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THREE FRAGMENTS OF A LAMPAS-WOVEN TEXTILE, SILK AND GILDED ANIMAL SUBSTRATE SPUN AROUND A SILK CORE

SPAIN, ALMERIA?; 1ST HALF OF 12TH CENTURY

LARGEST FRAGMENT: H: 40; W: 25 CM

This is only one of many related textiles that were made in Almoravid Spain, and one fragment bears the name of the ruler Ali bin Yusuf bin Tashufin (1106-1143). The stylized double eagle is covered with non-naturalistic ornamentation, including a pseudo-Latin inscription, and under its claws is the word *baraka* (blessing). The classical medallion pattern features griffins and harpies, and outside it are faint traces of a *Kufi* inscription.

These fragments and others come from the reliquary of St. Librada that was donated to the church in Sigüenza by Alfonso VII of Castile and Leon in 1147. Like many other pieces, they show that Christian Spaniards appreciated decorative art made in the Muslim cultural sphere, which was superior in many respects.

Published in:

Barbara H. Rosenwein: *A short story of the middle ages*, 5. ed.,
Toronto 2018, pl. 5.5, p. 170;

Esra Akin-Kivanc: *Muthanna / mirror writing in Islamic calligraphy :
history, theory, and aesthetics*, Bloomington 2020, pp. 144-145, fig.
5.14