Surah al Imran; verses 18, 19 & 26

Calligrapher: Mohammed Ismail
Date: 1227 AH / 1812 AD
Style: Riqqa
Size: 21.1 x 12.9 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.9

Description
Six lines of superb Riqqa' script in black pigment placed within cloud-shaped compartments outlined in orange against a golden ground. The calligraphy continues to the end of the line lifting the last words to connect with the previous line, producing an aesthetically free flowing effect. The text is a selection of three verses from the Surah al Imran, in a manner particularly popular in Iran rather than Turkey or the Arab world.

The last line of the folio is the dedication to the calligrapher: written in haste the seeker of the mercy of God al Aziz al Jali Mohammed Ismail 1227.

Text
Verse 18: There is no god but He: That is the witness of Allah, His angels, and those endued with knowledge, standing firm on justice. There is no god but He, the Exalted in Power, the Wise.
Verse 19: The Religion before Allah is Islam (submission to His Will): Nor did the People of the Book dissent therefrom except through envy of each other, after knowledge had come to them. But if any deny the Signs of Allah, Allah is swift in calling to account.
Verse 26: Say: 'O Allah, Lord of Power (And Rule), Thou givest power to whom Thou pleasest, and Thou strippest off power from whom Thou pleasest: Thou enduest with honor whom Thou pleasest, and Thou bringest low whom Thou pleasest: In Thy hand is all good. Verily, over all things Thou hast power.'
**Wise sayings by Caliph Ali**

**Calligrapher:** Mohammed Ismail  
**Date:** 1227 AH / 1812 AD  
**Style:** Arabic language in Naskh  
**Size:** 20.6 x 13.1 cm  
**Accession number:** 1998.2.130

**Description**

Six lines in Naskh style recalling the wise sayings of Caliph Ali are placed within cloud compartments against a gold ground. The left section in between the lines is filled with the name of the calligrapher and the date in a zigzag pattern. The folio exhibits a great aesthetic style known to calligrapher Muhammad Ismail.

The script mentions: *evil that does not last is better than blessing that does not last*, a section of an object reveals its reality, *written in Jami’ al Akbar* – the collection of events a hadith of the prophet Muhammad: there will come a time for my "Ummah" community when their faces will look like human beings, and their hearts are hearts of devils, examples of predator wolves.

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الكلام مولاينا ومقدادنا أمير المؤمنين على بن أبي طالب عليه الصلاة والسلام: شر لا يدوم خير من خير لا يدوم. فرع الشيء خير عما في أصله.

نقل في جامع الأخبار قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: "ليأتي على أمتى زمن وجوههم ووجه الإميين وقلوبهم قلوب الشياطين كمثال الذئاب الضواري. حررنه عبد اللطيف الواثق إلى رحمة ربه. الغزي الجليل محمد اسماعيل في سنة 1227 من الهجرة النبوية.
Catalogue no. 7

Verses of Ayat ul Kursi (The Throne Verses) and Surah 2: Al Baqarah, verses 255 & 257

Calligrapher: Mohammed Ismail
Date: 1227 AH / 1812 AD
Style: Riqqa’
Size: 24 x 16 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.148

Description

Another example of calligrapher Mohammed Ismail inscribed with particular verses from the Qur’an, known to have protective properties. (Al Kalima, p.39) The folio is written in Riqqa’ script, and although unsigned, it is a classical format and style known to the calligrapher. Mohammed Ismail excelled in the rounded and densely structured letter formation, leading to an agglomeration of words towards the extreme left side of the folio. The calligraphy elevates itself upwards, almost touching the previous line. This style adapted and favoured by Mohammed Ismail was used in numerous folios in several collections producing a distinct melody to be followed by the reciter. The IAMM collection comprises another folio signed by the calligrapher (MTTS, catalogue no. 34).
Catalogue no. 8

Arabic phrases

Calligrapher: Unknown
Category: Religious script
Date: c. 19th century
Style: Arabic in Naskh
Size: 6.8 x 14.7 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.152

Description

The text consists of three finely written lines of Arabic Naskh script all written within cloud compartments against gold ground. The body is divided into two sections and the third row is upside down.

The Arabic script recalls that: "In the name of God and with his blessing we recall what goes on around us". The 2nd line is related to the pen: "the pen and how through its wisdom every matter around us adhered to an order, we listen and obey."

