

THE CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH OF CYRUS

The story about the marriage of Mandane and Cambyses I recorded by Herodotus is mirrored in the *Šāhnāme*, yet not very clearly, in the story relating the marriage of Farangis and Seyāvūš. Likewise, the story of Cyrus' birth and his upbringing by herdsmen in the mountains is parallel to the story of Kay Xosrow.

1. The Dream of Astyages before the Marriage of Mandane

Herodotus, I, 107:

"Astyages had a daughter called Mandane, and he dreamed one night that she made water in such enormous quantities that it filled his city and swamped the whole of Asia. He told his dream to the Magi whose business it was to interpret such things, and was much alarmed by what they said it meant." Ferdousi, *Seyāvūš*, v. 1490—1493:

و دیگر که از پیش کندآوران	ز کار ستاره شمر بخردان
شمار ستاره بپیش پدر	همی راندندی همه در بدر
کزین دو نژاده یکی شهریار	بباید بگیرد جهان در کنار
بتوران نماید برو بوم و رست	کلاه من اندازد از کین نخست

"(Afrāsyaḅ to Pirān:) And besides I have heard from the investigators of the stars, proud of their knowledge, who had several times before drawn horoscopes from the stars in the presence of my father, that this marriage shall bring the birth of a king who will seize the whole world, raze Turān to the ground, and in the first place he will defile my royal calpac."

H., I, 107:

"(...) when Mandane was old enough to marry, he (Astyages) did not give her to some Mede of suitable rank, but was induced by his fear of the dream's significance to marry her to a Persian named Cambyses, a man he knew to be of good family and quiet habits — though he considered him much below a Mede even of middle rank."

So Afrāsyaḅ gave his daughter to Seyāvūš, whom he knew as a man of good manners.

Seyāvūš, v. 1499—1500:

بدو گفت پیران که ای شهریار	دلت را بدین کار غمگین مدار
کسی کز نژاد سیاوش بود	خردمند و بیدار و خامش بود

"Pirān said to him (Afrāsyaḅ):

— O, my lord! Let not this affair trouble thy heart! That one to whom Seyāvūš will give birth, must be wise, prudent and silent."

2. The dream of Astyages before the birth of Cyrus

H., I, 108:

“Before Mandane and Cambyses had been married a year, Astyages had another dream. This time it was that a vine grew from his daughter’s private parts and spread over Asia. As before, he told the interpreters about his dream, and then sent for his daughter, who was now pregnant. When she arrived, he kept her under strict watch, intending to make away with her child; for the fact was that the Magi had interpreted the dream to mean that his daughter’s son would usurp his throne.”

Seyāvūš, v. 2358—2362:

که اورا بکوی آورید از نهفت	بگرسبوز بدنشان شاه گفت
بر روزبانان مردم کشان	ز پرده بدرگه بریدش کشان
بدرند بر بر همه چادرش	بدان تا بگیرند موی سرش
بریزد برین بوم توران زمین	ز نندش همی چوب تا تخم کین
نه شاخ ونه برگ ونه تاج ونه تخت	دخواهم ز بیخ سیاوش درخت

“Said (Afrāsīyāb) to the despicable Gersivez:

— Drag her (Farangis) out of the chamber to the castle at once, give her to the tortures, the assassins, let them pluck her hair out of her head, tear the veil on her breasts. Let them beat her till she drops the seed of revenge here, on the Turan soil. I do not want from the roots of *Seyāvūš* neither the tree, nor the leaves, the crown and the throne!”

