

PLATE V

PAINTED FRAGMENTS FROM FARHĀD-BĒG-YAILAKI; SHRINE XII

F. XII. 007, 008

Two seated Buddha figures from a diaper of such figures at the south corner of the shrine. The upper figure (008) is seated on a blue *padmāsana* in an attitude of contemplation, the head slightly tilted, looking towards the left. The hands, the left lying in the right and the tips of the thumbs touching, rest in front of the body. The close-cropped black hair has a well-developed top-knot (*uṣṇīṣa*). The ears have greatly elongated lobes pierced with long slits. The flesh, in greyish tones, is delicately shaded and there is a blue-grey line along the lower part of the white of the eye. The robe, which seems to cover the feet, is pale green with a red border. Behind the head is a shaded pink nimbus bordered with blue and outlined with a thin white line. The vesica is pink, bordered with green.

The lower figure (007) differs from the other mainly in the colour scheme. The flesh is shaded with burnt sienna and outlined with red; but there is some confusion in the drawing of the hands. The nimbus is shaded pink and the vesica green with a dark brown border. The robe is red-brown. The *padmāsana* is pink. The background is pale green.

There is peculiar charm in these two figures; a good-natured complacency; the calmness of physical and mental well-being combined with a watchful eye on events. A certain plastic quality in the painting distinguishes it from much of the later work, more especially that of Bezeklik where the sharp contour lines take the place of the soft lines used here. As at Mīrān, the faces are human; and here the drawing of the nose is better than at Mīrān. The low, round *uṣṇīṣa*, the strong hands with short finger-nails and the flesh-like quality of the faces are characteristic of these and the Mīrān paintings. But the drooping upper eyelid here is not found at Mīrān. The lengthened eyelashes and slightly extended outer angle of the eyes are suggestive of Persian influence. The probable period of these paintings is between the seventh and eighth centuries A.D.