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MINIATURE. 'MAHARAJA ABHAI SINGH OF MARWAR GIVES A PEARL NECKLACE TO THE POET PRITHVI RAJ.' SIGNED DALCHAND

INDIA, JODHPUR; 1727

LEAF: 31.5 × 22.7 CM

Under Maharaja Abhai Singh (1724-1749) the gradual breakdown of the Mughals' power led many artists to leave Delhi, a situation that benefitted painting in Marwar, among other places.

By 1719, Dalchand and his father had moved from Delhi to Kishangarh and from there to Jodhpur, where he signed this painting: "The artist Dalchand painted [it] in the year 1784 [Hindu calendar = 1727 A.D.] on the first day of the light half of the month *Chait* [May 10th]."

Compared with the later, colorful, powerful work done in Marwar, the artist's style is meticulous, cool, and highly influenced by contemporary Mughal painting.

Published in:

Rosemary Crill: *Marwar painting: a history of the Jodhpur style*,
Mumbai 2001, p. 39, fig. 39;

Terence McInerney: "Dalchand" in Milo C. Beach, Eberhard Fischer,
B. N. Goswamy (eds.): *Masters of Indian painting*, vol. 2, 1650-1900,
Zürich 2011, cat.no. 5, fig. 6;