

Shāhnāmeḥ of Ferdowsi

Miniature 13

Bahrām Chubineh before the Palace of the Prophetic Princess

Bahrām Chubineh, dressed in a vermillion coat, proceeds on foot in the center foreground of the miniature. The onager that he follows is shown in diminutive size off to the right, looking back at Bahrām as if inviting him to enter the mauve colored doorway leading into the palace. The doorway, which exists entirely in the right margin, no doubt leads to the upper story of the palace that is depicted directly above it. There, on an enclosed balcony, a young lady wearing a crown, who can be none other than the prophetic princess, reclines against a pillow. Bahrām's loyal companion Izad Goshasp stands in the left foreground, wearing a blue coat and pointed steel helmet. The forequarters of a black mount, presumably Bahrām's, can be seen next to him. Behind Izad Goshasp is a wall of mauve tiles, over which one can see two palm trees and a stormy blue sky. The backdrop on the right side of the painting is composed of several panels in white, mauve, or orange painted with foliage, birds, and arabesque decorations.

Welch's dimensions of 26.7 x 17.8 cm. appear to be the correct measurements for the extremities of the ruled frame. There are four columns of text above and below the miniature. Above the miniature the two outer columns are each comprised of ten lines of text, and the center columns of eight lines each. Below the miniature the outer columns consist of two lines each, and the center columns of a single line. A ruled frame encloses miniature and text, which is rectangular on three sides, but irregular on the right side where it juts outward to encompass the miniature that extends into the right margin in two places. The digits 92 are written in Arabic numerals in the right margin, and are, presumably, of later date. There is some minor flaking evident, but no signs of major damage and no indication of retouching. The miniature is signed in the center of the lower margin, in miniscule characters that seem to be in Mo'in's hand: *raqam-e kamineh mo'in- e moṣavver*. No date is indicated.

Miniature reference:

Welch, AK2, Ir.M. 43/H (illustrated).

Text references:

Warner, VIII, pp. 156-57.

Mohl, VI, p.534.

Levy, pp. 346-47.

