

Bahram Gur fights the Karg

Ink and Opaque watercolor,
gold, and silver on paper

Islamic; Persian, Il-Khanid

1330-1340 c.e

41.5 x 30 cm

Context:

This is a folio from the 57
surviving illustrations from
the manuscript of the king
the Great Il-Khanid
Shahnama

~class notes

Form:

This kind of book
painting is known as a
miniature.

Mace, quiver of
arrows, and a
sword- all
weapons that
came to use in the
lore.

The major Islamic Empire
that influenced this work
was the Mughal Empire
(1526-1707)

Theme:

Narrative

Power and Authority

In the center register,
the king dressed in
luxurious, European
clothing slaying a karg
(or horned wolf).

The Karg, a
mighty horned
wolf that the
king has just
slain.

Purpose:

This piece was
commissioned to
depict the power and
authority of the Great
Islamic king.

The Shahnama is
also known as
“the book of the
kings” and is a
Persian epic
poem, depicting
the history of Iran
from creation to
Muslim conquest.



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