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MINIATURE PAINTED ON COTTON FABRIC. 'MAN WITH A SALUKI'

IRAN; C. 1555

MINIATURE: 18.3 × 13.8 CM

Rarely are Islamic miniatures painted on cloth. This one, which must have been part of an album, was signed Mulla Dust (Dust Muhammad), but was probably made by his pupil, Shaykh Muhammad.

Against a poetic and purely Chinese-inspired landscape we see the classic confrontation between a man and his dog, each wanting to go a different way. Despite the colorful man's superior force, his worried face gives us an inkling that it is the elegant, sand-colored saluki that will come off the victor. Is this scene a metaphor of the relationship between an older man and his young wife? Empathetic psychological depictions like this are rare in Persian miniature painting.

Published in:

Sotheby's, London, 12/10-2000, lot 64;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 36;

Kjeld von Folsach: *For the Privileged Few: Islamic Miniature Painting from The David Collection*, Louisiana, Humlebæk 2007, cat.no. 42;

Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer: *The Human Figure in Islamic Art – Holy Men, Princes, and Commoners*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2017, cat.no. 67;