

Shāhnāmeḥ of Ferdowsi

folio 422

Khosrow Parviz and Bahrām Chubineh Battle

The miniature portrays the battle just after Bahrām Chubineh's mount had been shot. The horse lies prostrate on the ground near the center, an arrow protruding from its neck. Bahrām, wearing a short coat, pointed helmet, arm and leg guards, stands behind the fallen animal defending himself with sword and shield against Khosrow's attack. On the right is Khosrow Parviz, similarly attired, charging on a brown mount with bow in hand. He is accompanied by two mounted warriors: one is aiming his arrow in Bahrām's direction, the other waving a standard that protrudes into the right margin. The River Naravān is shown in the left foreground, and across it a diminutive bridge with four arches. At the right terminus of the bridge two warriors, whose placement in relation to the bridge is spatially ambiguous, are locked in a sword battle. "Above" the bridge the ground slopes upward to form a rocky peak, with rock ridges sloping off to each side. Behind the ridge on the left side are five warriors, who are presumably, some of Bahrām's numerically superior forces. Balancing them in the opposite corner are three turbanned trumpeters, who herald the battle with long horns. Tufts of evenly dispersed grass grow on the slope of the hill, and at the top a small bush emerges. In the distance is a sky streaked with clouds.

Miniature dimensions: 25.4 x 16.5 cm. The text is written in four columns above and below the miniature, with a rectangular frame enclosing miniature and text, except on the right side where a horn and a standard protrude into the margin. There is a crease across the entire page about one-quarter of the way down from the top, and partial smearing of some of the text. The miniscule signature *raqam-e kamineh faẓl 'ali* is inscribed in the upper left corner. In the lower margin is the signature *raqam zad kamineh mo'in-e moṣavver* and the year 1140 for 1104/1693. The miniature is attributed by Jackson and Yohannan to Faẓl 'Ali, and by Robinson to Mo'in with the assistance of Faẓl 'Ali. The painting is executed in excellent Mo'in style, and except for the sky and possibly some of the subsidiary faces near the top, which appear to be at variance with the master's hand, no other details are distinguishable from Mo'in's style.

For an earlier Mo'in depicting a battle between Bahrām Chubineh and Khosrow Parviz, see Ms. D, f.189.

Location:

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

Miniature references:

J&Y, PM, p.38, no.42 (not ill.).

Robinson, Islamic Art, p.79, no.42 (not ill.).

Text references:

Warner, VII, pp.226ff.; Mohl, VII, pp.40ff.



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