

## MUṢĪBAT-NĀMAH

DATED 833 (1429-30)

*A manuscript of 'Attār's Muṣibat-nāmah*

**SUBJECT AND ARRANGEMENT.** The *Muṣibat-nāmah*, or 'Book of Affliction', is a mystical and legendary poem<sup>1</sup>.

**MEASUREMENTS, ETC.** 30.5 × 19.5 cm.; the written surface measures 14 × 6.7 cm.; 17 lines; 163 + 2 folios.

**BINDING.** The manuscript is bound in a good 18th-century lacquer binding, with coloured flower-designs on a green and gold ground. Inside are tree- and bird-designs in gold on a red ground.

**WRITING AND PAPER.** The writing is a good early *Nasta'liq*, with headings in gold or red. The columns are divided by two lines of gold. The paper is polished and somewhat opaque. The text is set in margins of varying colours, which have been injured by damp and worms.

**DATE AND SCRIBE.** According to the colophon the manuscript was copied by Azhar al-Kātib<sup>1</sup> in 833 (1429-30).

**ILLUMINATION AND ILLUSTRATIONS.** There are two fully illuminated pages at the beginning (foll. 2b and 3) with gold and coloured ornament of very high quality, in which blue and gold predominate; black and green are effectively employed. On fol. 4 is a circular medallion containing the title and author's name in white letters on gold. Foll. 4b and 5 have fine ornamented borders, as have 5b and 6, but the latter, in which gold predominates, may be later than the former. The other pages of the text have borders with gold designs on variously coloured grounds. The inner border of the colophon on fol. 162 is also illuminated.

There are miniatures on foll. 3b, 77, 128b, and 142b. These are modern additions, painted over the text in a 16th-century style.

**SEALS AND INSCRIPTIONS.** The manuscript contains numerous Mughal seal impressions, 'arṣ-dīdahs, and inscriptions at the beginning and end. On fol. 2 is a note, apparently by the Mughal Emperor Jahāngīr, recording that the manuscript was added to the Imperial library in the fourth year of his reign. The same Emperor's seal impression, and those of the librarians of subsequent Emperors, can be distinguished.

[M. M.]