The last line: "send my greetings, written in the afternoon"
Catalogue no. 9

Surah al Baqarah: Ayat al Kursi verse 255

Calligrapher: Ali Mohammed al Esfahani
Date: 1248 AH / 1833 AD
Style: Naskh
Size: 11.2 x 5.5 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.189

Description

The text box contains Ayat al Kursi (verse 255) in eight fine Naskh lines, with the Basmalah in blue on top and the name of the calligrapher in red at the bottom. A lighter coloured paper further frames the text box, giving it a design of lacquer mirror cover as the one below. It is adorned with wise sayings placed in cartouches. The outer frame is partially in Arabic partially in Persian and recalls a prayer that starts with “Thank God who is my creator, who created me as a human being, proper and in good shape, Who prayed for mankind from his creation, and blessed me with Al Islam as my religion, blessed me and made me from the appreciative.”

Text

Surah al Baqarah: Ayat al Kursi

Verse 255: Allah. There is no god but He - the Living, the Self-Subsisting, Supporter of all. No slumber can seize Him nor sleep. His are all things in the heavens and on earth. Who is thee can intercede in His presence except as He permitteth? He knoweth what (appeareth to His creatures as) before or after or behind them. Nor shall they compass aught of His knowledge except as He willeth. His Throne doth extend over the heavens and the earth, and He feeleth no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. For He is the Most High, the Supreme (in Glory).
Verses of Surah 1: al Fatiha, and wise sayings of Caliph Ali ibn Abi Talib

Calligrapher: Mohammed Ali
Date: 1238 AH / 1823 AD
Style: Naskh
Size: 16.3 x 11.6 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.149

Written in Naskh script, the folio depicts two different sized scripts written at opposite planes from each other. The text is placed within cloud scrolls on a gold background. The page composition is unconventional, complying with the 19th century vogue, and the signature occupies a clear and prominent corner within the limited space. Mohammed Ali had a peculiar signature, where the letter "y" at the end of his name has been rendered in a subtle manner, providing his name with a unique design.

A prayer

Calligrapher: Mohammed Ali
Date: 1252 AH / 1837 AD
Style: Naskh
Size: 14.9 x 8 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.157

The folio, written in haste, recalls a plea to Prophet Mohammed, and the members of his house, starting with Caliph Ali, Fatimah, Al Hassan and Al Hussayn, and their descent. The prayer: "I ask thee for success in the path that thee desire and concur."
The prayer starts with few lines in Persian and reveals 10 lines of script.
**Catalogue no. 12**

**Wise sayings of Caliph Ali ibn Abi Talib**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calligrapher:</th>
<th>Mohammed Hady al Isfahani</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>1126-1130 AH / 1716-1718 AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style:</td>
<td>Naskh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size:</td>
<td>18.4 x 10.6 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accession number:</td>
<td>1998.2.161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description**

A well balanced single folio, comprising 10 lines of script, in alternating sizes. The five larger lines of text recall a saying of Caliph Ali when he was Amir al Mu'mineen, while the smaller script inserted within them containing another wise saying. The last line is the signature of the calligrapher. Most of the wise sayings are collected in “the Forty Hadith” and “Nahj al Balagha”.

This folio recalls a duet where two men engage in a dialogue. Each recalls one line and the other responds with another. The one who starts is the more senior and prominent intellect, as the calligraphy indicates.

Furthermore the larger lines recall a beautifully rhyming poem, in four verses, where three of the verses start with the same word and the four verse ends with the same letter. This arrangement creates the movement and rhythm.
### Catalogue no. 13

**Wise sayings by Caliph Ali Ibn Abi Talib**

- **Calligrapher:** Mohammed Badi‘e al Hamadani
- **Date:** 1244 AH / 1829 AD
- **Style:** Arabic in *Naskh*
- **Size:** 17.6 x 11.6 cm
- **Accession number:** 1998.2.171

#### Description

A single folio of nine lines in black *Naskh* style. The 10th line is in *Riqqa* script and contains the calligrapher's signature and date. All the calligraphy is placed within cloud-shaped compartments against a gold ground. The wise sayings are by Caliph Ali, a popular saying that is repeated by Mohammed Badi‘e in several folios within the IAMA collection. The elegant text is written on pink ground with small golden hexagons as verse dividers. (text as below)

