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FRAGMENT OF A MARBLE PANEL CARVED ON BOTH SIDES

AFGHANISTAN, GHAZNA; C. 1100

H: 46; W: 85; D: 8 CM

The panel probably comes from a parapet that demarcated an outside area in a palace, perhaps a kind of balcony. Other pieces of the same parapet were found in the Ghaznavids' old capital of Ghazna. All show related motifs: hunting scenes, dancing women, battle scenes or tournaments, and processions of exotic animals. This range of motifs was exceedingly popular in the early and medieval Islamic world – especially in a princely context – but rarely has survived on such a monumental scale as on these panels.

The faces were presumably mutilated by strictly religious Muslims.

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Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, back cover;

Kjeld von Folsach, Torben Lundbæk and Peder Mortensen (eds.): *Sultan, Shah and Great Mughal: the history and culture of the Islamic world*, The National Museum, Copenhagen 1996, cat.no. 248;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 395;

Eric Delpont (ed.): *Chevaux et cavaliers arabes dans les arts d'Orient et d'Occident*, Institut du monde arabe, Paris 2002, cat.no. 132, p. 170;

Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer: *The Human Figure in Islamic Art – Holy Men, Princes, and Commoners*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2017, cat.no. 1;

