



Inv. no. 26b/2011, 26a/2011 & 6/2012

THREE FRAGMENTS OF A FRIEZE, RED SANDSTONE CARVED WITH AN INSCRIPTION IN NASKH

NORTHERN INDIA; C. 1200

H: 53; B: 61.5; D: 4.5 CM (26B/2011)

H: 53; B: 59.5; D: 6.5 CM (26A/2011)

H: 53; B: 85; D: 5.5 CM (6/2012)

India has an ancient tradition for carving stone that after the Muslim conquests in the course of the 12th century found a new form of expression with the construction of mosques, madrasas, and sepulchral monuments. Their facades and rooms were decorated with monumental friezes with Arabic inscriptions – primarily quotations from the Koran.

In this case, the red sandstone was carved with an admonitory passage from *sura* 59, verses 18-19: “[Let every soul look to what (provision) He has sent forth for the morrow. Yea, fear Allah: for Allah is well-acquainted with (all) that ye do. And be ye not...”

The words in the cursive script intertwine organically in several levels over and under one another, and in a few places, a palmette shoots out into the inscription panel from the flat frame.

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Sotheby's, London, 25/4-1991, lot 819;