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A *FIRMAN* (IMPERIAL DECREE), PAPER, WRITTEN IN *TAWQI* AND *TALIQ*

IRAN, PROBABLY ISFAHAN; 816 H = 1414

H: 600; W: 50 CM

In this *firman*, the Timurid prince and governor in Shiraz – Iskandar Sultan – exempts the *sayyids* (descendants of Muhammad) from paying taxes.

The six-meter-long decree is introduced by three lines written in gold *Tawqi* followed by 39 lines in gold *Taliq*, which was developed as a chancellery script under the late Il-Khanids. A further development of *Taliq* in the Iranian cultural sphere was *Nastaliq*, which was used especially for poetry. This *firman* demonstrates imperial ambitions with regard to both its size and the golden script. Iskander Sultan demonstrated them as well, and in 1414 he was deposed and blinded by his uncle and liege lord, Shah Rukh.

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Sotheby's, London, 27/4-2005, lot 12;