

Jahangir Preferring a Sufi Shaikh to Kings. Bichitr.

C. 1620 C.E. Watercolor, gold, and ink on paper

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18 x 25.3 cm

Emperor Jahangir is shown seated on an elevated, circular pedestal in the middle of this piece. He along with his halo disc are the focal point.

Jahangir is seen favoring this holy man, the Sufi Shaikh over kings.

The contrast between Jahangir's gem studded wrist bracelets and the Shaikh's bare hands show the distinction between rich and poor

The other three men pictured are (respectively) an Ottoman Sultan, King James I of England, and the artist himself, Bichitr.

A crescent moon surrounds most of the sun's border creating a harmonious fusion between the sun and the moon (thus, day and night), and symbolizing the ruler's emperorship and divine truth.

