

Wept day and night o'er his defect in love.<sup>1</sup>

It was so that one day he willed to hunt,  
 And all things were prepared as in the times  
 Of former Sháhs. They took three hundred steeds,  
 Caparisoned with gold, for that famed King,  
 While of his loyal servitors there fared  
 Afoot a thousand and eight score, and carried  
 Two-headed darts. A thousand and two score  
 Bare scimitars and wore brocade above  
 Their coats of mail. Seven hundred falconers  
 Came next with royal falcons, sparrow-hawks,  
 And gos-hawks, while behind them mounted men—  
 Three hundred keepers of the cheetahs—fared,  
 And pards and lions chained three score and ten,  
 All harnessed with brocade of Chín, all trained,  
 And furnished with gold muzzles. For the deer-hunt  
 There were eight hundred hounds with golden leashes.  
 Behind them came, to harp on hunting-days,  
 C. 2000 Two thousand minstrels all on camel-back,  
 And crowned with gold. Five hundred camels went  
 Ahead, and 'twas their special task to bear  
 The seats, pavilions, and tent-enclosures,  
 The tents and shielings for the quadrupeds.  
 There were two hundred slaves to kindle censers,  
 And to burn aloe-wood and ambergris  
 Therein. Before the Sháh two hundred youths  
 Of those attending on him went with posies  
 Of saffron and narcissus that the scent  
 Might meet him from all quarters as he came,  
 Preceded by a hundred water-bearers  
 To sprinkle all the road, and thou hadst said :—  
 " They pour rose-water over ambergris "   
 Lest any sudden blast might scatter dust  
 Upon that Sháh of glorious lineage.  
 Three hundred youthful princes rode with him,

<sup>1</sup> The section in the original ends here.

Arrayed in yellow, red, and violet.  
 The king of kings had with him Káwa's standard,  
 Wore crown and earrings, royal cloth of gold,  
 A golden girdle, armlets, and a torque,  
 And jewelled buttons.

Now Shírín, on hearing :—

“The host, preceded by the mighty Sháh,  
 Hath come,” put on a yellow vest musk-scented,  
 And made her visage like pomegranate-blooms.  
 She wore a red robe of brocade from Rúm  
 With patterns jewelled on a ground of gold,  
 And placed upon her head a royal crown  
 Set with the jewels of a paladin.  
 She left her jocund hall, went on the roof,  
 And in her day of youth showed naught of joy,  
 But waited till Khusrau Parwíz arrived,  
 Then let the tear-drops fall upon her cheeks.  
 At sight of him she rose, showed all her height,  
 And spake to him with sweetness of the past.  
 The twin Narcissi bathed the Cercis-bloom,  
 The first all languishment, the last all health.  
 All tears<sup>1</sup> and beauty, eagerly she cried  
 Thus in the olden tongue: “O Sháh! Great Lion!  
 O framed to be leader of the host!  
 O blesséd hero, lion-conqueror!  
 Where is that love of thine? Where are the tears  
 Of blood once stanchèd by looking on Shírín?  
 Where all those days which once we turned to nights,  
 Tears in our hearts and eyes, smiles on our lips?  
 Where are our loves, our troth, our bonds, our oaths?”  
 E'en as she spake she shed blood-drops of gall  
 Upon her guise of lapis-lazuli,<sup>2</sup>  
 And when he heard and looked and saw Shírín  
 He wept for her, his face hued like the sun.  
 He sent a led horse all betrayed with gold,

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<sup>1</sup> Or “sheen.”      <sup>2</sup> “sur son visage en deuil.” Mohl.

And forty honest eunuchs, men of Rúm,  
To bear her to his golden bower, his house  
Begemmed, then went to hunt with hawks and  
cheetahs.

When he had had enough of hill and plain  
He went back to the city joyfully.  
They decked it and the roads because the Sháh  
Was coming from the chase ; the trumpet-calls,  
And sounds of singing, ravelled all the air,  
And thus the royal Fruit of that tall Bough<sup>1</sup>  
Passed through the city to his lofty home,  
While from his bower Shírín came forth and kissed  
His feet and hands and head. At that time spake  
The Sháh to the high priest : " Indulge no thoughts  
Save good concerning us, bestow on me  
This fair-checked lady as my lawful wife,  
And publish the glad tidings to the world."

So he espoused her in the ancient way  
With all the rites and sanctions of his day.

### § 57

*How the Nobles heard that Shírín had come to the Bower  
of Khusrau Parwíz and how they advised him and  
were satisfied with his Answer*

Now when these tidings of Khusrau Parwíz  
Came to the nobles and the host : " Shírín  
Is in the Sháh's bower and the old affair  
Hath been revived," the city was aggrieved,  
And full of care, distress, and malisons.  
For three days none approached him. On the fourth,  
When the world's Lustre shone, he sent and called

<sup>1</sup> The Sásánian race. " Lorsque cet homme à la stature royale  
et aux membres puissants," Mohl.