

## Shāhnāmeḥ of Ferdowsi

## Miniature 14

## Benduy and Gostaham Blind Hormozd

The miniature is almost square in shape. In the center Shāh Hormozd, dressed in a purple robe, is being toppled headlong from his throne by three warriors. One of them, wearing a purple robe in the lower right, can be identified as Hormozd's brother, Benduy. It is uncertain whether Gostaham is the warrior in a light blue coat at the upper left who is assisting Benduy in the toppling of Hormozd, or the vermillion clad soldier in the upper right who has lifted the crown from the shāh's head. Three other figures are portrayed in the scene, all wearing long robes and turbans, and all apparently attendants of the shāh. Two in the lower left foreground, dressed in yellow and beige respectively, are hastily gathering flacons. The third attendant, clad in vermillion, turns his back to the event, and is apparently about to make a quick exit to the upper left. The setting is the interior of the shāh's palace at Ctesiphon. A purple carpet with gold decoration is on the floor in the foreground, on which is set two decanters and a bowl. In the background is a wall tiled in alternating strips of orange, purple, and rose-pink, with three inset rectangular white panels delicately painted with foliage.

Grube's dimensions appear to be correct. Page: 36.2 x 22.7 cm.; miniature: 15.5 x 14.3 cm. There are four columns of text above the miniature. The two outer columns are comprised of twelve lines of text each, and the center columns of only eleven lines each. In addition, there are two single lines of text below the painting, each vertically aligned with the two outer columns above the miniature. A rectangular ruled frame encloses miniature and text. The digits 93 are written in Arabic numerals, presumably of later date, in the lower left margin. There are two fine tears evident, one in the lower right and another on the left side, but there are no signs of significant damage, and no indication of retouching. The miniature is signed in the center of the lower margin in miniscule characters that seem to be in Mo'in's hand: *raqam-e kamineh mo'in-e mosavver*. No date is indicated.

For an earlier version of this subject painted by Mo'in, cf. Ms. D, f. 175.

**Miniature references:**

Grube, MMP, #114, where the subject is erroneously identified as "Esfandiyār Slaying Arjāsp".

Welch, AK2, Ir.M. 43/I.

**Text references:**

Warner, VIII, p.183.

Mohl, VI, p.567.

Levy, p. 349.

