

History of Shāh Esmā'il

folio 273v

Jāni Beg Visits Qāsem Khān

Following the massacre at Qarshi (f.241v), Emir Najm-e Sāni was bogged down in the siege of Ghojhdovān. Hearing of their plight, two Uzbek sultans from Transoxiana, Jāni Beg Solṭān and 'Abdollah Khān, assembled an army and marched against Emir Najm. A battle took place on 12 November 1512, and the *qezelbāsh* were scattered and thrown into confusion. Heartily sick of the haughty arrogance of Emir Najm, the *qezelbāsh* made little attempt to defend him, and he was subsequently taken prisoner and put to death. Encouraged by their victory, the Uzbek sultans saw the opportunity to invade and recapture Khorasan, which had been taken from them earlier by Esmā'il. Seeking to expand the size of their force, Jāni Beg called upon Qāsem Khān, the chieftain of a branch of Uzbeks in southern Russia, known as the Khanate of Qasemoff, for assistance. Qāsem Khān traced his lineage directly to Chengiz Khān, and considered himself the heir to that conqueror's territory. The Uzbek defeat of Emir Najm and Jāni Beg's convincing arguments persuaded Qāsem Khān to lend support, which he sent under the command of his son Abu'l Kheyir Khān (see folio 280).

Qāsem Khān is portrayed in the upper left the largest and most important personage in the miniature, seated on an elevated throne with four lion heads. He wears a maroon robe, an orange outer garment with a fur collar, and a large bejeweled gold crown. One attendant stands behind the throne, while three advisors, all wearing turbans, are seated in the left foreground. The setting is Qāsem Khān's tent, the front of which is open and drawn back. Behind him is a flat light mauve surface, and on the floor an off-white carpet with silver arabesques, on which are placed various decanters and dishes. The central vertical axis is devoid of any figures, but off to the right are three personage facing Qāsem Khān. The furthest back and most important of them is Jāni Beg Solṭān, who also wears a jewel studded crown. The three appear to be actively engaged in a discussion with Qāsem Khān and his advisors.

Miniature: 15.9 x 13.3 cm. Two lines of text above and below the miniature. Frame encloses miniature and text. A red marginal inscription, probably of later date, describes the event. Inscriptions in black are written on two figures, identifying them as Jāni Beg Solṭān and Qāsem Khān. The miniature is worn in places; minor smears in the calligraphy. No other signs of damage or retouching.

Miniature references:

Mahboubian Cat., #923 folio 273v, (not illustrated).

Text references:

Muntazar, p.483; Savory, SA, p.84.

