



Inv. no. 21/1999

CAT. 60. KARIM KHAN ZAND WITH AN OTTOMAN AMBASSADOR

IRAN; C. 1775

Abu'l Hasan Mustawfi painted the competent founder of the Persian Zand dynasty, Karim Khan Zand (r. 1751-1779), in 1775 together with an Ottoman ambassador, whom he portrayed looking quite subservient.

Karim Khan is wearing a fur-trimmed caftan made of a golden fabric featuring little floral bouquets of a type that was common in Iran in the 18th century. In his left hand he holds a wine goblet and in his right a bouquet of roses of different colors, painted quite naturalistically.

The ambassador is wearing an almost identical caftan, but its fur trimming is white and the bouquets are found on a slightly less costly silver ground.

The caftan might very well be a robe of honor that he had just received as a gift from Karim Khan Zand.

