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DEVOUT PHRASES

TURKEY; 17TH CENTURY

At the top is a sentence ascribed to Ali's son, Imam Husayn: "I suppressed the self in the search for longing." It is followed in small script by pieces of religious advice and admonitions from Ali himself. The text was signed by Hafiz Osman Efendi (1642-98).

Calligraphic work of this kind was widespread in Sufi circles in the Ottoman Empire. Small formats like this one served as album leaves, while larger ones were framed and hung in cloisters (*tekke*) and mausoleums (*türbe*).