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“SUFİ STANDING WITH A FLOWER”

INDIA, DECCAN; BEGINNING OF THE 17TH CENTURY

Depictions of Sufis became a favorite motif in Iran and India from the end of the 16th century because of their ties to the period’s secular rulers, but also as a spiritual contrast to them.

The Sufi standing with a flower in his hand is a symbol of the mendicant mystic who renounces life’s material goods and seeks God in the world that He created. The horn and especially the twelve-sided stone hanging from the Sufi’s belt bear witness to his membership in a Shiite-inspired order.