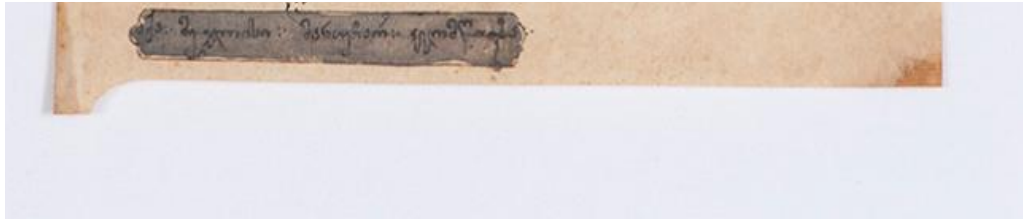


Object Summary



Object Summary



“Caesar of Rome in Submission”

1520

Iran (Shiraz)

Safavid

Gouache painting, gold, and ink on paper

Painting: 8 1/2 x 4 1/2 in. (21.6 x 11.4 cm) Leaf: 11 1/2 x 7 1/4 in.

The Sasanian king (from the historical part of Shahnameh) is depicted in blue at the center of this scene, granting forgiveness to his rival Roman ruler. The figures in alternating tones of blue, red, and light-purple are mounted on the finely decorated architectural elements in a semi-circular arrangement. Not only the figures are carefully aligned around the King, but the colors have also been chosen carefully and solely to appear as aesthetically pleasing as possible, with little concern for perspective. The rich jewel tones were achieved by finely grinding semiprecious stones. The careful alignment of figures, drawing the viewer's eye to the center, and framing the text, would have been sketched out by the master of the atelier well before any artisan actually touched the paper.