Second Half of the Shāhnāmeh of Ferdowsi

folio 197v

The Death of Bahrām Chubineh

The dying Bahrām Chubineh lies on a bed in the center of the miniature, wearing an olive colored robe and crown, having already been mortally wounded by Qalun's knife. His sister Gordiyeh lies at his side, in a purple dress decorated with gold arabesques, embracing him and pressing her cheek to his in order to hear Bahrām's last words. Nine other personage are depicted, of which eight are females. Three are standing or kneeling behind the bed, while another stands in the right foreground, all tearing at their unfurled hair or breasts in the conventionalized depiction of grief and mourning. Their olive, gray, yellow, or maroon dresses have been vent open at the front accordingly. Four other females, apparently servants, are more restrained - two in the upper left, and two others in the foreground whose lower extremities are cropped by the frame. They wear olive, yellow, or purple dress, tiaras on their heads, and *chadors* lowered over their shoulders. In the lower left foreground is the single male observer, apparently a holy man, bearded, with a white turban and light blue robe, seated reading from a scroll. The setting is the inside of a tiled hexagonal pavilion, the roof and rooftop pavilion of which, flanked by two pairs of cypress trees, extends into the upper margin.

There are three lines of four column text above the miniature, and two additional lines below the painting. A rectangular ruled frame encloses miniature and text, with only the rooftop pavilion and cypress trees violating the frame and protruding into the upper margin. The miniature is signed in the lower margin with miniscule characters in Mo'in's handwriting: *ze towfiq ṣān'e raqam zad mo'in* (Drawn with the grace of the Maker by Mo'in). It is not dated.

Location:
Dublin, Chester Beatty Library, Ms. no. 270, folio 197v

Miniature references
Unpublished.

Text references:
Warner, VIII, p.340.
Mohl, VII, p.186.
Levy, p.371.