

Through mail and buckle. From his charger's back  
 • Bármán fell headlong, the bright orb of day  
 Turned dark to him, his army's heart was broken,  
 His soldiers fled. Káran the chieftain then  
 Went on toward Párs with all his valiant men.

## § 7

*How Naudar was taken by Afrásiyáb*

Naudar, on hearing that Káran had gone,  
 Sped after him, all instant to escape  
 The evil day, lest heaven should trample him.  
 Afrásiyáb gat tidings that Naudar  
 Had sought the waste, collected troops, and followed  
 As 'twere a lion. Drawing near he found  
 The foemen ready for a running fight,  
 And as he marched mused how to take the head  
 That wore the crown. They fought all night till  
 noonday,  
 And earth was dark with warriors' dust. At length  
 • The Sháh was taken with twelve hundred nobles;  
 Thou wouldst have said: "Their place on earth is  
 void."

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Strive as they might to flee they were ensnared  
 Within the net of bale. Afrásiyáb  
 Put into bonds the captured host and Sháh.  
 Though thou shouldst sit in conclave with the sky  
 Yet will its revolutions grind thee down.  
 It giveth majesty and throne and crown,  
 It giveth too despair and misery.  
 It playeth friend and foe, and proffereth thee,  
 At times a kernel and at times a shell;  
 It is a conjurer that knoweth well  
 The sleights of every form of jugglery.