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PARTLY COLORED DRAWING PASTED ON AN ALBUM LEAF. 'A PRINCE WITH COURTIERS IN A LANDSCAPE'. ATTRIBUTED TO MUHAMMAD QASIM

IRAN, ISFAHAN; C. 1650

DRAWING: 22.9 × 13 CM

A prince is seated under a tree, surrounded by a number of elderly courtiers, two young women making music, and a flock of young pages. On the other side of a little brook sits an old man with an open book that reads, "O God, forgive those with an obedient heart" – perhaps a slightly bitter comment on the company's drinking.

The prince is most probably Shah Abbas II (1642-1666), one of Abbas the Great's most competent successors although he, like many of his companions, had a hankering for alcohol.

This beautiful drawing, with the figures' heavy, slightly melancholy eyelids, was undoubtedly made by Muhammad Qasim.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach: *For the Privileged Few: Islamic Miniature Painting from The David Collection*, Louisiana, Humlebæk 2007, cat.no. 90;

Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer: *The Human Figure in Islamic Art – Holy Men, Princes, and Commoners*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2017, cat.no. 51;

Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer and Peter Wandel: *Fighting, Hunting, Impressing. Arms and Armour from the Islamic World 1500-1850*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2021, fig. 30, p. 87;