H., I 109:

[Harpagus does not want to kill Cyrus]

Seyāvūš. b. 2438—2442:

بسی آفرین کرد و بردش نثار	سپهبد بیامد بر شهریار
تو گویی برو بر گذشتست سال	بران برز و بالا و آن شاخ و بال
همی کرد تفرین بر افراسیاب	ز بهر سیاوش دو دیده پر آب
که گر بگسلد زین سخن جان من	چنین گفت با نامدار انجمن
مراگر سپارد بچنگ نهنگ	نمانم که یازد بدین شاه چنگ

“The chieftain (Pirān) came to the king (new-born Kay Xosrow), he brought him gifts and praised the Creator for this lofty figure, these shoulders and breast, as if the whole year had already passed since his birth. Tears filled his eyes when he recalled *Seyāvūš*, and he cursed Afrāsīyāb. Thus spoke he to the famous warriors:

— Even though (Afrāsīyāb) took my life for it, I would not let him reach his hands for this king (Kay Xosrow)! Even though he threw me into a throat of a crocodile!”

According to Herodotus, Astyages gives young Cyrus to a herdsman and bids him to kill Cyrus; according to Ferdousi however, Pirān bids the herdsman to spare Kay Xosrow.

H., I, 110—111:

“He (Harpagus) promptly sent a messenger to one of the king’s herdsmen,

who he knew had a stretch of pasture in the mountains ranged by wild beasts, and therefore most suitable for the purpose in hand (...).

The herdsman made haste to answer the summons, and Harpagus said to him: "The king's orders are that you must expose this infant in the wildest spot you know of amongst the hills, where it may soonest die."

Seyāvūs, v. 2470—2472:

و زان خرد چندی سخنها براند	شبانان کوه قلارا بخواند
نیاید که بیند ورا باد و خاک	که این را بدارید چون جان پاک
اگر دیده و دل کند خواستار	نباید که تنگ آیدش روزگار

"(Pirān) called the herdsmen from the Qalā mountains and told them many things about the little one:

"Guard him as thou guard thy own souls! Neither the earth nor the wind dare to touch him. He should not lack anything in the world even if it were thy eye or heart!"

3. The meeting of Astyages with ten years old Cyrus

H., I, 114:

"When the boy was ten years old, his identity was revealed in the way I will now relate. He and some other boys were playing the game of "Kings" in the street of the village, where Mitrادات kept his oxen, and it so happened that Cyrus — the supposed son of the herdsman — was one whom the boys picked as their king (...) one of the players, who happened to be the son of a distinguished Mede called Artembares, refused to do what King Cyrus commanded, and Cyrus ordered his arrest. The other boys accordingly seized him, and Cyrus beat him savagely with a whip (...) Artembares was very angry. He took his boy to Astyages, and reported the monstrous treatment he had received...

(...) Astyages had guessed who he was, for that was not the answer of a slave; (...)

Seyāvūs, v. 2479—2487:

بزخم گراز آمد و خرس و گرگ	چو دهساله شد گشت گردی سترگ
هم آن چوب خمیده بد ساز جنگ	و زادجاگه شد بشیر و پلنگ
بیامد بفرمان آموزگار	چنین تا برآمد برین روزگار
بنالید و نزدیک پیران گذشت	شبان اندر آمد ز کوه و زدشت
سوی پهلوان آمدم با گله	که من زین سرافراز شیر یله
بر شیر و جنگ پلنگان نجست	همی کرد نخچیر آهو نخست
همانست و نخچیر آهو همان	کنون نزد او جنگ شیر دمان
بیاویزدم پهلوان بلند	نباید که آید برو بر گزند
نماند نژاد و هنر در نهفت	چو بشتید پیران بخندید و گفت

When he was ten, he was a fierce warrior, he hunted wild boars, wolves and bears and then also lions and panthers, and his weapons was a curved stick. And so, for some time, he was obedient to his host.

— And a herdsman came from the steppe and from the mountains and went to Pirān to complain.

— To you, pahlavān, I came with a grievance against that hero brave as a lion. First he hunted gazelles and did not look for the paths of panthers and lions, but now all is the same to him — a panther or a lion, or the hunt for gazelles. I wish not any adventure to trouble him since the noble pahlavān entrusted me with him.

Then Pirān laughed and said:

— Neither the stock nor the art can be concealed.

