

## Solṭān Morād Flees toward Shirāz; Moḥammad Karahi Captures Him and Sends Him to Shāh Esmā‘il, But He Flees Again

Solṭān Morād fled toward Shirāz until he reached Dasht-e Arzhan. Oghurlu Moḥammad and Abulfath Beg had captured the province of Fārs, but Ya‘qub Khān and Shaykh Ḥasan Beg Bāyandori fought with them near Juyom and defeated them, seizing Fārs for Solṭān Morād. When Solṭān Morād arrived, they went out to greet him and joined him right then and there.

After a few days the news arrived that Shāh Esmā‘il and his army were headed their way. Then a group of Qarā Qoyunlu and Bāyandori picked up Solṭān Morād and headed by another road to Shirāz and Abarqu. Solṭān Morād ordered that Moḥammad Karim Karahi, the head of the village of Hazār Khānvar, go to Shirāz to equip an army and make preparations.

Solṭān Morād soon drew near Abarqu, and Moḥammad Karim went out to meet him and led him into Abarqu.

When Shāh Esmā‘il heard that Solṭān Morād was in Abarqu, he made his way there and set up camp outside the citadel. Moḥammad Karahi climbed the tower of the fortress in order to size up the enemy forces; when he looked, he saw an army that stretched from one horizon to the other, and he quaked with terror. He came back down and conferred with his tribal grandees, saying, “Given the size of the Qezelbāsh army I have just seen, we do not have the power to land one blow on that army of the Pādeshāh who is the refuge of religion! We have to think of something!”

After deliberations, it was decided to seize Solṭān Morād and take him in fetters to the court of the Shāh. Moḥammad Karahi gathered his whole entourage and fell upon Solṭān Morād, killing many of his men and making him a prisoner. Realizing what was happening, most of his officers fled to Shirāz.

Then Moḥammad Karahi took Solṭān Morād, opened the citadel gate, and headed for the court of Shāh Esmā‘il. There, courtiers brought the news of the arrival of Moḥammad Karahi and the seizure of Solṭān Morād to the attention of His Majesty.

The Shāh ordered that Solaymān Āqā, a Ṣufi from Anatolia, clap Solṭān Morād in chains and watch over him, as there would be a tribunal the next morning. Moḥammad Karahi kissed the royal feet, and Esmā‘il praised and rewarded him.

Solaymān Āqā said to his prisoner, “It is the order of His Majesty that I put chains on your neck and feet—don’t take it personally.” He took the chains and put them on Solṭān Morād.

Solṭān Morād said, “If you are generous to me, I will give you a memento that will bring good fortune to seventy generations of your descendants.”

Now Solaymān Āqā was a greedy Turk, one who would torture his own mother for a dinar. It happened that Solṭān Morād had one of the armbands which had come down to Ḥasan Pādesihāh from Amir Timur Kurgān; it was worth fifty thousand tumāns. Solṭān Morād gave it to Solaymān Āqā, and the eyes of that supposed Ṣufi lit up when he saw all those jewels. He removed the chains, gave Solṭān Morād a steed which was as swift as the wind, and sent him off toward Shirāz. That hypocrite did this deed early in the night; later, when midnight came, he broke the chains, let out a shout, and went to Ḥosayn Beg Laleh and Najm Rashti, crying, “Solṭān Morād has escaped!” They expressed great regret, saying, “Think about your own situation, for His Majesty will not let you get away with this.”

In the morning, Ḥosayn Beg Laleh informed Shāh Esmā‘il of the escape of Solṭān Morād. Esmā‘il was furious and ordered his men to seize Solaymān Āqā. “You interloper!” he said to him. “You set Solṭān Morād free from his chains, and now you have come here and are lying about it!” Then he repeated to him everything he had been told.

Shāh Esmā‘il then said, “O impostor, did you take Solṭān Morād’s armband and free him from his chains?” Solaymān Āqā was about to deny it when Esmā‘il ordered that the guards strip the armband from his arm. When the Ṣufis saw this miracle, they all prostrated themselves and said, “Truly, he is the son of Mortazā ‘Ali; this is how the Perfect Guide must be!” The hypocrite Solaymān Āqā was then put to death.

Just then Maṣur Beg Pornāk arrived from Shirāz. He prostrated himself and kissed the royal feet. The Shāh asked him, “Maṣur Beg, where are you coming from?” He replied, “When the news arrived that Moḥammad Karahi had captured Solṭān Morād and entrusted him to the servants of the royal court, this least of your slaves came to greet the army which is the refuge of victory, and to come serve Your Majesty in Fārs. Word has spread of the capture of Solṭān Morād, so most of the Āq Qoyunlu Torkmāns have scattered, and none of them remain in Shirāz.”

“Didn’t you see Solṭān Morād as you were on the Shirāz road?” asked Shāh Esmā‘il. When Maṣur Beg heard this, the color drained out of his face and he staggered backward.

Esmā‘il said, “What’s the matter with you?”

“When Solṭān Morād goes to Shirāz and hears that I have come out to welcome His Majesty, he will plunder my house and property and children!”

The Shāh comforted Maṣṣur Beg and ordered Elyās Beg Ḥalvāchi-oghli to gather three thousand men and hasten with Maṣṣur Beg to Shirāz, saying, “We will follow close behind.”