

His Majesty Arrives at Yazd, and Moḥammad Karahi is Killed

Shāh Esmā‘il and his world-conquering army arrived on the outskirts of Yazd in a season so hot that the very souls of the brave were scorched.¹ The flames of hell were manifest in the air, and swords melted like candle-wax in their scabbards from the fury of the heat. The Qezelbāsh formed ranks around His Majesty, and fighting flared up on both sides. With blows of sword and musket-ball they turned the brains of valiant men into mush and the breasts of lions into beehives.

The arrows of the champions with bows like Rostam’s
 Flew to heaven like prayers.
 On that battlefield the wounds inflicted by arrows
 Removed men from the sight of sun and moon.
 So many were the heads fallen atop each other
 That they piled up higher than the celestial sphere.
 In that melee, the fortress’s forty-cubit wall
 Became as if latticed with arrows.

In short, the men drew the sword of vengeance and battle and hoisted the standards of war and strife. In the midst of all this, the Qezelbāsh burst into the city and killed a great number of the Karahi. Moḥammad Karahi himself fled to a tall tower known as the Naqqāreh-khāneh and barricaded himself therein, forgetting the glorious verse: “Wherever you are, death shall overtake you, though you be in lofty towers.”²

After he had been there a while, it was ordered that a great mass of firewood be set alight at the foot of the tower he was in. To flee the flames and smoke, Moḥammad Karahi made a hole in the wall, and he was about to escape through it when Qezelbāsh ghāzis on ladders seized him and two other people. It was ordered that he be put in an iron cage, like Ḥosayn Kiyā.

They spurred the steed of wrath atop his head;
 They made him like a bird, a prisoner of a cage.

¹ In this chapter, the narrator has again used Ḥasan Beg Rumlu for his text (Rumlu, 1004–5).

² Qor‘ān 4:78.

The cage became a trap of calamity for his body,
A prisoner in an iron jail.

Then it was ordered that honey be smeared all over his body so that that foolish man would be stung by bees. He was kept that way for a while, until Shāh Esmā'il returned from his assault on Ṭabas. Then he and 'Abdi Beg [*sic*] were burned in the public square in Eşfahān.