

The Íránians said : " We will not arm hence-  
forth ;

We will not have him in Írán as Sháh,  
Or, as our general, Bahrám Chúbína."

They spake and went forth from his presence,  
left

The palace of the chieftain<sup>1</sup> for the plain,  
But he refrained his lips and at the most  
Gave only prudent counsels to the host.

### § 22

*How Bahrám Chúbína went to hunt and saw a Lady  
who foretold the Future to him*

- C. 1846 Two weeks passed, then Bahrám Chúbína left  
His palace for the waste. In front of him  
There was a forest furnished well with trees —  
The very place for lucky revellers.  
Upon the mead he saw an onager,  
And none will see a fairer one. He followed  
At leisure, heating not his steed. Appeared  
Within that woodland-chase a narrow path,  
Which when that gallant onager had traversed  
A pleasance next was seen upon the plain.  
Bahrám Chúbína, marking this, proceeded  
Until a splendid palace came in sight.  
Led by the onager he turned and rode  
Thereto ; behind him was Ízid Gashasp,  
To whom he gave his fleet steed's reins and said :—  
" May wisdom ever be thy mate," then entered  
The porch alone. Ízid Gashasp the while  
Abode without and held the noble steed.  
Behind him hurrying came Yalán-sína

<sup>1</sup> Reading with P.

Armed on a swift horse. Brave Ízid Gashasp  
Said : " Lion ! enter thou and find out whither  
Our chief, the heroic captain of the host,  
Our succourer, hath gone."

Yalán-sína

Made for the palace with an anxious heart  
To seek the chief. He saw it and its hall  
Magnifical ; its like he had not seen  
Or heard of in Írán. Upon one side  
Thereof there was a cupola whose top  
Was viewless through its height and under it  
A throne of gold with steps begemmed. The throne  
Was covered with brocade of Rúm in patterns  
Picked out with jewels on a ground of gold.  
Upon the throne there sat a lady crowned,  
Of cypress-height and with a face like Spring.<sup>1</sup>  
Beside it was a seat and thereupon  
The captain of the host while many slaves,  
Idols fay-faced and blooming, were around.  
On seeing Yalán-sína the lady bade  
A handmaid : " Hasten to yon lion-heart,  
Fair mate, and say : ' Thou mayst not enter here.  
Stay with thy comrades. He will come anon,  
But go thou first. As from Bahrám Chúbína  
Speak this and ease them as to his return.' "

C. 1847

She sent some also to his retinue  
To bring the warriors' horses to the stalls,  
And take good care of all their equipage.  
The gardener unlocked the garden-gate  
By hest of that fair hostess,<sup>2</sup> and they set  
About the garden victuals past conceit.  
Whenas the warriors had eaten bread  
They led the chargers to the place assigned.  
Bahrám Chúbína, when he left the lady,  
Spake thus : " May Jupiter espouse thy crown."

<sup>1</sup> Three couplets omitted.

<sup>2</sup> One couplet omitted.

She answered : " Be victorious and ever  
Of patient heart and wise.<sup>1</sup> Go thou ! the throne  
And the Íránian diadem are thine.

The world shall be set straight by thee, so win it  
By might and sword from dark dust to the stars."<sup>2</sup>

Now when he came forth from that garth of roses  
Thou wouldst have said : " He weepeth blood ! "

So changed

Was he in temper and in talk that thou  
Hadst said : " He raiseth to the Pleiades  
His head."

Anon the onager appeared ;

The chieftain followed after on his steed,

And it was so that till he cleared the forest

The onager still served him as a guide.

He went back to the city from the chace,

But spake not of the matter to the host.

Kharrád, son of Barzín, regarded him

And said thus : " O thou chief that speakest sooth !

What was this marvel seen and heard by none

That happened in the chace ? "

The paladin

Vouchsafed no answer but in dudgeon sought

The palace, and none else dared ask : " What might

This matter mean, this vision of delight ? "

### § 28

*How Bahrám Chúbína assumed the royal Style and  
how Kharrád, Son of Barzín, and the Archscribe<sup>3</sup>  
fled*

C. 1848 The next day, when the uplands silvered over,  
And when yon yellow shining Lamp appeared,

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*    <sup>2</sup> *Id.*    <sup>3</sup> Ízid Gashasp in the original. Cf. p. 106.