

Second Half of the Shāhnāmeḥ of Ferdowsi

folio 163

Kharrād, Son of Barzin, Reveals All Things to Hormozd

The conservative rectangular format of the miniature lacks the vibrancy and originality evident in most of the other paintings in the manuscript that are irregular in shape with bold extensions into the margins. The composition, too, is rather straight forward, apparently representing a meeting between Shāh Hormozd and Kharrād, son of Barzin, who is reporting events that have taken place in the camp of Bahrām Chubineh. The Shāh is seated astride a black horse in the right center of the miniature, wearing a yellow-orange coat and a crown adossed with feathers, the maroon and gold umbrella of state held aloft over his head by a mounted attendant that rides behind him on the far right. Accompanying the Shāh are three mounted nobles who flank him in the lower right; they all wear turbans and are dressed in maroon, light yellow, and orange. A diminutive groom, clad in maroon, appears in the center foreground, his lower extremities cropped by the frame. On the left side of the miniature, opposite the Shāh, Kharrād is seated on a black horse gesturing with his hands as if conversing. He wears a gray coat, pointed steel helmet wrapped with an orange band, and quivers that hang prominently from his belt. Apparently accompanying him are four personage tightly grouped together in the lower left foreground, all clean shaven and wearing fur trimmed hats. The setting is a sloping hillside painted in light mauve-pink that rises to a rocky crest near the top. A few bushes and small trees grow from the crest and appear silhouetted against a variegated blue sky executed in a wash technique in the distant background.

There is a single line of four column text above the miniature, and another line below the painting. A rectangular ruled frame encloses miniature and text. The miniature is signed in the center of the lower margin with miniscule characters in Mo'in's handwriting: *ze toufiq šān'e raqam zad mo'in* (Drawn with the grace of the Maker by Mo'in). No date is indicated.

Location:

Dublin, Chester Beatty Library, Ms. no. 270, folio 163

Miniature references:

Unpublished.

Text references:

Warner, VIII, pp.156-57.

Mohl, VI, pp.533-34.

Levy, pp.347-48.

