NOTE: The pages in this book are ordered from right to left. This means that to view the pages in order, you should go to the last page of the document and read what would be from “back-to-front” for a Western manuscript.
الإسْبَرَاءِ عَلَى سَلَطَةِ رَحْمَةِ الْسَّمَّاءِ وَسَلَطَةِ قَلْبِ مَالِكِ الْأَرْضِ
هذا المورد الذي بمثابة النجاح الكبير والسيارة إلى سُرَّ عَرْبِي وفَلَح السُّمَّام
المَام المَنْقَبِي وَخُوَطَ السَّلِيم
اسْدَاؤُهُ الحَالِب
علي إِب نَّاَب
كَوْمَ النّدٍ بِحَجَة
gold outline. The gold thuluth-script lines are set apart by outlines resembling clouds. Illuminated rosettes serve as verse markers. The stamp in the left margin is the personal seal of the Vizier ʿAlī Pāshā, who gave the manuscript to an educational charity in 1130 AH / 1717 CE.

fol. 8b:

*Title:* Illuminated colophon signed by Shaykh Kamāl ibn ʿAbd al-Ḥaqq al-Sabzawārī

*Form:* Colophon

*Label:* In this illuminated colophon, written in tawqīʿ/riqāʿ script in gold ink, it is stated that Shaykh Kamāl ibn ʿAbd al-Ḥaqq al-Sabzawārī completed the manuscript at Astarābād in 941 AH / 1534 CE.

**Provenance**
Waqf seal impression of the Vizier al-Shahīd ʿAlī Pāshā, dated 1130 AH / 1717 CE, with the original shelf mark 1414 (fols. 2a, 2b, and 3a)

**Acquisition**
Walters Art Museum, 1931, by Henry Walters bequest

**Binding**
The binding is original.

Brown leather (with flap); interconnected gold-tooled lobed medallions and discs with vine and floral motifs; inner frame with vine and scroll motif; gold-tooled outer frame; doublures with central lobed oval and corner pendants with filigree decoration on a blue ground

**Bibliography**
Hand note: Written in calligraphic vocalized naskh script in black ink; vocalized thuluth script in gold ink outlined in black (top, middle, and bottom lines); colophon in tawqīʿ/riqāʿ script in gold ink, both vocalized

Decoration note: Illuminated headpiece with the basmalah in tawqīʿ script (fol. 2b); illuminated colophon (fol. 8b); text in black and gold with blue decoration, divided into compartments; polychrome text frame; contours of the thuluth-script lines decorated with blue tendrils over a ground of red hatched lines; naskh-script panels flanked by polychrome medallions with gold-tooled outlines; illuminated rosette verse markers with colored dots

Decoration

fol. 2b:
Title: Incipit with illuminated headpiece
Form: Incipit; headpiece
Label: This manuscript opens with an illuminated headpiece containing a cartouche with the doxological formula (basmalah) in tawqīʿ script. Fluid and curvilinear, tawqīʿ script is used for headings and rarely used for the main text. As seen here, while having inscribed the headpiece in tawqīʿ script, the scribe wrote the main text in alternating black naskh and gold thuluth script. The naskh-script panels are framed by medallions with a gold outline. The contours of the thuluth-script lines are decorated with blue tendrils over a ground of red hatched lines. Gold rosettes mark the verse endings. The stamp in the right margin is the personal seal of the Vizier ʿAlī Pāshā, who gave the manuscript to an educational charity in 1130 AH / 1717 CE.

fol. 3a:
Title: Illuminated text page with seal
Form: Text page; seal
Label: This text page is defined by the use of alternating black naskh and gold thuluth scripts. The naskh-script panels are flanked by illuminated medallions with a
Form  Book
Genre  Devotional
Language  The primary language in this manuscript is Arabic.
Colophon  8b:
Comment: Colophon gives the full name of the calligrapher/illuminator, Kamāl ibn ʿAbd al-Ḥaqq al-Sabzawārī, with the date 941 AH / 1534 CE and place name Astarābād

Support material  Paper
Extent  Laid paper
Foliation: i+9+i
Collation  Catchwords: None
Dimensions  16.5 cm wide by 23.5 cm high
Written surface  8.5 cm wide by 13.0 cm high
Layout  Columns: 1
Ruled lines: 7
Text divided into five compartments: three compartments across the written surface and two compartments indented with panels 2 cm in width on each side; framing lines in dark blue, black, gold, light green, and red

Contents  fols. 2b - 8b:
Title: Miftāḥ al-najāḥ al-mukanná bi-al-wasīlah ilá kull ḥizb wa-falāḥ
Incipit: اللهم يا من دلع نسائ الصباح يغطى تبلغه...

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Shelf mark</strong></th>
<th>Walters Art Museum Ms. W.579</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Descriptive Title</strong></td>
<td>Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Text title</strong></td>
<td>Miftāḥ al-najāḥ al-mukanná bi-al-wasīlah ilá kull ḥizb wa-falāḥ</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vernacular:</strong></td>
<td>مفتاح النجاح المكتبي بالوسيلة الي كل حزب وفلاح</td>
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<td><strong>Note:</strong> Title in a later hand appears on fol. 1a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author</strong></td>
<td>Authority name: ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib, Caliph, ca. 600-661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>As-written name:</strong></td>
<td>ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name, in vernacular:</strong></td>
<td>علي بن أبي طالب</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> Author dates preferred by cataloger: d. 40 AH / 661 CE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract</strong></td>
<td>This illuminated manuscript is of a prayer (wird) called Miftāḥ al-najāḥ, attributed to ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib, the fourth caliph of Islam. According to the colophon, it was completed by Shaykh Kamāl ibn ʿAbd al-Ḥaqq al-Sabzawārī, the calligrapher and illuminator, in Astarābad (present-day Gorgan, Iran) in 941 AH / 1534 CE. The text, divided into five compartments, is in calligraphic vocalized naskh in black ink and vocalized thuluth in gold ink outlined in black. Illuminated rosettes with colored dots serve as verse markers. The decorated colophon (fol. 8b) is written in tawqīʿ/riqāʿ script in gold ink. Later bequest (waqf) seal impressions of the Vizier al-Shahīd ʿAlī Pāshā, dated 1130 AH / 1717 CE, appear on fols. 2a, 2b, and 3a. The brown leather binding with interconnected gold-tooled lobed medallions and discs and doublures with filigree decoration is original to the manuscript.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>941 AH / 1534 CE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Origin</strong></td>
<td>Astarābad (Iran)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scribe</strong></td>
<td>As-written name: Kamāl ibn ʿAbd al-Ḥaqq al-Sabzawārī</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name, in vernacular:</strong></td>
<td>كمال بن عبد الحق السبزواري</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> Calligrapher also illuminator (see colophon)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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A digital facsimile of Walters Ms. W.579, Prayer
Title: Miftāḥ al-najāḥ al-mukannā bi-al-wasīlah ilá kull ḥizb wa-falāḥ

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