

**98. Persian 3**, Northern India, 18th century

Contents: *Khusraw wa Shīrīn* of Nizāmi.

Folios: 286 fols. (last one blank; two fly-leaves at the front and one at the back); paper, 21.5 x 13.5 cm. Folios numbered in Persian at the bottom left.

Ruling: Two columns of text, ruled within a frame (red, black ink and gold) which as a whole measures 16.5 x 8.5 cm.

Script: *Nasta'liq* in black ink with titles in red.

Binding: Brown stamped leather with inked fly-leaves. Spine broken.

Provenance: The facial features, with the bright use of colour, including yellow-green juxtaposed with orange, and architectural

backgrounds, are comparable with Kashmiri style in the 18th century. A parallel is London, MS B.L. Or. 2933, dated 1139 A.H./1726 A.D.<sup>54</sup> A Punjabi origin for this style in the later 18th or early 19th century, has also been proposed.<sup>55</sup>

Illustration: 36 full and half-page illustrations throughout the text. The full-page miniatures measure 19 x 10.5 cm. Illustrated here (plate 38) is fol. 57v depicting Khusraw watching Shīrīn bathing.

Illustrations are found on the following folios: 26v, 28r, 31r, 40v, 46v, 52r, 57v, 62v, 64v, 65v, 71r, 75r, 78v, 84v, 91r, 93r, 95v, 111r, 113r, 122v, 126v, 129v, 146r, 147v, 155r, 158r, 163v, 187v, 215r, 216v, 219v, 236v, 238v, 257v, 261r, 272r.

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<sup>54</sup> N. Titley, *Miniatures from Persian Manuscripts* (B.L., London, 1977), 144, no. 326. For Kashmiri manuscripts see also N. Titley, *Persian miniature painting and its influence on the art of Turkey and India* (B.L., London, 1983), 211-212, plate 44.

<sup>55</sup> Waley, *List*.