Catalogue no. 17

Verses of Surah 1: al-Fatihah
Calligrapher: Mohammed Hashim al Esfahani
Date: 1205 AH / 1791 AD
Style: Naskh
Size: 14.2 x 8.2 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.3

Description

Another single folio of Mohammed Hashim, inscribed in the early days of his career, in Isfahan, the major art centre. The folio depicts Surah al Fatihah rendered in Naskh and exhibits a high degree of clarity and balanced composition. These folios were rendered as single folios as each is signed towards the end. They may have been used as samples for possible commissions. Mohammed Hashim was the son of Muhammed Salih Lu'lu'y Isfahani, a poet and calligrapher.
Catalogue no. 18

Surah al A'ala

Calligrapher: Mohammed Hashim ibn Muhammad Salih Lu'lu’y al Isfahani
Date: 1204 AH / 1790 AD
Style: Arabic in Naskh & Riqa’
Size: 18.6 x 12.2 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.170

Description

The folio consists of eleven lines of text written within cloud-shaped compartments against gilt ground. The surah heading and the last two lines rendered in red are written in Riqa’ script while the main body is in Naskh script. The main text recalls the first verses of Surah al A’ala, while the last line indicates the name of the calligrapher and date.

Text

Surah al A’ala

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.
Verse 1. Glorify the name of thy Guardian-Lord Most High,
Verse 2. Who hath created, and further, given order and proportion;
Verse 3. Who hath measured, and granted guidance;
Verse 4. And Who bringeth out the (green and luscious) pasture,
Verse 5. And then doth make it (but) swarthy stubble
Verse 6. By degrees shall We teach thee (the Message), so thou shalt not forget;
Verse 7. Except as Allah wills: for He knoweth what is manifest and what is hidden.
Verse 8. And We will make it easy for thee (to follow) the simple (Path).
Verse 9. Therefore give admonition in case the admonition profits (the hearer).
Verse 10. He will heed who fears:
Verse 11. But it will be avoided by the most unfortunate one,
Verse 12. Who will enter the Great Fire,
Verse 13. In which he will then neither die nor live.
Verse 14. But he will prosper who purify himself,
Verse 15. And remember the name of his Guardian-Lord, and prays.
Verse 16. Nay (behold), ye prefer the life of this world;
Verse 17. But the Hereafter is better and more enduring.
Verse 18. And this is in the Books of the earliest (Revelation),
Catalogue no. 19

**Surah al-Adiay**

Calligrapher: Unknown  
Date: 18th / 19th century  
Style: Naskh  
Size: 20.2 x 10.5 cm  
Accession Number: 1998.2.160

**Description**

The single folio depicts the last line of Surah al-Zalzalah, the full Surah al-Adiay, and the head piece of Surah al-Qari'ah. The black *Naskh* script is placed within cloud shaped compartments against a gold ground. Underneath the Arabic Qur'anic text, are the translations of the meanings of the Qur'an in Persian, rendered in smaller size and in red. The exquisite decorations of the head pieces with the name of the surah in elegant cartouches, and the fine verse divisors of rosettes and saz leaf patterns all indicate a royal workshop and a capable illuminator. The absence of a calligrapher’s name is expected as this folio was a part of a full Qur'an.

**Text**

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.
Verse 1. By the (Steads) that run, with panting (breath),
Verse 2. And strike sparks of fire,
Verse 3. And push home the charge in the morning,
Verse 4. And raise the dust in clouds the while,
Verse 5. And penetrate forthwith into the midst (of the foe) en masse:-
Verse 6. Truly man is, to his Lord, ungrateful;
Verse 7. And to that (fact) he bears witness (by his deeds);
Verse 8. And violent is he in his love of wealth.
Verse 9. Does he not know, when that which is in the graves is scattered abroad
Verse 10. And that which is (locked up) in (human) breasts is made manifest -
Verse 11. That their Lord had been Well-acquainted with them, (even to) that Day?
Nasikh and Riqqa'

Catalogue no. 20

Wise sayings & advice (Mawa’iz)

Calligrapher: Daviat Khudazad
Date: 1158 AH / 1736 AD
Style: Arabic language in Naskh
Size: 20.2 x 12.4 cm
Accession number: 1996.2.205

Description

The folio contains 12 lines in black Naskh script written in cloud shaped compartments, outlined in black against a gilt ground. The script is to be read from both planes of the paper, as six lines are written upside down. The calligraphy is an advice urging the teaching of writing and of calligraphy.

