



Inv. no. 17/1987

POEM WRITTEN IN NASTALIQ, PASTED ON AN ALBUM LEAF

(CALLIGRAPHY) IRAN; C. 1516

(ALBUM LEAF) INDIA; 17TH CENTURY

Muslim princes were avid collectors of the art of the famous calligraphers. This poem was pasted on a leaf in an Indian album that – judging from the margin painting – was made in the last quarter of the 17th century.

The beautiful *Nastaliq* script originated in Timurid Iran, but in time became the dominant script for copying poetry at the Safavid, Mughal, and Ottoman courts.

In a melancholy poem, the calligrapher Sultan Ali Mashad (died 1519) bewails his old age and remembers his youth, when his hands brought him honor and gold. He was a master specifically of *Nastaliq*, and had been employed by the Timurid sultan Husayn Bayqara.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no. 8;

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.no. 104;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 16;