

Aga Khan Museum Celebrates His Highness the Aga Khan's Diamond Jubilee with Artifact Loan to Assembly of the Republic in Lisbon

Toronto, July 11, 2018 — To mark His Highness the Aga Khan's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations taking place in Lisbon, the Aga Khan Museum has loaned a special exhibition of several artifacts to Portugal's Assembly of the Republic. The exhibition is titled *Ideals of Leadership: Masterpieces from the Aga Khan Museum Collections* and includes captivating folios and colourful ceramics as well as exquisitely decorated wood and steel artifacts from India, Egypt, Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, and China dating from the 10th to the 19th centuries.

The stories depicted relate to some of the most timeless ideals of leadership that rulers aspired to through the ages, such as humility, benevolence, governance, chivalry, and scholarship. The majority of objects in the exhibition can be viewed until September 14 at the Assembly of the Republic in Lisbon.

Highlights:



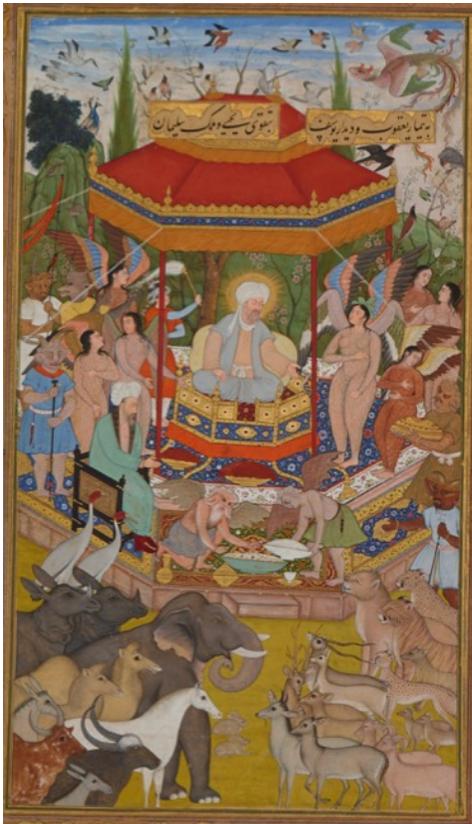
Scholarship and good manners: The miniature, “A Court Workshop” shows a young prince being instructed in the art of calligraphy, an essential royal skill. It comes from a philosophical treatise on ethics, justice, and politics by the 13th-century Persian philosopher and scientist Nasir al-Din Tusi.

“A Court Workshop”, folio from a manuscript of *Akhlāq-i-Nasiri* (Ethics of Nasir), Lahore, Pakistan, 1590-95 © The Aga Khan Museum.



Benevolence: In a 17th-century folio titled, “The King who Forgave a Man who Cursed Him,” a king on a grey steed approaches a man who cursed him when his own horse became stuck. Although the king’s entourage encouraged him to kill the man, the ruler instead honoured him with gold, a horse, and a fur coat.

“The King who Forgave a Man who Cursed Him”, folio from the manuscript of *Kulliyat* (A Complete Collection of Poetry) of Sa’di, Agra, India, ca. 1604 © The Aga Khan Museum.



Ideal governance: A 17th-century folio “The Court of King Solomon.” To Muslims, Solomon signifies the perfect image of the ideal king, invested with divine support and, according to some unorthodox traditions, was endowed with supernatural gifts and authority over living beings.

“The Court of King Solomon”, India, ca.1600 © The Aga Khan Museum.

“We are delighted to contribute a range of cross-cultural artifacts to this exhibition that has been created as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations,” says Henry Kim, the Aga Khan Museum’s Director and CEO. “These objects represent how Muslim artists through the centuries used storytelling, fables, and analogies to convey wisdom and experience related to the art of leadership.”

The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada, has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The Museum’s mission is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the contribution that Muslim civilizations have made to world heritage while often reflecting, through both its permanent and temporary exhibitions, how cultures connect with one another. Designed by architect Fumihiko Maki, the Museum shares a 6.8-hectare site with Toronto’s Ismaili Centre, which was designed by architect Charles Correa. The surrounding landscaped park was designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic.

FOR PRESS INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Julie Schmidt, Holmes PR
jschmidt@holmespr.com
[416.628.5648](tel:416.628.5648)

Kelly Frances, Aga Khan Museum
press@agakhanmuseum.org
[416.858.8735](tel:416.858.8735)