12- Bustan Saadi

Access no.: 6007 S
Calligrapher: Unknown
Date: 10th c. H / 16th c. AD
Style: Timurid Iran
Size: 19 x 27 cm

This outstanding copy of Bustan of Saadi, which dates back to the 16th century, is carefully inscribed and richly illuminated by a master calligrapher/painter working in a royal atelier; probably at Herat under the patronage of the Timurid Emirs. It features an exquisite double frontispiece, a superb double title-page, and unique margin decorations.

The poems are inscribed in beautifully designed text spaces in Nasta’liq style; in 2 columns of 12 lines, to the page. The folios are of thick board and are colored in various shades of green and blue, yet most of which have a plain background with either gold splashes or floral scrolls in gold. Furthermore, five unique decorative units executed in gold stencils adorn the margins of most folios. This unique feature started to appear towards the 2nd half of the 16th century. The miniatures may be attributed to the Bihzad School, with lofty pavilions, and a golden background with cherry blossoms.
The double frontispiece