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KORAN SCROLL WITH A SUFI LOVE POEM APPENDED

TURKEY; 19TH CENTURY

H: 145; W: 10.5 CM

This Koran manuscript in scroll form was appended with a Sufi poem consisting of 161 verses. The poem praises the Prophet and refers to *udhri* (a passionate love of the unattainable). As is common with poems of this type, it begins with a love song whose first lines read:

“Could the lover believe that love can be kept hidden when it flows or burns so?”

Koran manuscripts in scroll form were often used as an amulet to ward off danger or bring good fortune. Decorative cylindrical amulet cases are consequently found in large parts of the Islamic world, often among Shiites and Sufis.

Published in:
Joachim Meyer, Rasmus Bech Olsen and Peter Wandel: *Beyond words: calligraphy from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2024, fig. 53, pp. 82-83;