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STELE, MARBLE, WITH A CARVED *KUFI* INSCRIPTION

TUNISIA; RABIA AL-AKHAR 265 H = DECEMBER 878

H: 90 CM

The stele belongs to a group that was erected in cemeteries in Kairouan in Tunisia in the 9th century, making use of the shafts of antique marble columns that were found in abundance in the area, which was previously a Roman province. A *Kufi* inscription was carved on the stele with the appropriate passages from the Koran, the name and death date of the departed, and the profession of faith.

This stele was erected to Ibrahim ibn Muhammad, who died in December 878. At this point, the Tunisian lands were ruled by the Aghlabids, and Kairouan, with its great mosque, was one of the most important theological centers in North Africa.

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