

Object Summary



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Pierced and Enameled Copper Hanging Lamp

19th - 20th century

North Africa

Enameled copper alloy, glass

Overall: 35 x 12 in. (88.9 x 30.5cm)

This hanging lamp (one of a pair) is made of copper and covered in blue, white, and turquoise enamel. The lamp is supported by five beaded chains and pierced throughout with tiny perforations that allow light to shine through. The lamp is inscribed with the Bismillah: "In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful." This phrase is recited before each chapter or sura of the Quran. *مِ يْح رِ لْا ن م ح رِ لْا ه لْا م س ب* This type of lamp would have been used to illuminate mosques and religious buildings — an essential function as the first prayers of the day are held before sunrise and the last prayers after sunset.