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'A SEATED HOLY MAN'. DRAWING MOUNTED ON AN ALBUM LEAF

IRAN; C. 1560

H: 20.5; W: 13.4 CM (DRAWING: H: 822; W: 5.8 CM)

Painted with a thin line, the holy man is depicted in a typical meditation position. Meditation has been very widely used by Sufis to sever the ties between the soul and the material world. A Sufi's goal is to prepare the soul for the mystical experience of absolute union with the divine.

Around the drawing are a number of panels with calligraphy in *Nastaliq* script. At the top and bottom is a verse by the poet Hafiz, and along the sides is one by Nizami. The drawing is signed "Shaykh Muhammad."

Published in:

*Orientalisches Kunsthandwerk aus vier Jahrhunderten*, Karl-Ernst-

Osthaus-Museum, Hagen 1966, cat.no. 8, p. 5;  
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. 280;