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EARTHENWARE BOWL WITH CALLIGRAPHIC DECORATION

EASTERN IRAN OR CENTRAL ASIA; 10TH CENTURY

H: 6.5; DIAM: 20.5 CM

The lack of interest in figurative decorations in the early Islamic world promoted the development of calligraphy's decorative qualities.

The Arabic script is admirably suited for use as a decorative element, and in combination with ornamentation, selected passages from the Koran, popular sayings, and similar texts became the preferred decoration on building facades, coins, and utility ware.

The text on this bowl is a saying about generosity. "Verily, the heart of the generous one remains noble even though his condition might change."

Published in:

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The arts of Islam : Hayward gallery, 8 April - 4 July 1976, London 1976, cat. 281;
Annika Richert (red.): *Islam: konst och kultur / art and culture*, Statens historiska museum, Stockholm 1985, p. 115, cat. 28;
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. 241;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat. 116;
Stig T. Rasmussen (red.): *Ordets billeder: arabisk kalligrafi: kunstudstilling*, Det Kongelige Bibliotek, København 2007, pp. 22-23 and 62, fig. 3;
Joachim Meyer, Rasmus Bech Olsen and Peter Wandel: *Beyond words: calligraphy from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2024, fig. 36, pp. 56-57;