

History of Shāh Esmā'il

folio 11

Shaikh Zāhed Gilāni Appointing Shaikh Ṣafi to be His Successor as Head Mystic

Shaikh Gilāni, on his deathbed, appointed Shaikh Ṣafi, to whom Esmā'il traced his lineage, as his heir instead of his own son Jamāl al-Dīn 'Alī. Gilāni died in 700/1301 at Siāhrud, in the province of Gilān.

In the miniature Shaikh Ṣafi is kneeling with arms outstretched before a domed, tiled, hexagonal shaped pavilion. The more elderly, white bearded, Shaikh Zāhed Gilāni kneels in almost parallel position before him. Five followers, one kneeling and the remainder standing, occupy the right foreground facing the principle characters, gesturing their pledges to the new leader. An attendant with hands clasped and an envelope under his arm stands behind the two shaikhs. Two cypress trees and a *chenār* emerge from behind a red fence in the right background; beyond them is a stylized pink rock formation and a gold sky. The dominant colors are a rose pink of strong hue, and a beige used for the tiled pavilion and some of the robes. Green and brown are used for the trees and some of the other robes, while the remainder are executed in blue, orange, and maroon.

Miniature: 18.7 x 13 cm. One line of text above and below the painting. Frame encloses miniature and text. No apparent signs of damage or retouching. A marginal inscription in red, presumably of later date, describes the event depicted. Inscriptions in the same hand and color on the figures identify Shaikh Gilāni and Shaikh Ṣafi. The miniature is not signed.

Miniature references:

Mahboubian Catalog, #923 folio 11 (not illustrated).

Text references:

Muntazar, p.10.

Savory, SA, p.23.

