



Inv. no. C 554

HAMDANID DIRHAM. NASIR AL-DAWLA ABU MUHAMMAD AL-HASAN  
AND SAYF AL-DAWLA ABU'L-HASAN ALI (942-967)

SYRIA, ALEPPO; 353 H = 964

DIAM: 2.60 CM

Islam's obligatory tax, *zakat*, is commonly set at 2.5 % of a person's total wealth and is donated annually to the poor and needy. In certain Islamic countries, the state collects the tax, while in others, it is donated on a voluntary basis. The inscription on this rare coin from the Hammadid dynasty in northern Syria (905-1004) tells us what fate awaits he who forgets to use his money in accordance with Islam:

“And there are those Who bury gold and silver And spend it not in the Way of God: announce unto them A most grievous penalty.”

(*Sura* 9, part of verse 34)

Right up to modern times, it has been traditional in large parts of the Islamic world to furnish coins with religious mottos.