

v. 636

Assembled for a week with harp and wine.
 Upon the eighth day they prepared to go,
 And Siyáwush in spite of what he knew
 Yet wrote a letter to Afrásiyáb,
 Full of submission and kind interest,
 And gave unstinted gifts to Garsíwaz;
 Anon the Turkmans left that noble city
 Rejoicing, and conversed about the land
 And most accomplished prince; but Garsíwaz
 The vengeful said: "Mishap hath come to us,
 For from Írán the king hath summoned one
 Who causeth us to sit in blood disgraced.
 Fierce Lions like Damúr and like Gurwí—
 Both battle-loving warriors—became
 Thus abject, helpless, and contemptible
 When clutched by one foul-hearted cavalier.
 He will push matters further, and I fail
 To see in our king's actions head or tail."

§ 48

How Garsíwaz returned and spake Evil before Afrásiyáb

He went thus minded to the Turkman court
 Without repose or sleep. Afrásiyáb
 Asked many questions which his brother answered
 And gave the letter; this the smiling king
 Perused with joy. The famous noble marked
 The brightened features of Afrásiyáb,
 And sunset found him all revenge and anguish.
 All night he writhed and when its pitch-hued robe
 Was riven by clear day his vengeful head
 Still slept not, and he sought Afrásiyáb.
 They sat and talked in private. Garsíwaz
 Said to his brother: "Siyáwush, O king!
 Hath wholly changed, the envoys of Káuś

Come often secretly, he correspondeth
 With Rúm and Chín, and drinketh to his father.
 Moreover he hath gathered many troops,
 And soon will vex the king's soul. Had not Túr
 Become so fierce he had not wronged Íraj,
 But now our hearts resemble fire and water
 Opposed; thou wouldest, but in vain, unite them,
 And keep the tempest hidden out of sight.
 Had I withheld this trouble from thy knowledge
 I should have smirched my name before the world."

V. 637

The king was grieved and said to Garsíwaz:—
 "The bond of blood between us moveth thee.
 We will take counsel with ourself three days
 For more assurance; if the case be clear
 It shall be thy part to undo the coil."

The fourth day Garsíwaz appeared at court
 With helmet on and tightly girded loins.
 The monarch called him to an interview,
 Talked much about the case of Siyáwush,
 And said: "O thou memorial of Pashang!
 Whom have I in the world at hand but thee?
 I must disclose the secret of my mind;
 Observe what thoughts occur to thine. My heart
 Was troubled at that evil dream, my brain
 Affected somewhat, yet I kept from war,
 And Siyáwush for his part hurt me not.
 When he farewelled the throne of might he made
 My love the weft across his wisdom's warp.
 He was obedient and I used him well.
 I gave to him a province and my treasure,
 But kept my griefs and sorrows for mine own.
 I bound him to me by the ties of blood,
 Foregoing thoughts of vengeance on Írán,
 And did not grudge my treasures or my child,
 But trusted him with both my precious Eyes.
 Now, after all these pains and benefits,

V. 638

And sacrifice of province, crown, and wealth,
 For me to purpose ill to Sigāvush
 Would raise no little outcry. If I do
 An injury however slight to him
 The mighty men will cry out shame on me,
 And I shall be a butt for every one.
 Of beasts the lion hath the sharpest teeth,
 His heart is not afraid of scimitars,
 And if a whelp of his shall be aggrieved
 He will lay all the meadow desolate ;
 Moreover if we persecute the guiltless
 How shall the Judge of sun and moon approve ?
 I know none else that I can take to me,
 Yet now I will dismiss him to his father.
 So, if he seeketh throne and signet-ring,
 He will not make our coasts the scene of strife."

But Garsiwaz : " O king ! treat not so lightly
 This grave affair. If he departeth home
 He will bring desolation on our coasts,
 For when an alien is made a kinsman
 He learneth all thy secrets great and small.
 A sage once spake a proverb as to this :—
 ' Domestic storms that burst externally
 Will prove but travail and distress to thee,
 And dissipate wealth, fame, and family.'
 Dost thou not know that he who reareth leopards
 Will get no recompense but pain and strife !"

v. 639

Afrásiyâb, when he had mused awhile
 And thought that Garsiwaz had spoken rightly,
 Repenting of his own advice and conduct,
 And owning that his policy had failed,
 Thus answered Garsiwaz : " From this affair
 I see no good appear in any way.
 Let us be patient till the turning sky
 Shall make its aspects known. In everything
 Delay is better than precipitance ;