Text: “the writing is of the concerns of kings, and calligraphy is the key to success, teach the art of calligraphy to be more disciplined, as the calligraphy is but the ornament of the disciplined, so if you were rich the good hand writing is an asset and if you are of the needy then it is the best way to make money." Who eats watermelon and throws its peel then he is doomed in the world and the world after.”

The literature copied in single folios covers a wide range of subjects, yet most of which are extracted from the Hadith or wise sayings of Caliph Ali. The above mentioned text is a section copied by the 16th century historian Qadi Ahmed's Gulistan-I Hunar, attributing these wise sayings to Caliph Ali. (Minorsky, 1959, p. 10-11)
Catalogue no. 21

Verses from the Holy Qur'an
Calligrapher: Davlat khudazad
Date: 1196 AH / 1770 AD
Style: Arabic language in Naskh
Size: 18 x 9.7 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.154

Description
The folio contains 16 lines in black Naskh script written on a plain sheet of paper. The calligraphy is smooth and clear, with simple dots being placed as verse marks. The signature of the calligrapher is placed in smaller size at the side of the folio, showing a clear sensitivity not to disturb the text.

Text
Qur'anic verses from Surah 2:15 -2:23

2:15 Allah will throw back their mockery on them, and give them rope in their trespasses; so they will wander like blind ones (To anc fro).
2:23 And if ye are in doubt as to what We have revealed from time to time to Our servant, then produce a Sura like thereunto; and call your witnesses or helpers (If there are any) besides Allah, if your (doubts) are true.
Catalogue no. 22

Wise sayings and advice by Caliph Ali

Calligrapher: Zayn al Abedin
Date: 1232 AH / 1817 AD
Style: Arabic language in Naskh
Size: 14.5 x 9.6 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.153

Description

Five lines of black Arabic script text written within cloud-shaped compartments against a gilt ground. Each line of text is separated by a band of foliate scrolls on gold background.

The text recalls the three characteristics of the righteous whose place is in Paradise: al Zuhd, al Haya’ and al Taqwa: austerity, shyness, and piety, while the characteristics of those in hell are: misery, envy and infidelity. Other sayings of the caliph are: the sciences are divided into two branches; the science of religions and the science of the human body, written by Zayn al Abedin in 1232 AH. Zayn al Abedin also signed a single folio at the Khalili collection in 1292 AH / 1875 AD. (no 170, p.225)

Text

قال على عليه السلام: ثلاث من شيم أهل الجنة: الزهد والحياء والتقوى، وإهل الفقار ثلاثة علامات: البخل والحسد والشرك، ومن كلامه عليه السلام: العلم علمن علم الأديان وعلم الأبدان حفره زين العبدين في 1232
Catalogue no. 23

Verses of advice and guidance from the sayings of Caliph Ali

Calligrapher: Ahmed al Nairizi
Date: 1134 AH / 1712 AD
Style: Arabic language in Naskh and Persian in Nasta’liq
Size: 18.3 x 11.7 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.172

Description

The folio displays five lines of Arabic text written in black Naskh within cloud-shaped compartments against gilded ground, alternating with another four lines of Persian script. The Persian Nasta’liq recalls a poem praising the supremacy of friendship. The last line indicates the name of the calligrapher.

Ahmed Al Nairizi was a famed master calligrapher during the 18th/19th century in Iran. He excelled in the Naskh style and developed it with a distinct Iranian style. He prepared the calligraphy of several buildings in Isfahan such as the Chihil Sutun palace. He also worked on different media, inscribed complete Qur’an manuscripts as well as single folios and joined royal and non-royal ateliers. The IMM collection possesses over 10 examples of Ahmed al Nairizi’s works which exemplifies the major stages in the development of his style.

