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DOUBLE PARCHMENT LEAF FROM A KORAN WRITTEN IN EASTERN
KUFİ

TUNISIA, KAIROUAN; RAMADAN 410 H = JANUARY 1020

EACH LEAF: C. 44.2 × 29.5 CM

A variant of classical *Kufi* that is more vertical in expression was found from the 10th century and was sometimes called eastern *Kufi*. This leaf shows that the style spread to the west. What is striking about this magnificent Koran is the extreme, almost mannered differences in thickness in the monumental script.

Quite exceptionally, we know that this “Nurse’s Koran” was commissioned by Fatima, who had cared for the Zirid prince al-Muizz ibn Badis. The Koran was finished in January 1020 and according to the colophon was written, given diacritical marks denoting the vowels, and bound by one and the same person, Ali ibn Ahmad al-Warraq, and immediately donated by Fatima to the Great Mosque in Kairouan.

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Published in:

Ramsey Fendall: *Islamic calligraphy*, Sam Fogg Rare Books and Manuscripts, London 2003, cat.no. 20;

Stig T. Rasmussen: *Klassisk arabisk litteratur i oversættelse til dansk:*

en litteraturhistorisk vejvisende antologi, København 2018, p. 41;