H., I, 121:

“Astyages (...) called Cyrus and said to him: “I did you a wrong, my boy, because of a dream which was not fulfilled; but your own fortune saved you. Be off now to Persia — I will give you an escort on your way — and good luck to you. You will find a father and a mother there)...”

Seyāvūs, v. 2531—2532:

نیارارخ از شرم او شد پر آب	بیامد بنزدیک افراسیاب
بدان شاخ و آن فر و اورنگ او	بران خسروی یال و آن چنگ او

When he came to Afrāsyaḅ, the tears of shame rose to the eyes of the grandfather, when he saw the king's shoulders, arms, dignity and majesty.

Seyāvūs, v. 2543—2546:

سوی پهلوان سپه کرد روی	بخندید خسرو ز گفتار اوی
ز سر پرشمش پاسخ آرد ز پای	بدو گفت کین دل ندارد بجای
نه زینسان بود مردم کینه جوی	نیاید همانا بد و نیک ازوی
بدست یکی مرد پرهیزگار	رو این را بخوبی بمادر سپار

The king laughed at these words and thus addressed the pahlavan:

(...) Go, you can safely give him to his mother and commit him to a cautious man...

THE WAR FOR THE PERSIAN LIBERATION

Olmstead relates scant information about the war between Cyrus and Astyages:¹

“As Nabu-naid tells it, in his accession year the gods Marduk and Sin appeared to him in a dream. Marduk bade him to restore the Harran temple; we wonder whether the priests of Esagila approved. When Nabu-naid fearfully protested that the Mede surrounded it and that he was exceedingly strong, Marduk answered: “the Mede of whom you are speaking, he himself, his land, and the kings who march at his side are not! When the third year comes, the

¹ Olmst., pp. 36—37.

gods will cause Cyrus, king of Anshan, his little slave, to advance against him with his small army. He will overthrow the wide extending Medes; he will capture Astyages, king of the Medes, and take him captive to his land.

In this hope, Nabu-naid made alliance with Cyrus, who thereupon openly rebelled against Media. To fulfil his part of the agreement, Nabu-naid promptly levied an army against the "rebels" who lived in the countries once held by Nebuchadnezzar. Before he left, Nabu-naid handed over the "kingship" of Babylonia to his eldest son, Belshar-usur (...), and started off for Harran. No aid for the city was possible, since the revolt of Cyrus kept Astyages busy at home, and Harran was quickly recovered. The city was rebuilt, and the army had laid the temple foundations by 555.

(...) Astyages did send out against his rebellious vassal an army under Harpagus, but he had forgotten how he had cruelly slain that general's son; Harpagus did not forget and promptly deserted to Cyrus, bringing over with him most of his soldiers. A second army, commanded by Astyages in person, reached the capital of Parsa; here it mutinied, seized its king, and handed him over to Cyrus. Ecbatana was captured, and its wealth of gold, an precious objects was carried off to Anshan (550)."

1. The agreement between Cyrus and Harpagus

Acc. to Herodotus, I, 123—124, Harpagus, whose son was killed by Astyages, concludes an agreement with young Cyrus and summons him to fight against Astyages.

Acc. to Ferdousi (*Zohāk*, v. 183—218 and 227—245), Kāveh, whose son was to be killed by Zohāk, comes to an understanding with young Feridun and drives him into the war against Zohāk.

Geršāsp, v. 104—118, 113—162 and 170—183:

Rostam comes to young Kayqobād with a mission to prompt him to seize the throne of Iran and to participate in the war with Afrāsyāb.

Seyāvus, v. 3021—3034, 3128—3132 and 3139—3157:

Giv finds young Kay Xosrow and takes him to Iran, thus enabling him to revenge Afrāsyāb.

