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'PRAYERS IN A MOSQUE'. MINIATURE FROM *KULLIYAT-I MAWLANA AHLI SHIRAZI* (COLLECTED WORKS OF MAWLANA AHLI SHIRAZI)

IRAN, SHIRAZ; C. 1550

H: 35.5; W: (OPEN) 61 CM

In keeping with tradition, a Muslim must pray five times daily: at dawn, at noon, in the afternoon, at sunset, and at night. The prayers can be performed anywhere, but those said in a mosque together with others are considered better than those said alone.

The left side of this spread shows a small group of people gathered in prayer in a mosque at a holy man's tomb in Iran. The mosque consists of a square room with a decorative carpet. In the background, behind a wooden lattice, is a sarcophagus covered with a red cloth. One of the men present is seated, reading the Koran. In front of him are two Koran stands, and from the ceiling hang a large number of traditional mosque lamps.

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Sotheby's, London, 22/5-1930, lot 104;  
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. 371;  
Kjeld von Folsach: *For the Privileged Few: Islamic Miniature Painting from The David Collection*, Louisiana, Humlebæk 2007, cat.no. 38;