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ALBUM LEAF WITH A POEM WRITTEN IN NASTALIQ

INDIA; 1640-1650
18/1987

39 × 25,5 CM

The distinctive combination of Persian poetry, the *Nastaliq* script, and the minutely detailed floral decorations is characteristic of the calligraphy collections of the great Mughals. Shah Jahan (1627-1656), in particular, was an enthusiastic collector of art of this type.

This leaf, which is known to come from an album from the Mughals' court library in Delhi (c. 1640-1660), is a tribute to the calligrapher and Sufi Sultan al-Bukhari. "To our master Sultan al-Bukhari / Not in every mountain does one find the ruby from Badakhshan / not in every sea are pearls and corals found / not all beggars are like a sultan / to be Sultan al-Bukhari is not the lot of just anyone at all."

Published in:

Joachim Meyer and Peter Wandel: *Sufisme: islams mystiske vej*,
Davids Samling, København 2011, p. 56-57;