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MINIATURE FROM A COPY OF FIRDAWSI'S *SHAHNAMA* MADE FOR QIWAMUDDAWLA WA'L-DIN HASAN. 'ISKANDAR CONTEMPLATES THE PEOPLES GOG AND MAGOG'

IRAN, SHIRAZ; 741 H = 1341

LEAF: 36.5 × 29.5 CM

This miniature comes from a manuscript made for the Injuid prince Abu Shaq's vizier Qiwamuddawla wa'l-Din Hasan.

Iskandar – Alexander the Great – was transformed in the *Shahnama* into a son of King Darab (Darius II) and the daughter of Philip of Macedonia. There is consequently nothing strange about Iskandar vanquishing his half-brother Dara (Darius III) and becoming ruler of Iran.

Iskandar was viewed as a very wise prince and is mentioned indirectly in the Koran as the one who enclosed the barbaric peoples Gog and Magog behind an impenetrable wall. The same story is told here in the "Book of Kings."

Published in:

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Sotheby's, London, 12/10-1990, lot 157;

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Marianna p. Simpson: "A reconstruction and preliminary account of the 1341 Shahnama: with some further thoughts on early Shahnama illustrations" in Robert Hillenbrand (ed.): *Persian painting from the Mongols to the Qajars : studies in honour of Basil W. Robinson*, London 2000, p. 246 (omtalt);

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 28;

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Joachim Meyer and Peter Wandel: *Shahnama: the Colorful Epic About Iran's Past*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2016, cat.nr. 49;

<http://shahnama.caret.cam.ac.uk/new/jnama/card/cemanuscript:-750927667>;

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Gabrielle R. van den Berg: "The wall and beyond: some notes on text, context, and visual representations of Iskandar, Ya'gûg and Ma'gûg in the Pre-Modern Persianate world" in Viola Allegranzi and Valentina Laviola (eds.): *Texts and contexts: ongoing researches on the Eastern Iranian World (Ninth-Fifteenth C.)*, Roma 2020, fig. 1, p. 47;