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COLLECTION OF TEXTS WRITTEN BY KHWAJA IKHTIYAR AL-MUNSHI
IN SHIKASTEH TALIQ

IRAN; 16TH CENTURY

EACH LEAF: 18 × 12 CM

The one-eyed al-Munshi (died 1566/1567) has gone down in history as one of the most brilliant calligraphers to work in the *Shikasteh taliq* style, which can be seen on this spread, executed with great mastery. The script is distinguished by soft curves in a diagonal, rocking movement, in which the words on each of the different-colored lines is pressed upward and to the left.

Al-Munshi, which means secretary in Persian, was the epithet that the calligrapher used to sign his work. He was born in Herat, where he served for a number of years as secretary to Sultan Khudabanda, governor of Khurasan. He later worked for 30 years for the Safavid Shah Tahmasp in Tabriz.

Published in:

Christie's, London, 7/10-2008, lot 322;

Joachim Meyer, Rasmus Bech Olsen and Peter Wandel: *Beyond words: calligraphy from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2024, cat. 48, p. 185 and p. 51, fig. 32;

