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MINIATURE MOUNTED ON AN ALBUM LEAF. FROM THE ST. PETERSBURG ALBUM. 'A RIVER LANDSCAPE AT DUSK'

NORTHERN INDIA, MUGHAL; C. 1680 (MINIATURE)  
MUHAMMAD HADI, IRAN; 1756-1757 (FRAME)

LEAF: 31 × 46.7 CM

This atmospheric scene takes place in a landscape with a clear European character. The deep perspective of the river and the European buildings were probably copied from a northern European model. The two half-naked women in the river also seem to have been modeled on nymphs in European art. A purely Indian motif is found on the right side, however. Women are bringing gifts to three Hindu ascetics, the one at the back wearing the great bone earrings of the Gorakhnath yogis. In front of him is a *lingam* – a symbol of the god Shiva – decorated with flowers.

After Nadir Shah's plundering of Delhi in 1739, the miniature was taken to Iran, where it was given the blue frame.

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