

## Second Half of the Shāhnāmeḥ of Ferdowsi

folio 223

### Sa'd-e Vaqqas Slays General Rostam

The miniature depicts the two protagonists, Sa'd-e Vaqqas and General Rostam, center stage. The Arab commander, in a purple tunic and pointed steel helmet with a red feather, charges from the right on a chestnut colored mount and brings his sword down on the head of his opponent. General Rostam, clad in yellow, tries to ward off the blow with his shield, but it has been of no avail, for the sword has found its mark and split his helmet. His black horse has already been decapitated by a previous blow and is shown in the state of collapsing. The severed head of the horse, two human heads, and the upper torso of a soldier lie in the left foreground. Strung out vertically on the extreme right are four mounted archers, presumably Arab, who aim their arrows in the direction of Rostam. The setting is a pastel colored hillside, sparsely flecked with vegetation, that rises to a summit at the top of the picture. A small bush grows from the top, and on each side observers peer over the ridge. The four on the left wear turbans, the three on the right pointed helmets.

There are four columns of text above and below the miniature. Above the miniature the two right columns consist of six lines each, and the two remaining columns five lines each. Below the miniature each column is comprised of two lines. A rectangular ruled frame encloses miniature and text, except for six standards which violate the frame and protrude into the left and upper margins. A long inscription appears in the lower margin in miniscule characters in Mo'in's hand: *be tārikh-e shahr-e moḥarram al-ḥarām saneh 1066...[ze towfiq āllāh dovom jeld-e shāhnāmeḥ?]...beh etmām rasid mobārak bād raqam zad kamīneh mo'in-e moṣavver.* ([This second volume of the *Shāhnāmeḥ*?]...was completed...[with the Grace of God?...] in the holy month of Moḥarram of the year 1066/November 1655. Drawn by the most humble Mo'in Moṣavver. May he be blessed.)

#### Location:

Dublin, Chester Beatty Library, Ms. no. 270, folio 223

#### Miniature references:

Unpublished.

#### Text references:

Warner, IX, p.84.

Mohl, VII, p.365.

Levy, p.417.



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