Look closely! Do you see the beautiful flowers around the border of this page? How many different flowers can you find? Can you see how the flowers are painted at different stages of their development—some buds and some opened?

Did you know?
The text in the centre is a poem written in Persian and refers to the rose and aromatic rosewater that is extracted from this flower. The poem was written by Hafiz, a poet who was born more than 700 years ago. Centuries later, in India, his poetry was written on this page using a reed pen and ink, and decorated with this beautiful border of flowers. Hafiz’s poetry has been appreciated for centuries and is still being read today.

Hands-on Activity

Why not create a card for your mum or for someone you love and decorate it with their favourite flowers!

Materials:
Paper or cardboard, ruler, pencil, colouring pencils or crayons.

Cut your paper or cardboard into a rectangle, big or small – you decide! Draw a rectangle inside your rectangle-shaped paper. Write a note – or a poem – for your mother or your loved one and tell them why you love them and how special they are. Decorate the space around your words with different flowers of your choice. Colour your flowers. And then: don’t forget to sign and date your card!

Why not take a photo of your creation and share it with us by emailing learn@agakhanmuseum.org

Image: Album Page, India, 17th century, ink, opaque watercolour, and gold on paper, 39.2 x 25.3 cm, AKM139