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EARTHENWARE TILE WITH THE NAMES OF ALLAH AND
MUHAMMAD

INDIA, MULTAN; 18TH CENTURY

H: 30; W: 26 CM

While portraits of the Prophet Muhammad are rare, it is very common for the name Muhammad to be rendered in intricate fashion. Having Islam's most important prophet represented by his name – and not his portrait – is an elegant way of keeping believers from worshiping an image of the Prophet instead of God.

The ornamentation on this Indian wall tile surrounds the words “O Allah” (above) and “O Muhammad” (below).

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