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MINIATURE PASTED ON AN ALBUM LEAF. 'A WOMAN VISITING A YOGINI BY A RIVER'

INDIA, MUGHAL; C. 1650

LEAF: 26.4 × 30.6 CM

If it were not for the two main characters – a pretty Hindu girl asking a bluish yogini for advice – the miniature would look like a European landscape painting from the end of the 16th century. It has been attributed to Payag, who was known for his penchant for night scenes and a dark palette.

The painting is an amazing meeting of cultures, and reflects an eclecticism that specifically characterized much Mughal art. At its best it is a fantastic synthesis of Indian, Persian, and European traditions. Others, however, feel that it lacks the originality that otherwise distinguishes the art of the three cultures.

Published in:

Sotheby's, London, 11/4-1972, lot 110;

Robert Skelton: "Landscape in Indian painting" in *Colloquies on Art & Archaeology in Asia*, 9, 1980, p. 158, pl. 4b;

Kjeld von Folsach: *For the Privileged Few: Islamic Miniature Painting from The David Collection*, Louisiana, Humlebæk 2007, cat.no. 107;