AN IMPORTANT EXTERNAL CURTAIN (BURQA) OF THE HOLY KA'BA DOOR DEDICATED TO SULTAN ABD AL-MAJID (R. 1839-61) 
Ottoman Turkey

DATED 1252 AH/1839-40 AD
SILK WITH APPLIED SILVER AND GOLD GILT THREAD
550 BY 270 CM, 218 BY 106 CM.

INSCRIPTION
In the cartouches above the pointed arch:

"I am the faith of the faithful Muslims. May the Lord of the worlds, the Maker of the worlds, bless Sultan Abd al-Majid. 1252 AH/1839-40 AD."

This noble curtain was ordered to be made by our Lord, the one of military virtues, Sultan Abd al-Majid, may his caliphate be everlasting, the year 1252 AH/1839-40 AD.

In the small pole roundels in the borders: Repetition of allahu rabbil 'arrahman (God is my Lord) and allahu hafiz (God protects me).

In the eight long black cartouches on the side borders: Qur'an, surah al-fatiha (1).

In the top two long black cartouches, the two large roundels and round the opening arch: Qur'an, surah al-ahad (I).

In the single black cartouche on top: Qur'an, surah al-rum (30:43), 20 and surah al-ala (116), verse 10.

In the four lozenge-shaped cartouches: The (Arabic) in mirror form.

In the wide pole band: Qur'an, surah al-'ashr (50:1-4), part of verse 27.

In the four black cartouches above and below the wide band: Qur'an, surah al-baqara (2), verse 255 (ayat al-kursi).

In the two black cartouches next to the top of the arch: Qur'an, surah an-nas (21).

In the six cartouches on the sides of the opening: Repetition of two different shahadahs.

US$ 300,000-400,000
£ 175,000-233,000 Dhs 720,000-1,200,000
131 FOUR RICE/WHEAT GRAIN MICRO-CALLIGRAPHIES
Probably Syria
ONE GRAIN DATED (1542 AH/1923)
INK ON THREE RICE GRAINS AND ONE WHEAT GRAIN
OSMOL. 30%. APPROX.
(2)
INSCRIPTION
Each inscribed with Qur'an, the whole of surah al-athila (CXII)
US$ 1,200–2,000
$ 950–1,500 GBR 8,500–13,000

132 MUHAMMAD IBN SALIM AL-DIMASHQI
A Miniature Qur'an in Ghubani Script
Ottoman Turkey
SIGNED AND DATED 1205 AH/1790 AD
IN ULUM AND SCIENCE OF FAITH
2 7/8 BY 2 3/8 IN. 16 BY 7 IN.
US$ 20,000–30,000
€ 12,700–19,000 QAR 73,000–110,000

133 A SILVER AND GILT-METAL THREAD EMBROIDERED CALLIGRAPHIC PANEL
20TH CENTURY
SILK AND METAL THREAD
38 BY 72 CM. 35½ BY 28½ IN.
INSCRIPTION
Qur'an, the whole of surah al-athila (CXII)
US$ 4,000–6,000
£ 2,500–3,000 QAR 14,800–21,000
134 TWO LARGE ILLUMINATED MALMUK QUR'AN LEAVES
Egypt or Syria
13TH CENTURY
INK AND GOLD ON PAPER
45 BY 29CM; 76 BY 22CM, 45 BY 29CM, 23 BY 18CM.

INCRIPTION
Illustrated leaf: Qur'an, the whole of surah al-nasr (99)
Other leaf: surah 109 (XX), verses 10 to 34
US$ 3,000–7,000

135 TWO OTTOMAN QUR'AN LEAVES
Ottoman Turkey
16TH CENTURY
INK AND GOLD ON PAPER
31 BY 23CM, 13 BY 9CM.

DESCRIPTION
Qur'an, surah al-nisa (4)
Right hand leaf: Part of verse 34
Left hand leaf: Part of verse 27 to part of verse 32

These leaves come from a grand thirty-volume Qur'an almost certainly written in the first half of the fifteenth century. It is an important example of early Ottoman manuscript production, displaying a fine Muhajja script with a strong flowing rhythm, enhanced by varying arrangements of blue and gold lines. A further leaf from the same manuscript was sold in Sotheby's London, 28 April 2004, lot 15.

US$ 4,000–6,000
£ 3,500–5,000 GBR 14,000–21,000
140  A QUR'AN LEAF IN KUFIC SCRIPT  
North Africa or Near East  

9TH CENTURY  
INK AND GOLD ON VELLUM  
25 X 25 CM  

text: wala al 'amal wa l-a'lam  
inscription: Qur'an, surah al-masad (VII), verses 62 to 66  

US$ 5,000-15,000  
£3,500-10,000  
Dhs 16,000-48,000  

141  A QUR'AN BIFOLIUM IN EASTERN KUFIC SCRIPT  
Persia or Iraq  

11TH CENTURY  
INK ON VELLUM  
31 X 17 CM  

text: wala al 'amal wa l-a'lam  
inscription: Qur'an, surah al-baqarah (II), verses 25 to 26  

US$ 4,000-6,000  
£2,800-4,200  
Dhs 14,000-21,000

142  AN ILLUMINATED QUR'AN LEAF IN MAGHRIBI SCRIPT  
North West Africa or Andalusia  

12TH CENTURY  
INK AND GOLD ON VELLUM  
31.5 BY 24 CM  

text: wala al 'amal wa l-a'lam  
inscription: Qur'an, surah al-masad (VII), verses 62 to 66  

The script and general style of this Maghribi Qur'an leaf is typical of western Islamic manuscript production of the 12th-14th centuries. However, the quality and refined draft of the illumination is noteworthy.  

US$ 5,000-7,000  
£3,500-4,400  
Dhs 16,000-21,000

143  AN ILLUMINATED QUR'AN LEAF IN MAGHRIBI SCRIPT  
North Africa or Andalusia  

CIRCA 1200-1250 AD  
INK AND GOLD ON VELLUM  
16.7 X 13 CM  

text: wala al 'amal wa l-a'lam  
inscription: Qur'an, surah al-masad (VII), verses 6 to 10  

US$ 2,000-3,000  
£1,500-2,200  
Dhs 6,000-9,000
144 A LARGE QURAN LEAF IN KUFIC SCRIPT
North Africa or Near East
10TH CENTURY
INK ON VELLUM
12 BY 9.5 CM.; 12 LINES TO THE INSCRIPTION

INSCRIPTION
Qur'\n\n25,000–35,000
21,000–28,000

The illumination is also interesting and of an archaic style, defined by densely decorated paddle-shape designs employing curling leaves and interlocking in the horizontal panels of the initial headings and dense scrolling foliage motifs in the adjoining stylised palmate, which are also distinctive for being present on both the orate and inner margins. This latter feature is extremely unusual. The palette of the illumination is predominantly green and brown, and the generally dense foliate style is also used on the fully illustrated opening pages of the manuscript.

Other leaves from this manuscript are in museums and private collections worldwide, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the David Collection, Copenhagen, the Tate Gallery Museum, London and the National Diet Library, Tokyo. For further reading, see Pinsker and Krztonek 2006, pp.28-29. Blair 2000, pp.79-140, and Deloche 1992, pp.43, 45-6, 122.

END OF SALE