

It will be noticed that Gaiúmart is stated to have made his home upon a mountain. Mountains were looked upon as sacred places in old times as being nearer heaven. Urmuzd reveals the Zanda-vasta to Zoroaster on the mountain of the holy Questions.<sup>1</sup> In the division of mankind into castes in the reign of Jamshíd the mountains are specially set apart for the priests. The mother of Farídún with her infant son takes refuge with a holy hermit who dwells on Mount Alburz, and there too Kai Kubád, the founder of the Kaiánian Dynasty, receives the news of his election to the throne.

## § 1

*The Greatness of Gaiúmart and the Envy of Áhriman*

V. 14

What saith the rustic bard? Who first designed  
To gain the crown of power among mankind?  
Who placed the diadem upon his brow?  
The record of those days hath perished now  
Unless one, having borne in memory  
Tales told by sire to son, declare to thee  
Who was the first to use the royal style  
And stood the head of all the mighty file.

He who compiled the ancient legendary,  
And tales of paladins, saith Gaiúmart  
Invented crown and throne, and was a Sháh.  
This order, Grace, and lustre came to earth  
When Sol was dominant in Aries  
And shone so brightly that the world grew young.  
Its lord was Gaiúmart, who dwelt at first  
Upon a mountain; thence his throne and fortune  
Rose. He and all his troop wore leopard-skins,  
And under him the arts of life began,  
For food and dress were in their infancy.

<sup>1</sup> Introd. p. 62.

He reigned o'er all the earth for thirty years,  
In goodness like a sun upon the throne,  
And as a full moon o'er a lofty cypress  
So shone he from the seat of king of kings.  
✓ The cattle and the divers beasts of prey  
Grew tame before him; men stood not erect  
Before his throne but bent, as though in prayer,  
Awed by the splendour of his high estate,  
And thence received their Faith.

He had a son  
Named Siyámak, ambitious like his sire,  
A youth well favoured, skilled, and fortunate,  
His father's Life, whose joy was gazing on him,  
That fruitful offshoot of the ancient stem.  
That Life the father cherished tenderly,  
And wept for love, consumed by dread of parting.  
Thus time passed onward and the kingdom  
prospered,

V. 15

For Gaiúmart had not an enemy  
✓ Except, in secret, wicked Áhriman,  
Who led by envy sought the upper hand.  
He had a son too, like a savage wolf  
Grown fearless, and a host of warriors.  
The son assembled these and sought his sire,  
Resolved to win the great Sháh's throne and crown,  
Whose fortune joined with that of Siyámak  
Made the world black to him. He told his purpose  
To every one and filled the world with clamour;  
But who told Gaiúmart about the foe?  
✓ The blest Surúsh appeared in fairy-form,  
Bedight with leopard-skin, and told the king  
The projects that his foes were harbouring.