

4.

## CHEENA-CHEENI NO GARO

(Sari with Chinese Figures)

Silk in leno-dent (*sali*) weave, embroidered with twisted silk thread

China; late 19th century

L 450 cm; W 118 cm

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While it is possible that the pattern elements of this *gara* relate to a folk tale, it is equally possible that the motifs have been randomly selected for their decorative appeal, to collectively communicate a sense of an exotic, fabled land.

The garden scene is filled with repeats of a variety of flowering trees, bridges, pavilions, kiosks, ornamental fences, peacocks, horned deer, the sacred fungus and a dog. Stereotypical Chinese figures are depicted in horizontal rows. These include a lady offering a tray of fruit to a seated gentleman, a nobleman holding a fan in one hand and a flower in the other, another carrying a bird cage hoping to catch the bird flying just overhead, and an elegant lady with a folding fan. The border which surrounds the *gara* on all four sides, has human figures in a setting of trees and gazebos.

The *gara* is finely worked in satin stitch. The embroiderer has painstakingly varied the shades in the trees and clothing to heighten interest.

