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LEAF FROM A KORAN WITH A VERTICAL FORMAT, WRITTEN IN  
EASTERN *KUFI*

IRAN OR IRAQ; BEGINNING OF 12TH CENTURY

26,5 × 19,9 CM

Eastern *Kufi*, of which this leaf is a classical example, is characterized by long upstrokes, left-facing downstrokes, and dense serifs. The consonant marks are denoted with gold dots and the vowels with red. The special blue diacritical marks show a doubling of a consonant, vowelless words, etc.

This leaf, with a *sura* heading and verses 1-2 from *sura* 6, comes from a Koran in 30 volumes, each one containing a section (*juz*) of the Koran, corresponding to the recommended reading for one of Ramadan's c. 30 days. Eastern *Kufi* was developed by Persian calligraphers in the course of the 10th century.

Published in:

Sotheby's, London, 7.-8.7/1980, lot 159;  
Anthony Welch: "The Arts of the Book: The Arab Lands" in Toby Falk (ed.): *Treasures of Islam*, Musée d'art et d'histoire, Geneve, London 1985, cat.no. 14;  
David James et al.: *Islamic calligraphy / Calligraphie islamique*, Musée d'art et d'histoire, Geneve, Geneve 1988, cat.no. 17;