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LEAF FROM A KORAN WRITTEN IN BIHARI

NORTHERN INDIA; C. 1400

24.1 × 21.7 CM

This very colorful paper leaf from a Koran is written in *Bihari* – a local Indian variant of the classical *Naskh*. The lines alternate in blue, black, and gold. The leaf, which was trimmed, has two columns in its outer margin. The inner column has words from the text of the Koran written in red. The outer column has a commentary in Persian on selected words, which once again are highlighted with red. The large, colorful markers in the outer margin are not verse markers. They designate the end of a quarter *hizb* (a specific part of the text). They also show when the believer should bow. Little gold rosettes with colored dots are the markers that denote the individual verses.

Published in:
Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David*

Collection, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 14;
Angelika Neuwirth: "The 'Discovery of writing' in the Qur'an : tracing
a cultural shift in Arab late antiquity" in Nuha Alshaar (ed.): *The
Qur'an and adab : the shaping of literary traditions in classical
Islam*, Oxford 2017, p. 80;