

## § 10

*How Bazánúsh went to Shápúr and made a Treaty of Peace*

When Bazánúsh saw that reply the heart  
In his pure body throbb'd with joy. He bade  
A hundred nobles quit fair Rúm with him.  
They made up sixty asses' loads of drachms,  
Of gems, and full-dress robes, and thirty thousand  
Dínárs for largess gathered from all sides.

They went before the Sháh with naked feet  
And heads all bare, and, as they poured dínárs,  
Bestrew'd the gold with gems. Shápúr received  
The Rúmáns graciously and seated them

In due degree. He said to Bazánúsh:—

“From Rúm no lack of curst and unjust men  
Hath come. Where there were cities in Írán  
Now there are thorn-brakes. I demand redress  
For what hath been laid waste and made the lair  
Of pard and lion.”

Bazánúsh replied:—

“Say what thou wilt and since thou gav'st us quarter  
Frown not upon us.”

Said the noble Sháh:—

“If thou wouldst have full pardon for the wrong  
Thou must pay tribute in dínárs of Rúm—  
Two hundred thousand thrice in every year,  
And further give up Nasíbín to me,  
If thou wouldst end my vengeance.”

Bazánúsh

Replied: “Írán, Arabia, Nasíbín  
Are thine, and I agree to this vast tribute,  
For we can not withstand thy wrath and vengeance.”

Shápúr agreed by treaty not to march  
On Rúm thenceforth, excepting by permission

In friendly wise, that Rúm might not be injured.  
 Then he dismissed those magnates graciously  
 And honourably, on their departure marched,  
 And thanked his Maker much. He sought Istakhr—  
 The world-famed glory of the land of Párs—  
 Rejoicing.

When the news of these events  
 Reached Nasíbín the people rushed to arms,  
 Exclaiming: "We will not let Sháh Shápúr  
 Take Nasíbín or bring an army hither  
 Because he is not Christian but observeth  
 The Zandavasta and the cult of Fire.  
 He will not hear us when he cometh hither,  
 And we will not accept the Zandavasta,  
 And ancient Faith."

The populace prevailed,  
 The Faithful mounted for the war. When tidings  
 Reached Sháh Shápúr that Nasíbín rebelled  
 He was enraged against the Christian Faith,  
 And set a countless host upon the march.  
 He said: "Applaud I cannot an evangel  
 Whose author suffered death among the Jews."

For one whole week they fought; the city's gate  
 Grew all too narrow for the combatants;  
 The Íránians slew a multitude of chiefs,  
 And placed those that survived in heavy bonds.  
 The citizens wrote to the Sháh for quarter,  
 Who pardoned them and bade his host withdraw.

He gained renown in all parts of the earth,  
 He gained supremacy o'er all the world.  
 Men used to call him "The victorious Sháh,"  
 And long did he possess the throne and crown.  
 She who had freed and given him his greatness,  
 Whom he named Diláfrúz-i-Farrukhpái,<sup>1</sup>  
 Was dearer to him than all other fair.

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.* The lucky-footed lustre of the heart.

Moreover on the gardener he bestowed  
 Great treasure and dismissed him well provided ;  
 But Cæsar stayed in prison and in bond,  
 In abject, evil case, and lasso-bound,  
 While all the treasure that he had in Rúm,  
 And toiled to gather in from every side,  
 He had conveyed and given to Shápúr.  
 He lived awhile with sighs upon his lips,  
 Within his prison-house, and there he died,  
 And let another have the crown of might.  
 Then Sháh Shápúr dispatched the corpse to Rúm,  
 Encrowned with musk upon a bier, and said :—  
 " This is our end but where we shall find rest  
 I know not. One is covetous and foolish,  
 Another wise and dowered with Grace, but life  
 Will pass with both. The good and abstinent  
 Alone are blést."

C. 1453

He mounted on the throne  
 Of kings and ruled the world awhile. Thereafter  
 He settled many folk for good or ill  
 Within the land of Khúzistán and built  
 A city for his prisoners : folk at large  
 Shared not therein.<sup>1</sup> 'Twas called Khurram Ábád,<sup>2</sup>  
 But who were they who shared that pleasant place ?  
 The men whose hands Shápúr had stricken off  
 Had this assigned to them as their abode ;  
 They had it all, and every year a robe  
 Of honour. He erected too in Shám  
 A city which he called Pírúz Shápúr,<sup>3</sup>  
 And in Ahwáz a third with palaces  
 And hospitals, Kinám-i-Asírán<sup>4</sup>  
 They called it ; prisoners there had rest and ease.  
 He reigned until he passed his fiftieth year  
 Of sovereignty ; the age had not his peer.

<sup>1</sup> Reading with P.<sup>2</sup> Pleasant Abode.<sup>3</sup> Victorious Shápúr.<sup>4</sup> The Prisoners' Nest.