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PARCHMENT LEAF FROM A KORAN WRITTEN IN *KUFI*

NORTH AFRICA; C. 900

28.6 × 38 CM

This early Koran is one of its period's most famous, especially because of the parchment's blue color, and the script in gold and verse markers in now-decomposed silver. It is difficult to read the text because the spaces between some of the individual letters and between each word are the same. In order to spread the text uniformly over the page, certain letters were moreover lengthened artificially, a practice called *mashq*.

The Koran has been ascribed to Iraq, Tunisia, Spain, and Sicily, but several features point to its having been made in Tunisia under the Aghlabids (800-909) or the early Fatimids (909-950).

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