

The palace, will at once give to Hurmuzd  
 The crown and throne, will sit as minister  
 Beside him, and will angle to some purpose  
 By writing from his sovereign to Cæsar  
 To this effect : ' A worthless slave hath fled  
 This country ; let him not obtain asylum  
 In Rúm. Each time that he hath raised himself  
 He hath done hurt and damage to your land.  
 When he arriveth put him into bonds,  
 And fill with trouble his rejoicing heart.  
 Return him to this court and tarry not  
 Until he have grown great,' and they will bind him,  
 And send him back in tears and strongly guarded."

Khusrau Parwíz heard this with troubled heart,  
 His cheek gloomed at their words and he replied :—  
 " Ill-fortune well may treat us thus, but words  
 Are long and deeds are strong ; trust we in God."

He urged his steed and said : " What good and bad  
 The World-lord hath writ o'er our heads will come,  
 No musing can avert it. May our foes  
 Ne'er have their will."

When he had gone the two  
 Unjust ones turned back eager for revenge.  
 Arrived, they sought the palace of the Sháh,  
 All dudgeon and with hearts prepared for crime.  
 When they had passed the gate and reached the throne  
 They straightway took the string from off a bow,  
 Flung it forthwith around the monarch's neck,  
 And hung his honoured person. Passed that crown  
 And throne of king of kings : thou wouldst have  
 said :—

" Hurmuzd was never in the world at all."  
 The custom of revolving time it is

To furnish sometimes sweets and sometimes bane ;  
 Seek not for profit from a stock like this  
 Because the quest will bring thee naught but pain.

When thus Hurmuzd's days ended and the throne,  
 That happy seat, remained unfilled, forthwith  
 Arose a sound of drums ; those murderers' cheeks  
 Became like sandarac. Upon the road  
 Bahrám Chúbína's standard came in sight  
 Amid his troops, and that outrageous pair—  
 Bandwí and Gustaham—fled from the palace,  
 And hasted till they reached Khusrau Parwíz,  
 Who, seeing their wan looks, knew that their hearts  
 Contained some secret, else would they have quitted  
 The master of the world ? His cheeks became  
 Like flowers of fenugreek but he revealed  
 Naught to that savage pair. He bade his troops :—  
 " Turn from the highway for a host approacheth.  
 Take the long route across the unwatered plain,  
 And let your bodies grow inured to pain."

C. 1893

## § 9

*How Bahrám Chúbína sent Troops after Khusrau  
 Parwíz and how Bandwí contrived to rescue him  
 from their Hands*

On entering the palace of the Sháh  
 Bahrám Chúbína chose from his fierce host  
 Six thousand wielders of the scimitar,  
 Mailed, to pursue the king, and put Bahrám,  
 The son of Siyáwush, in charge of those  
 Famed, warlike troops, while on the other part  
 Khusrau Parwíz took to the waste to 'scape  
 His foes with life, and reached at length a hold  
 With battlements of viewless height. Folk called it  
 " The House of God "—a shrine, a blesséd spot,  
 With bishops and a metropolitan,