS

MIDDLE EAST; 11TH-12TH CENTURY

H: 46; W: 32 CM

The provenance of this textile is uncertain, but despite the Arabic inscription in *Kufi* – *al-mulk l-illah* (“royal power belongs to God”) – the type has most often been ascribed to Iran.

Motifs with eagles, falcons, lions, and other predators – hunting, confronted, or alone – are frequently associated with a princely iconography, or at least with social strata that modeled themselves on the ruling class. The becomingly modest inscription on this textile emphasizes a princely context.

A pattern weft is an extra weft that runs from selvage to selvage and forms the pattern.

Published in:

Sotheby's, New York, 25/6-1992, lot 183;

Kjeld von Folsach and Anne-Marie Keblow Bernsted: *Woven Treasures: Textiles from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 1993, cat.no. 10; Kjeld von Folsach, Torben Lundbæk

and Peder Mortensen (eds.): *Sultan, Shah and Great Mughal: the history and culture of the Islamic world*, The National Museum, Copenhagen 1996, cat.no. 244; Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World*

*of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 633;