

## Shāhnāmeḥ of Ferdowsi

## Miniature 2

## Zāl Meets Rudābeh

The composition is nearly symmetrical. Zāl and Rudābeh are seated in the center foreground, Zāl on the right, Rudābeh on the left. She wears a long vermillion dress with a gold sash, and a gold crown. Behind her are two pillows. Zāl is portrayed in a purple coat with gold trim, a jewel studded crown, with a sword and bow on his belt. His right arm is around the shoulder of Rudābeh; with his left hand he gently holds one of her's. A purple cloth with several decanters and dishes is spread before the couple. On each side stands a female attendant, similarly attired in vermillion or blue, holding decanters. This entire central scene, which corresponds to the width of the two central columns, is tied together as a self contained unit by a blue multi-lobed arch, behind which is a white panel painted in blue foliage. Attached on each side is an appendage, each a column width wide. In the left appendage, a young lady dressed in yellow draws away a purple curtain to peer out. In the right appendage is a panel executed entirely in blue, portraying two storks under a multi-lobed arch. A roofed pavilion and the tops of trees emerge in the upper margin. Off to the right is a delicately drawn roofed balcony.

Welch records the dimensions as 30x15 cm. without stating his reference points. Judging by the size of the other miniatures, 15 cm. would appear to be the width of the four column text including the frame. Proportionally interpolating, the height of the text plus frame would be 26 cm., 30 cm. would include the miniature extension in the upper margin. There are two columns of text above the miniature, each comprised of four lines. Below the miniature are four columns of text; the two outer columns are each comprised of 17 lines, and the center columns of 14 lines each. A ruled frame encloses miniature and text, except for the trees, pavilion, and balcony, which extend into the top and right margins. Two lighter frames enclose these extensions on the top and right side. There are a number of tears in the lower right and on the bottom edge but there is no evident damage to the miniature, and no indications of retouching. The margins have been trimmed; thus, any signature or numerical designations that may have been there have been lost. Although unsigned and undated, the style and quality is consistent with the other miniatures signed by Mo'in in this manuscript to warrant an attribution to him. This miniature is the verso of miniature no. 1.

**Miniature references:**

Welch, AK2, Ir. M.43 verso (not illustrated)

**Text references:**

Warner, I, pp.272-73; Mohl, I, pp.207-10; Levy, p.45.

