

As king both in Írán and in Túrán.
 Then those two kingdoms will repose from strife.
 The seed of Farídún and Kai Kubád
 Will ne'er produce a more illustrious Plant,
 While, if the sky shall purpose otherwise,
 No taking thought will make it love him more.
 What is to be will be beyond all doubt;
 No caution minisheth what is to wax.
 See what a glorious enterprise is this!
 Ask what thou wilt of fortune and 'tis thine."

Afrásiyáb replied: "Ill cometh never
 Of thine advice. I order as thou wishest;
 Depart and carry out thy kindly purpose."

Pírán bent low, did reverence, gave great praise,
 And so departed, came to Siyáwush,
 And told him all. That night the joyful pair
 Sat o'er their wine and from their souls washed care.

§ 38

The Wedding of Farangís and Siyáwush

V. 612

Now when the sun upon the turning sky
 Displayed its head as 'twere a golden shield,
 Pírán the chief girt up his loins and mounting
 A swift steed rode toward the prince's palace
 To wish him joy of his high dignity,
 And said to him: "Prepare thyself to-day
 For welcoming the daughter of the king,
 And if thou hold'st me worthy of the office
 I will myself make ready to escort her."

The prince was moved and blushed. He loved his
 wife,

The daughter of Pírán, as his own heart
 And soul, but said: "Go, do whate'er thou wilt:
 Thou knowest that from thee I have no secrets."

Pírán on hearing this went to his home
 With heart and soul intent upon the business.
 The door-key of the store-house where he kept
 His uncut stuffs Pírán gave to Gulshahr,
 Who was the chief wife of the paladin—
 A lady much esteemed and bright of mind.
 They chose the best things in the treasury—
 A thousand lengths of cloth of gold from Chín,
 With emerald-studded plates, cups of turquoise
 Filled with fresh aloe-wood and musk-deer's glands,
 Two crowns of jewels worthy of a king,
 Two bracelets with two earrings and one torque;
 Of carpets likewise sixty camel-loads,
 Three sets of raiment made of cloth of gold
 With patterns traced in gold of ruddier hue,
 With divers kinds of jewels sewn therein;
 Of gold and silver thirty camel-loads,
 With salvers and apparel made in Párs,
 A golden throne, four seats, three pairs of shoes
 With emeralds patterned on a golden ground,
 Two hundred servants bearing golden cups
 (Thou wouldst have said: "The house will not contain
 them!"),

V. 613

Three hundred servants wearing crowns of gold,
 About one hundred kinsmen of the king,
 Each with one tray of musk and one of saffron:
 These with Gulshahr together with her sisters,
 In golden litters curtained with brocade,
 Went in procession with the precious things.
 The lady took a hundred thousand coins—
 Dínárs—to fling among the crowd. They brought
 The goods to Farangís and blessed her too.
 Gulshahr then kissed the ground and said to her:
 "The planet Venus mateth with the Sun."

Pírán, for his part, and Afrásiyáb
 Were instant on account of Siyáwush.

They gave the bride as custom and their Faith
 Required, and had the contract duly witnessed.
 As soon as they had finished pact and plight
 Pírán dispatched a message to Gulshahr
 Like smoke that she should go without delay
 To Farangís to take her to the prince.
 Thereon Gulshahr told happy Farangís
 That she should go that night to Siyáwush,
 And ornament his palace with a Moon.
 She spake. They decked the bride at once and ranged
 Her musky tresses o'er her rosy cheeks.
 Then like a new moon Farangís approached
 That youthful prince, the wearer of a crown.
 V. 614 They joyed in one another and their love
 Grew ever greater as the moments sped.
 For one whole week slept neither fowl nor fish,
 And no man went to rest; the earth became
 A very garden through its whole extent
 With sounds of minstrelsy and merriment.

§ 39

How Afrásiyáb bestowed a Province on Siyáwush

Thus passed the sennight, then the king prepared
 Great gifts of Arab steeds, sheep, coats of mail
 Withal, helms, maces, lassos, and dinárs,
 With purses full of drachms, suits of apparel,
 And things both great and small. They drew a list
 Of lands and cities 'twixt the sea of Chín
 And their own march; the region was in length
 A hundred leagues, its breadth no man could measure.
 For all that sovereignty in royal fashion
 They made the patent out on painted silk,
 Which with a golden throne and golden crown
 The king sent to the house of Siyáwush.