Text

ثن احسانك بالاعتزاز، وجمال المرء في الحلم،
زينة الباطن خير من زينة الظاهر، كذلك من
عيب الدين لا تبقى، كمال الجود الاعتذار
معه، كفى بالنظر شفيعا للمذنب، صحة البدن في
الصوم، مجلس العلم روضة الجنة.
مشقه في 1134
Catalogue no. 24

Wise sayings and advice
Calligrapher: Ahmed al Nairizi
Date: 1120 AH / 1708 AD
Style: Arabic in Naskh
Size: 18.2 x 11.2 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.175

Description
The single folio includes thirteen lines of black text written diagonally within cloud-shaped compartments against a gilt ground. The text, which is in the Arabic language, recites wise sayings probably from the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad elaborated upon by the fourth righteous caliph Ali. The text is rendered elegantly with the name of the calligrapher and the date in the line before last. The wise sayings include advice related to good behaviour: whoever closes the way God will punish him, if the people fear the tongue of a certain man he will be in hell, whoever goes along with an oppressor is himself guilty, the relief of men is in telling the truth, patience is the key to success. Towards the end the advice is to teach the children writing as it is a key to livelihood.

Text
الكل قالت عن عزم الأمور، علموا أولادكم بالكتابة
فأنهم من مفتيج الرزق، عبد الشهوة أنل من عبد
مال، أبد عياكل تلقفهم، أبد المرء خير من
ذهب، حصنوا موالكم بالنزاعة، حسن المرء من
أدبه، من عرف نفسه فقد عرف ربه، كتبه احمد
النبرزي
في سنة 1120

هو الله تعالى
من اعتدل يوماه فهو مغبون،
من سد طريقا فقد برر الله عرده، من خاف الناس
لسانه فهو من أهل النار، من مشي مع ظالم فقد
اجرم، فكأنك المرء في الصدق، وفظنة المرء تدل
على أصله، حموضات الكلام خير من حموضات
الطعام، الصبر مفتاح الفرج، الناس جواسيس
العوام، الناس نيله فإذا ماتوا التبهرها، عليكم بقائة
A folio of a manuscript of tales and advice

Catalogue no. 25

Calligrapher: Ahmed al Nalrizi
Date: 1140 AH / 1728 AD
Style: Arabic in Naskh
Size: 17.8 x 8.6 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.176

Description

The fifteen lines of black Naskh script single folio is part of a larger manuscript of tales. The calligraphy displays a confident hand in which the words and articulation are rendered in a smooth manner and are well adjusted to the lines and folio. The sixteenth line is the signature of the calligrapher and date. The folio displays fine illumination around the calligraphy, which has now faded yet still sparkles against the light.

Text

هذا وما دلّيك عليه فأقال رأيته في هذا الضياء
وأوما يبدع إليه فاستهلّ المنفّوع للمغارة مقالة
واهو في الرود عليه ركبتين، وناثروا قوم فشعروا
يساقون إلى الضياء فتمّنهم من شق عليه التسلق
فرجع، ومنهم من صار عنه إلى موضعه فيسدهم.
فصاروا فيما يتعاملون به كثيلة اصناف رجل لم
يذكر فيما جاء به المشق، وإقامة ما جرى عليه
سلقة غير مرتبة بشيء من تلك الفقود، وهم
 أصحاب التقلد الساكون إلى ما امروا به، وآخرون
نثّعون المشقل، وهم أصحاب الجدل الذين ضعفوا
عن الرباية وقوّت على.

حرره أحمد النيرزي سنة 1140
A selection of poems recalled by the calligrapher

Catalogue no. 26

Calligrapher: Ahmed al Nairizi
Date: 1094-1178 AH / 1683-1764 AD
Style: Arabic in Naskh
Size: 17.1 x 11.8 cm
Accession Number: 1998.2.177

Description
A selection of prayers written in Arabic in twenty-four lines of black Naskh script. The folio is an exercise sheet prepared by the calligrapher and his name is in the centre. The prayers are in the form of a poem that Nairizi repeats for practice. Nairizi was a master calligrapher during the 18th century AD and his style of Naskh was admired and widely imitated during the Qajar period in Iran.