

light, this illustration was identified as Rustam dragging the Khaqan of Chin from his elephant. The painting would have appeared immediately before folio 114b, since this image represents the Khaqan in the moment of his being pulled down, while the next illustration shows him only seconds later, slightly lower on the side of the elephant. The text is a variant,⁴² but this passage does appear in some versions of the *Shahnameh*. Mu'in Musavvir shows the Khaqan of Chin dressed as a soldier in this illustration, whereas he is crowned in the next. Despite these anomalies, the two illustrations would have followed one on the other in the original manuscript.

18. *Rustam Drags the Khaqan of Chin from the Elephant*, fol. 114b. The David Collection (fig. 27)

In the battle against the army of the Khaqan of Chin, Rustam finally confronted the king on his white elephant. He captured the Khaqan with his lasso, pulling him from the elephant and dragging him to his soldiers, who bound him. In this painting, Rustam has just lassoed the Khaqan, but has not yet bound him. Soldiers are arrayed along the horizon line, including two like the jockey, wearing Indian-style turbans, a reference to the Asian origin of the Khaqan and his supporters.

Among the distinguishing characteristics of this illustration is the gray color of the elephant, despite the fact that it is described as white in the text. Certainly Mu'in deliberately chose to deviate from the customary way of depicting the elephant, since a white elephant appears in folio 32a, *Rustam Kills the White Elephant*. Additionally, the scale of the jockey on the elephant's back is disproportionately small, even if he is intended to be a child. Likewise, Rakhsh is large by comparison with the elephant, but small in relation to Rustam. The anomalies of scale serve to emphasize the key figures in the narrative, while the choice of painting the elephant gray may have more to do with Mu'in's interest in novelty.

19. *Div Akvan Carries Rustam to the Sea*.

The Israel Museum, 554.69⁴³ (fig. 9)

Kay Khusrau summoned Rustam and asked him to find and kill a *div* who had been taking the form of



Fig. 9. *Div Akvan Carries Rustam to the Sea*. The Israel Museum, 554.69.

an onager and savaging herds. Rustam set out on his quest and eventually lay down to sleep in a meadow. The *div*, Akvan, spied him and dug around where Rustam was sleeping, picking him up along with the earth on which he was resting. The *div* then gave Rustam the choice of being dashed on the mountains or thrown into the sea. Cleverly Rustam chose the mountains, knowing that Akvan would do the