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MINIATURE FROM *AINA-I ISKANDARI* (ALEXANDER'S MIRROR)  
PRESUMABLY BY AMIR KHUSRAW DIHLAWI

IRAN; C. 1440-1450

H: 9; W: 7 CM

In the famous tale *Aina-i Iskandari* (Alexander's Mirror), Alexander the Great sails out toward *Qubrus* (Cyprus) to combat a group of pirates who have been harassing Syrian merchant ships.

We do not know whether the miniature is intended to depict a merchant ship, but for Muslim merchants, the seaworthy *dhow* (the traditional Arab wooden ship) ensured that goods could be transported to even the most distant regions. Just a single century after the death of the Prophet Muhammad, sources document Muslim seamen and merchants residing permanently in the large ports around the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean, in Indonesia, and along the east coast of China.

