

**105. Persian 12**, Iran, late 16th-17th centuries.

Contents: *Majālis al-'ushshāq* (a Sufi text 'The meetings of the lovers', i.e. of the poets, sheikhs and scholars by Gāzurgāhī).

Folios: 206, 29.8 x 18.5 cm (with one fly leaf at each end); paper.

Folios numbered in Persian, bottom left of versos.

Rulings: The text is ruled in 14 lines, set within a frame measuring 19 x 10.7 cm ruled in gold, black, orange, pale blue and pale green, with scattered gold pigment on the base.

Script: *Nasta'liq* in black ink, with some words in blue.

Binding: Gilded brown lacquered boards with a border of gold floral motifs on a black ground. It is the same front and back, attached with red leather over the spine, 19th century.

Illustration: Eight full-page miniatures before each passage (with several others lost) and illuminated decoration throughout the text.

Fol. 4v: titlepiece, set diagonally, with floral motifs against gold and blue backgrounds. 7v: *id.* 11v: *id.* 13v: *id.* 27v: full-page miniature.

41v: titlepiece. 48r: Full-page miniature. 68r: Full-page miniature.

80v: titlepiece. 87v: titlepiece. 88v: full-page miniature. 106v:

titlepiece. 110v: *id.* 115v: titlepiece (almost full-page). 16v: full-page miniature. 135v: titlepiece. 136r: full-page miniature. 163v: full-page

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<sup>69</sup> A parallel for this is an illustration in London, Add. 7801 (43a), a *Jārūn-nama* by Qadrī reproduced in Titley, *Persian Miniature Painting*, fig. 46. Another 17th-century Qazwīnī manuscript (from Isfahan) is in the John Rylands Library in Manchester (Ryl. Pers. 3), dated 1041/1632: Robinson, *Persian Paintings in the John Rylands Library*, 295-329, with figs. and plate XIV in colour; Titley, *Id.*, 121. Like M. Pers. 11 this has an extensive cycle, but there are also notable differences between the two, including differences in style and colour. Waley, *List*, attributes the manuscript to Iran or India, probably 17th or 18th century.

<sup>70</sup> For a considerable number of the illustrations the rubricated captions have been omitted. The miniatures can be identified with the help of those in another manuscript of the same text (MS Leiden, University Library, Or. 8907).

miniature (plate 46). 171r: decorative panels in left and right margins. 171v: *id.* 172r: *id.* 172v: *id.* 173r: *id.* 173v: *id.* 188r: full-page miniature.<sup>71</sup>

Provenance: The figure style is comparable with that, for example, in a copy of the *Kullīyyāt* of Sa'dī dated 974/1566, although this latter is a more sumptuous manuscript. A preliminary attribution of the manuscript is to Safavid Shiraz c.1570, but a mid-17th date is also suggested.<sup>72</sup>

Bibliography: Robinson, *Persian Miniature Painting from Collections in the British Isles*, 104, no. 151.

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<sup>71</sup> See Titley, *Persian Miniature Painting*, 96, with plate 14.

<sup>72</sup> For the latter suggestion: Waley, *List*.