

V. 1665

Then smiling on him said Asfandiyár:—
 “O son of Sám, the horseman! thou wast hurt
 In that no summons came whereas I took
 Some credit to myself. Be not displeased
 Because I spared thee on so hot a day
 So long a journey, for I said: ‘At dawn
 I will set out to offer mine excuses;
 Then shall I have the joy of seeing Zál,
 And be for once quite happy!’ But since thou
 Hast of thine own self undergone the toil,
 Hast left thy home and come across the plain,
 Sit down to rest thyself, take up the cup,
 And make no show of wrath and bitterness.”

Asfandiyár placed Rustam on his left,
 Such was the way in which he did the honours!
 Then said the veteran: “This is not my place;
 Let me have that to which I am entitled.”

The prince said to Bahman upon his right:—
 “Give him the seat as he demandeth it.”

Then Rustam in his wrath said to the prince:—
 “Look on me fairly and with open eyes;
 Regard my prowess and illustrious stock,
 For I am of the seed of valiant Sám.
 Though thou hast no seat that befitteth me
 I have the Grace, my triumphs, and my prudence.”

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Thereat the prince gave orders to his son
 To place a golden seat upon the dais,
 And with a scented orange Rustam came,
 And took his seat but he was all aflame.

§ 14

How Asfandiyár spake Shame of the Race of Rustam

Then thus to Rustam spake Asfandiyár:—
 “O lion-hearted chieftain of renown!