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[The First Illustrated leaf of the 'Nuremberg Chronicle' depicting The Lord]

Stock#: 38336
Map Maker: Schedel

Date: 1493
Place: Nuremberg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 9.5 x 15 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

A fine example of the first illustrated leaf of the 'Nuremberg Chronicle' (1493), the most famous 'Incunabula' book, depicting the The Lord commencing 'Genesis'.

This exquisitely executed woodcut depicts The Lord, represented in the manner of a wise King-Bishop, enthroned with regalia and surrounded by a sumptuous pageant of allegory. Being the first illustrated leaf from the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, the image is meant to symbolically show The Lord commencing the story of Genesis, or his divine creation of the World. The immense power of this imagery had few peers in the corpus of early printing.



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The lines written across the ribbons above The Lord are from *Psalm* 33 (renumbered since 1493 from *Psalm* 32):

"Ipse dixit et facta sunt. Ipse mandavit et creata sunt."

[Translated: "He spoke and it was there. He commanded and they were created."]

These lines were treasured in early modern art and most notably, they are also inscribed on the back panels of Hieronymous Bosch's masterpiece, *The Garden of Earthly Delights* (c.1500).

The *Nuremberg Chronicle* is by far the most famous and largest "Incunabula" (pre-1500 book). The text was written by the humanist scholar Hartmann Schedel (1440-1514) and first appeared in a Latin language edition, *Liber Chronicarum* (Book of Chronicles). It was closely followed by a German language edition, known as the *Die Schedelsche Weltchronik* (Schedel's World History), both printed by Anton Koberger, in Nuremberg, in 1493. The work is an illustrated biblical paraphrase and world history that follows the story of human history related in the Bible; it includes the histories of a number of important western cities and many fine maps and town views.

The *Chronicle* is celebrated as the earliest book to successfully integrate illustrations and text and it featured an astounding 1,809 woodcut illustrations. The artwork was prepared in the large workshop of Michael Wolgemut (1434-1519), then Nuremberg's leading artist, whose establishment employed the young Albert Dürer (1471-1528). He was soon to become the greatest artist of the Northern Renaissance, who was responsible for some of the *Chronicle's* illustrations.

As the first illustrated leaf of the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, the present woodcut is especially prized by collectors.

Detailed Condition: