



Inv. no. 31a/1989 (verso) & 31b/1989 (recto)

TWO LEAVES FROM A KORAN WRITTEN IN MAGHRIBI

SPAIN OR MOROCCO; 14TH CENTURY

EACH LEAF: 32.4 × 25.6 CM

*Maghribi* is a rather tortuous and decorative variant of *Kufi* that was used first and foremost in North Africa (the Maghreb) and Muslim Spain. It is often ornamented with diacritical marks in red, green, blue, or yellow, and with gold, as here. The Koran from which these non-continuous leaves were taken is further distinguished by its high-quality, pink-tinted paper.

It is difficult to date and determine the precise geographical origins of Korans from the Maghreb because of the copyists' conservatism. Most scholars have, however, attributed "The Pink Koran" to Spain, and most have suggested a slightly earlier date than the one estimated here.

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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. 196;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat. 5;  
Stig T. Rasmussen: *Klassisk arabisk litteratur i oversættelse til dansk: en litteraturhistorisk vejvisende antologi*, København 2018, p. 50-51;  
Joachim Meyer, Rasmus Bech Olsen and Peter Wandel: *Beyond words: calligraphy from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2024, cat. 12, pp. 134-135;  
Rasmus Bech Olsen: “Beyond words: calligraphy from the World of Islam”, *Orientations*, 55:4, 2024, fig. 7, p. 37;