

## History of Shāh Esmā'il

folio 332v

### Ghazālī 'Arab Brought as a Prisoner Before Shāh Esmā'il

Ghazālī 'Arab had been appointed governor of Damascus by the Mamluk ruler Sultan Ghānisāy and remained on as confidant to Sultan Selim after the Ottomans overran the Mamluk dynasty. Preoccupied with events in Europe, the Ottoman ruler entrusted Ghazālī and Sultan Soleymān to secure the province of Dīār Bakr.

Ghazālī's first encounter with the *qezelbāsh* was in a battle with Nur 'Ali Khalifeh Rumlu, who valiantly died fighting with only 100 men, and succeeded in impressing Ghazālī with the courage of the *qezelbāsh*. Upon hearing of this victory, the Ottoman sultan sent an additional 50,000 troops to Ghazālī to help secure the province. Meanwhile, Esmā'il had already dispatched an army under the command of Div Solṭān Rumlu, who later acquired great powers in the Safavid state under Shāh Ṭahmāsp. Div Solṭān's orders, however, was not to engage the Turks until he, Esmā'il, arrived.

One by one, the Safavid commanders evacuated the garrisons in the province and joined Div Solṭān in Dīār Bakr, leaving only the empty fortresses for the Ottomans. In all Ghazālī took over 42 empty garrisons before reaching the city of Dīār Bakr and encountering the *qezelbāsh* under the command of Div Solṭān. The two commanders met, Ghazālī wanting to do battle, but Div Solṭān explained that he was under orders not to fight until Esmā'il arrived. Ghazālī graciously postponed their encounter for one week, at the end of which Esmā'il had arrived, and the confrontation went ahead as planned.

In the joust Ghazālī unhorsed Div Solṭān with his lance. This angered Esmā'il, who immediately rode forward to meet the Arab, and in the ensuing encounter the shāh unseated Ghazālī, and ordered that Div Solṭān bring Ghazālī prisoner before him. When Div Solṭān proceeded to bind Ghazālī's hands behind his back in the traditional manner for a prisoner, Esmā'il interceded and instructed that his hands be bound in front because this man would become one of his *ṣufis*.

Sultan Soleymān and the Ottoman troops were allowed to depart at Ghazālī's request, and the *qezelbāsh* reoccupied the 42 garrisons held by the Turks. Ghazālī took the *shī'ite* vows and was awarded the governorship of four kingdoms in the south encompassing Khuzistān and Fārs.

The miniature portrays Ghazālī near the center of the picture, dressed in a purple coat and white turban with feathers, a bow encased at his side, his hands bound with cord, and being forced by Div Solṭān Rumlu to kneel before Esmā'il. Div Solṭān stands next to Ghazālī wearing a beige topcoat and red flat top *qezelbāsh tāj*, quivers on his belt, and rope in hand. To the right is Shāh Esmā'il sitting astride a light gray horse whose forelegs and belly are stained with mud. Esmā'il stretches his right arm outward in the

direction of the captive. As in previous miniatures, the shāh wears a white topcoat with gold trim, red flat top *qezelbāsh* headgear, and an encased bow on his belt. In his left hand he holds a standard. In addition to Div Solṭān, two other *qezelbāsh* accompany the shāh, one in off-white clothing and partly obscured, the other in vermillion on a white horse in the right foreground. A brown horse, apparently belonging to Div Solṭān, is held in the lower right by a groom dressed in dark green. On the left side of the miniature are three personage, each only partially visible, who are apparently part of Ghazālī's entourage. Two bearded individuals, each with a forefinger to the lip in a sign of astonishment, peer at the event from over the ridge in the upper left. They are only visible from the waist up, but one is dressed in vermillion, the other light olive. In the lower left are the forequarters of a brown horse, and what appears to be Ghazālī's groom, dressed in yellow-orange. He too has his finger to his lips. The backdrop is simply done: a pinkish-mauve hillside rises to a craggy rock ridge near the top, on which are sparse suggestions of green and yellow foliage, and at the extreme top a narrow band of variegated blue sky.

Miniature: 16.0 x 13.2 cm. Two lines of text above and below the miniature. Frame encloses miniature and text. A marginal inscription in red, presumably of later date, describes the event depicted. Inscriptions, also in red, appear on two of the figures, identifying them as Div Solṭān and Ghazālī. Another inscription, in black, appears at the bottom of the miniature. The first portion of the inscription, which is in a handwriting that might well be Mo'in's, states *betārikh-e nimeh(?) rabi' al-avval saneh 1010 ba etmam rasid...* (completed in the middle of Rabi' I of the year 1010/September 1601...). Stylistically this date is impossible, and may have been intended for 1100/January 1689. The end of the inscription, which may have include the artist's signature, is smeared and illegible; above the smear is written, in a different hand, doubtlessly an attribution, *amol-e mo'in-e moṣavver*.

#### Miniature references:

Mahboubian Cat., #923 folio 332v (not illustrated).

#### Text references:

Muntazar, pp.579-80.

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