

Of gold-embroidery, and royal gems.

He called down blessings on the Sháh and said:—

“May wisdom wed the soul of Kai Khusrau!”

V. 781

Whenas earth's face grew black as raven's plumes,

And when night's Lamp rose o'er the hills, the Sháh

V. 782

Went to his palace, and his mighty men

Departed, each one to his home again.

§ 7

How Kai Khusrau sent Rustam to the Land of Hind

When daylight made the hills like sandarac,

And cockerows reached the clouds, the matchless

Rustam

With Farámarz and with Zawára came

Before the Sháh to speak about Írán,

The crown, the state, and matters great and small.

Then Rustam said: “Illustrious, glorious Sháh!

There is a district in Zábulistán,

That formed a portion of the realm of Túr

Till Minúchihhr drove all the Turkmans out.

It is a goodly and a glorious land;

But when KÁús grew hoar and spiritless,

When fame, the Grace, and prowess quitted him,

Túránians seized it and Íránians ceased

Therein.¹ The folk now carry to Túrán

Both toll and tribute, heeding not the Sháh.

V. 783

The march is full of elephants and treasure.

The innocent are troubled by this folk

With constant pillage, massacre, and raid,

And all the insolency of Túrán.²

Now that the kingship of Írán is thine,

Thine from the ant's foot to the lion's claws,

¹ See Introductory Note to this Part.

² Or “And have rebelled against Túránian pride.”

"Twere well to send a valiant paladin,
 And mighty host, to make this people bring
 Their tribute to the Sháh and look to him.
 This region ours we can defeat Túrán."

The Sháh said: "Live for ever! Thou art right.
 Take order for sufficiency of troops,
 Selecting all the famous warriors,
 For since the district marcheth with thine own
 Its purchase will be worthy of thy fame.
 Commit a mighty host to Farámarz,
 As many warriors as shall suffice.
 The business will succeed with him; his hook
 Will catch the crocodiles."

The paladin

With flushing cheeks called many a blessing down
 Upon the Sháh, who bade the chamberlain
 To spread the board, bring wine, call minstrelsy,
 And listened spell-bound to their melody.

V. 784

§ 8

How Kai Khusrau reviewed the Host

When bright Sol rose above the hills, and when
 The minstrels tired of song, the kettledrums
 Clanged at the court-gate and the troops drew up
 Before the palace. On the elephants
 They bound the tymbals and the trumpets blared.
 Upon one elephant they set a throne;
 That royal Tree bore fruit; the Sháh came forth,
 And took his seat, crowned with a jewelled casque.
 He wore a torque of royal gems and held
 An ox-head mace. Two earrings, decked with pearls
 And precious stones, depended from his ears;
 His bracelets were of jewels set in gold;
 His belt was pearls and gold and emeralds.