

Shāhnāmeḥ of Ferdowsi

folio 230

Garsivaz Pleading for His Life before Kay Khosrow

The miniature is compositionally similar to folios 106 and 162, but finer in execution than either. Shāh Kay Khosrow is seated cross-legged on an elevated hexagonal throne in the upper right. he wears a long scarlet robe with gold buttons, a sword hanging from his belt, and a jewel studded crown adossed with feathers and the black aigrette of royalty. A ceremonial sword bearer, dressed in a blue robe, stands behind him, in front of a multilobe arched panel painted with delicate foliage and birds. The panel, with a tiled doorway in the center, is in turn framed by a tiled column and lintel. Garsivaz, the murderer of Khosrow's father Siyavosh, kneels before the shāh on the left. he is portrayed as a distinguished looking elder with a white beard, off-white turban, gold robe, and blue top coat trimmed with a fur collar. Two turbanned servants, wearing gray and scarlet robes, stand behind him on the far left, while another wearing a pink robe and brown turban stands further to the rear, before an open doorway in the left background. Four other personage are portrayed in the foreground: two middle aged men with wide moustaches and multi-colored turbans, apparently advisors to the shāh, are seated on the floor to the right; another in a purple robe leans on a walking stick to the left; and between them, a *petit*, youthful servant in yellow is busy offering wine. The setting is the interior of the shāh's palace, with a light mauve-pink floor decorated with floral embellishments, perhaps intended as a carpet. A multilobe arched panel is in the right background, and in the left background an opening through which one can see a courtyard with a fence and a tree.

Miniature dimensions: 23.5 x 16.5 cm. There are four lines of four column text above the miniature, and three lines below. A rectangular frame encloses miniature and text. The only signature on the page is Mo'in's, in the lower margin, *raqam zad kamineh mo'in-e moṣavver*, together with the date 1104/1693 which is partially erased. The execution level of the painting is superior to many of the other Mo'in miniatures in this manuscript, which together with the absence of the Faḡl 'Alī signature, may indicate that Mo'in completed it without any assistance.

Location:

New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Acq. 13.228.17 (Cochran 4)

Miniature references:

J&Y, PM, p.37, no.32 (not ill.).

Robinson, Islamic Art, p.79, no.32 (not ill.).

Text references:

Warner, IV, p.268 ff.

Mohl, IV, p.167 ff.

Last updated 14 July 1997

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