

§ 16

*How Fariburz asked to Wife Farangís, the Mother
of Kai Khusrau*

“ O warrior, distributor of crowns,
Lord of the breastplate, battle-ax, and Rakhsh !”
Said Fariburz, “ I have a secret wish
That I can tell to no one in the world
Except to thee, O paladin of earth,
Who well deservest ring and crown and signet,
And art the stay and refuge of the host !
In thee the warriors exalt their helms.
Know great one of Írán ! and may God bless thee,
That I and noble Siyáwush were brothers,
And one in blood. ’Tis fit that I should take
His widow as my wife, exalted chief !
Urge this upon the Sháh, and thou wilt set
A crown upon my head.”

Then Rustam answered :—

“ ’Tis thine to bid. I will achieve thy wish.”
The elephantine chief went in and said :—
“ O famed Khusrau ! I have a thing to ask
That will exalt my head above the moon,
And I will ask it with the monarch’s leave,
For God approveth. Love and justice reach
All men through thee, twin-visaged like the sky.
Now Fariburz among the chiefs and princes
Hath not a peer ; withal for rede and prowess
I do not see his match, and he desireth
This of the Sháh—the place of Siyáwush,
So that, when he is marching to avenge
His brother’s blood, the guardian of his house
And wealth, the confidant in all his cares,
May be the daughter of Afrásiyáb,
None else, they twain to be as sun and moon.”

Khusrau on hearing gave consent and said :—
 “ O famous man ! the feet of fortune trample
 All that reject thy counsel. Naught but good
 Will come from words of thine. Live ever glorious !
 I cannot urge this, as thou know'st. Such speech
 To her would be misplaced, but I will give
 My mother, if she will consent to listen,
 The counsels most conformable with wisdom.”

They went together to the moonlike dame—
 The peerless Rustam and benignant Sháh,
 Who said to her : “ Thou memory of my sire,
 In good and ill my refuge ! I may govern,
 But thou art Sháh to me. Thou know'st the toil
 And travail of the army in this war,
 How many of our mighty men have perished
 In battle with Túrán ! I mean to send
 A host with Rustam son of Zál as chief,
 While Fariburz will lead the van, and Rustam
 Himself be champion. He would have thee be
 The wife of Fariburz. What is thy pleasure
 Therein ? Be greatness and all good thy mates.”

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On hearing this she thought about old times,
 Distressed and vexed at heart ; at length in tears
 She said : “ I blame not Rustam ; if I did
 It would be misplaced now, for only heaven
 Can say him nay when he requesteth aught.”

Then Rustam said to her : “ O dame of dames,
 Extolled for spotless worth ! Oh ! may thy foes
 All perish ! Thou, may be, wilt hear my counsel.
 Thou knowest that a woman cannot rest
 Without a spouse, the young without the young,
 And best of all a mate of Kaian race,
 For man is for the woman's sake, and she
 Is far more eager than her spouse for her.
 Victorious Fariburz son of Káuís,
 Fit for the crown, the lustre of the throne,

The brother and the peer of Siyáwush,
 Is ruler of the more part of Írán ;
 The peopled land and desert both are his.
 By leave, advice, and order of the Sháh
 Do I approve thee as the prince's spouse.
 What sayest thou ? Is he approved by thee ?
 Doth Fariburz appear a fitting mate ?
 Thou wilt do well to hearken to my words :
 Heed what I tell thee and the Sháh's advice."

The Sháh of ladies held her peace awhile
 In grief, ashamed to speak before her son,
 Then sighing deeply answered Rustam thus:—
 " O full of prowess, leader of the folk !

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Although there is none like him in Írán
 He cannot take the place of Siyáwush ;
 Yet is my tongue, as thou mayst say, in fetters
 By reason of thy words, O paladin !
 What doth the famous monarch now command ?
 I must be girded to perform his will."

Thus, blushing like the roses in the spring,
 The monarch's mother gave consent. The matter,
 Since Rustam was so instant, was soon sped :
 They called the archmagés and drew up the contract.
 Then Fariburz became Sháh's sire-in-law,
 And being franked by Kai Khusrau and Rustam
 Increased his quality and dignity,
 And gained a robe of honour and new crown.¹
 Three days prepared, the fourth achieved, the business,
 Then Rustam with his gallant warriors
 Fared toward the plain, while Fariburz with troops
 Went in advance, resplendent as a star
 In heaven. Arose the din of clarions,

¹ " C'est ainsi que Feriburz devint, par l'ordre de Kei Khosrou, beau-pere du roi, et Rustem fut alors libre de partir. Khosrou combla d'honneurs le Pehlevan, et lui donna, un rang plus élevé, une robe d'honneur et une nouvelle couronne " (Mohl).

And matchless Rustam led his army forth.
 The Sháh, the world-lord, with his mind all care,
 Fared with him for two leagues, while Rustam turned
 Two stages into one upon his way,
 And rested not at all by night or day.

§ 17

How Tús saw Siyáwush in a Dream

One night, about the hour of drum-beat, Tús, V. 916
 Heart-seared and full of trouble, slept and dreamed
 That from the deep a radiant lustre rose
 About an ivory throne, and Siyáwush
 Thereon with Grace and crown, with smiling lips
 And tongue fair-spoken, turned a sun-like face
 Upon him. "Stay the Íránians here," he said,
 "For thou shalt conquer in the fight. Lament not
 The kindred of Gúdarz, for there is here
 A rosary all new, and we will quaff,
 How long we wot not, underneath its blooms."

With joyful heart released from pain and grief
 Tús woke. Then to Gúdarz: "World-paladin!
 I have beheld a vision in my sleep!
 Take note that Rustam like a rushing wind
 Will come anon!"

He bade the pipes to sound,
 The troops upon the mountain left their posts,
 The warriors of Írán girt up their loins,
 And set up Káwa's standard, while Pírán
 Upon the other side led forth his powers;
 The dust-clouds dimmed the sun; its eye was dazed
 By warriors' shouts and by the rain of arrows.
 The two hosts met, but not a champion showed
 Before the lines. Húmán said to Pírán:—
 "We must attack. Why hesitate? The troops