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### Catalogue no. 14

**Wise sayings and advice**

- **Calligrapher:** Mohammed Badi‘e al Hamadani
- **Date:** 1245 AH / 1829 AD
- **Style:** Arabic in *Naskh*
- **Size:** 16.1 x 9.2 cm
- **Accession number:** 1998.2.162

#### Description

A single folio of 11 lines in black *Naskh* style. The 12th line contains the calligrapher's signature and date. All the calligraphy is placed within cloud shaped compartments against a gold ground. The wise sayings are by Caliph Ali, a popular saying that is repeated by Iranian calligraphers of the 19th/20th century AD. (*Nahj al Balagha* p. 68 no.86)

#### Text

ذيلل، الحسود أدا عليل، إذا تغيرت نية السلطان
فصد الزمان، إذا تم العقل نقص الكلام، كتبه العيد
الأئل تراب أقدام المؤمنين محمد بديع الهمداني في
1245

الناس معدن كمعان الدُّهر والفضح;
الرواح جنود مجدده لما تعرف منها ليلف وما
تنكر منها اختلف، الشعوب شمعة من الجهل;
النساء حيائل الشيطان، القناعه مال لينفق
الأمانة تجر الزرز، الخيتان تجر الفقر، السعید
من وعظ وغيره، الشئى من شقى في بطن امه،
الدلائل على الخير فقاعة، النبئ من الذيب كمن لا
ذنب له، الدعاء بين الأذان والأقامة لا بروء
المبادرة إلى العفو من أخلاق الكرام، البخيل إذا
A praise and dedication to the Qajar Prince Shahzade A'zam Nasr Allah Mirza

Calligrapher: Mohammed Ali Kirmanshahani
Date: 1238 AH / 1823 AD
Style: Arabic in Riqa'
Size: 13.9 x 7.3 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.155

Description

A unique folio written in Riqa’ in several colours dedicated to a Qajar prince. The text consists of eight lines on red ground decorated with spiral design in white and blue alternately. The text is in the following colours: gold, azure, white lead, henna green, yellow, turquoise blue and pink. The text gives the date 1238 AH. in letters, an unconventional manner in Iran, yet popular in India. The text indicates the dedication to Shahzade the greatest Nasr Allah Mirza written by Mohammed Ali Kirmanshahani possibly during the Qajar period.

Mirza Nasrollah Khan was the prime minister in 1907 AD, for a few days, under Shah Mohammed Ali Qajar, indicating that the calligrapher must have been acquainted with him at an earlier stage of his career during the late 19th century.

Text

حسب الامر ارفع الشرف اجل اقدس امجد
روحنا فداء شاهزادإ اعظم نصر الله ميرزا
ذا امر الله ايامزا جلالة (2)
وكان هذا في شهر شوال المكرم
تحرير برزقت محمد على كرمیشاهاني
من شهر سنی الالف ومائتان وثمان وثلاثين
من الهجرة النبویة
Catalogue no. 16

Surah al Baqarah; verse 1-6
Calligrapher: Mohammed Hashim
Date: 1200-1212 AH / 1786-98 AD
Style: Arabic in Naskh
Size: 14.6 x 9.1 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.159

Description

A single folio from the Holy Qur'an framed in black with gold borderlines and an illuminated head piece with polychrome flowers on blue, pink and green background. The script of the heading is in white on gilt and the verses are in black rendered elegantly inside cloud-like compartments on a gilt background. The exquisite headings and the fine calligraphy suggest that this folio is a sample of the work of the master calligrapher Mohammed Hashim who produces complete Qur'ans in association with a royal patronage.

Text

Surah al Baqarah; verse 1-6

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Verse 2. This is the Book; 'in it is guidance sure, without doubt, to those who fear Allah;
Verse 3. Who believe in the Unseen, are steadfast in prayer, and spend out of what We have provided for them;
Verse 4. And who believe in the Revelation sent to thee, and sent before thy time, and (in their hearts) have the assurance of the Hereafter.
Verse 5. They are on (true) guidance, from their Lord, and it is these who will prosper.
Verse 6. As to those who reject Faith, it is the same to them whether thou warn them or do not warn them; they will not believe.