

The Story of Solṭān Firuzshāh

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.



The historians of events and the tellers of tales and the sugar-chewing parrots of fine discourse have related thus: In the time of the Emām who commands obedience and demands protection, the Emām Musā Kāzīm, who was the honorable ancestor of Solṭān Moḥammad Firuzshāh, Solṭān Seyyed Firuzshāh was living in the Abode of Right Guidance, Ardabil. God Almighty, by the light of divine knowledge and the flow of infallible causality, had raised that victorious and noble prince to a high station. Solṭān Adham Shāh, the son of Ebrāhim Adham, was king of Iran. In his time, most provinces, such as Ādharbāyjān, clung to the paths of Sunnism and Christianity, and the true sect of the Twelve Emāms was hidden.

When the fame of the perfection of Solṭān Firuzshāh had swept the world, it reached the hearing of the eminent king Solṭān Adham, the son of Solṭān Ebrāhim. The king's whole being was taken up with the fervent desire to see that garden of truth. When he arrived in Ardabil, the noble seyyeds and jurists and lords and common people all welcomed him. When Solṭān Adham's eye fell from afar on the beauty of Solṭān Firuzshāh, the light from the forehead of that chosen one of God was so resplendent that the world-illuminating sun was as darkest night next to it. He saw his own royal magnificence pale before the grandeur of that prince, brilliant like the eyes of a div. He was swept away by the pleasure of beholding that graceful rose, and love penetrated his heart so much that he opened his arms in mercy and affection and warmly embraced him. After this, they began to converse, asking each other about past affairs, then went together to the home of Solṭān Firuzshāh, forming an auspicious conjunction.¹ After some small talk, one Solṭān asked the other:

“What was the purpose of your undertaking such a long journey?”

¹ A reference to the astrologically significant “auspicious conjunction” of Jupiter and Venus (*qerān-e sa'dayn*).

Solṭān Adham replied: “The fame of your disciples had reached our ears, and some ignorant and superficial people said, ‘Don’t let Solṭān Firuzshāh gradually become lord over the land of Iran! It is better to test him, like miners do, by the touchstone of investigation. If he proves a fraud, purify him with the fire of wrath, so that by going through a few crucibles he may become genuine.’ No matter how much they repeated their talk about you in secret, though, hatred for you found no way into my heart; rather, perfect happiness befell my mind. Because of this, I got up and came here, and I was exalted by our meeting. Since not one speck of darkness is ever visible when I look in the mirror of your face, I would like you to do me a favor: Rule over Iran as a brother, for my mind is at peace regarding you.”

No matter how much Solṭān Adham importuned him in this way, Solṭān Firuzshāh kept refusing. Finally Solṭān Adham made him swear an oath to the holy Emāms, entreating him to accept the province of Ardabil as his fief.

Firuzshāh, because of the oath he had sworn, could not refuse what the Solṭān was saying, so he accepted.

Then Solṭān Adham took off his jeweled crown and placed it on his Firuzshāh’s head, saying: “We name you Solṭān Firuzshāh of the Golden Crown (*zarrin-kolāh*).”

After that, Solṭān Adham went off to Balkh. Solṭān Firuzshāh of the Golden Crown provided the people with guidance on the Straight Path until his appointed time came. When he became ill, he summoned his noble son ‘Evazolkhavāṣṣ, naming him in his will as his heir-apparent. Then he commended himself to God and was joined to His mercy.