



Inv. no. 53/1999

PAGE FROM PART 24 OF A CHINESE KORAN  
WRITTEN IN SINI

CHINA; 1053 H = 1643

EACH LEAF: 24 × 15,3 CM

This Koran manuscript was written in a Chinese variant of the *Rayani* script that is often termed *Sini*. The margin of the entire part contains a number of highly decorative markers that designate five and ten verses, all of them in the shape of flowers, with little pagodas here and there. The two *Sura* headings were given their own frame and written in red.

The colophon in the manuscript's double leaf tells us that this Koran was written in Khan Balgh (Beijing) in 1053 H = 1643 by Ama Allah Nur al-Ilm bint (daughter of) Rashid al-Din. Female calligraphers are rare in the Islamic world. Two little red stamps with Chinese characters, judged to be from the 19th century, denote a later owner.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 15;

Stig T. Rasmussen: *Klassisk arabisk litteratur i oversættelse til dansk: en litteraturhistorisk vejvisende antologi*, København 2018, pp. 246-247;

Joachim Meyer, Rasmus Bech Olsen and Peter Wandel: *Beyond words: calligraphy from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2024, cat. 26, p. 157;  
Rasmus Bech Olsen: “Beyond words: calligraphy from the World of Islam”, *Orientations*, 55:4, 2024, fig. 11, p. 41;