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**History of Shāh Esmā‘il**


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**folio 13**
**Sultan Kh‘ājeḥ ‘Ali Siāh Push  
Returning Timur’s Whip**

Sultan Kh‘ājeḥ ‘Ali Siāh Push was, like his illustrious grandfather Ṣafī al-Dīn (see folio 11), a head mystic. Kh‘ājeḥ ‘Ali met Timur on three separate occasions, both in the flesh and in the form of a likeness. The first encounter was when Timur was crossing the Oxus River enroute to an invasion of Transoxiana and his whip fell in the water. Suddenly an apparition of a *darvish* appeared before him and returned the whip.

The scene depicted in the miniature takes place in a river, obviously the Oxus. Sultan Kh‘ājeḥ ‘Ali Siāh Push stands alone on the left, mystically on the water, not in it, and hands the whip to Timur. He is clothed in a gray and black robe, gray shawl, and gray turban. Kh‘ājeḥ ‘Ali is austere dressed, but the representation conflicts with Eskandar Monshī’s description, which states that he was dressed only in rags. The right half of the picture is crammed with overlapping figures, all except one on horseback, and those whose lower extremities are visible are partly submersed in water. Timur is the dominant figure in the group, portrayed slightly larger than the others, dark-skinned like an Indian. The renowned conqueror rides a white horse, and the parasol of kingship is held aloft over his head by a retainer. Seven mounted followers and attendants form a group around and behind the eminent emir, and a diminutive groom proceeds on foot before him. The water is rendered in silver, now tarnished, and the background is dominated by stylized pink rock formations and two trees rendered in brown and green, the larger of which violates the frame. The parasol is rendered in orange and yellow; the clothing in blue, orange, purple, black and gray.

Miniature: 23.2 x 14.6 cm. One line of text above and below the miniature; frame encloses miniature and text. No apparent signs of damage or retouching. A marginal inscription in red, presumably of later date, describes the event depicted. Inscriptions in the same color and handwriting are written on the miniature itself, identifying Timur, Sultan ‘Ali Siāh Push, and the river.

**Miniature references:**

Mahboubian catalog, #923 folio 13 (not illustrated)

**Text references:**

Muntazar, p.14-15.

Savory, SA, p.27.