2. The unification of the Persian tribes

Cyrus began plotting against Astyages with bringing the Persian tribes into the union.²

H., I 125:

"The Persian nation contains a number of tribes, and the ones which Cyrus assembled and persuaded to revolt were Pasargadae, Maraphii and Maspaii, upon which all the other tribes are dependent. Of these the Pasargadae are the most distinguished; they contain the clan of the Achaemenidae from which spring the Perseid kings."

² I. V. Piankov, *Obrazovaniye deržavy Axemenidov*, Iigk, p. 86.

On the other hand, judging from the context of the preserved fragment, Hellanicus wrote about the fight against the Medes undertaken by Cyrus and his two brothers, Marafis and the second one, whose name in this fragment is illegible. It may read like Μέφις or Μέμφις. It is possible that those three brothers correspond to the three tribes mentioned by Herodotus.³

Zohāk, v. 254—258:

فریدون سبک ساز رفتن گرفت	سخن را زهر کس نهفتن گرفت
برادر دو بودش دو فرخ همال	از و هر دو آزاده مهتر بسال
یکی بود از ایشان کیانوش نام	دگر نام پرمایه شاد کام
فریدون بر ایشان زبان برگشاد	که خرم زئید ای دلیران و شاد
که گردون نگردهد بجز بر بهی	بما باز گردد کلاه مهی

“Soon Feridun began to prepare himself for the travel and he concealed his intentions from everyone. Two brothers and he, two fortunate companions and both distinguished ones were older than he was. One was called Kayānuš and the second one bore a fortunate name Pormāye. To them Feridun opened his mouth:

— May life be propitious to you, oh, the brave and happy ones! May the heaven bring only good unto you, may the crown of might return to us!”

3. The defeat of Astyages

Acc. to Ctesias, at first Astyages was not taken prisoner, but he managed to flee to Ecbatana and to find a shelter there. Having invaded Ecbatana, Cyrus ordered to torture Astyages' daughter Amitida and her husband Spitames as well as their sons Spitakes and Megabernes; then Astyages surrendered to Cyrus so as to deliver his relatives from the tortures.⁴

Gang-e hozorg-e Kay Xosrow bā Afrāsyāb, v. 2306-2313:

برفتند با تیغ و گیلی سپر	بفرمود تا روزبانان در
که آشوب ازو بد بر و بوم را	ببردند گرسیوز شوم را
ز رخ پرده شرم را بردید	بدژخیم فرمود تا برکشید
چنین تا نمازش بتن هیچ تاو	همی دوخت بر کتف او خام گاو
جهان آفرین را همی یار خواست	برو پوست بدرید و زندهار خواست
پر از درد گریان بر آمد ز آب	چو بشنید آوازش افراسیاب
بیامد بجایی که بد پایگاه	بدریا همی کرد پای آشناه
برو بتر آمد ز مرگ آنج دید	ز خشکی چو بادگ برادر شنید

“He (Kay Xosrow) ordered the guards of the gate to seize their Gilān swords and shields and to fetch the despicable Gersivez who threw the world into confusion. He ordered the torturer to remove, to tear off the veil of shame from the face; to flog his back with a cowhide till his soul leaves the body; to tear off his skin till he begs for mercy, begs the Creator of the world for help.

Having heard his voice, Afrāsyāb, driven to desperation, emerged crying

³ Cf. *Ibid.*, pp. 86—87.

⁴ Cf. I. M. Diakonov, *Istoriya Midii*, p. 422.

from the water and swam on the surface of the lake till he arrived to a place where he could set his foot. There he heard his brother screaming and what he saw was worse even than the death itself."

THE CONQUESTS OF CYRUS

It seems that the war between Cyrus and Croesus did not leave so distinct traces in the Persian epos as the war with Astyages, or the wars with Hyrcanians, with the Sacae or with the Babylonia which bring to mind several fragments from the *Šāhnāme*.

It is possible to trace some fragments of the legend concerning the war with Croesus among the legends of Zohāk, in the story about the seven services of Rostam and in the story about Seyāvūš.

On the other hand, the legends which seem to mirror the later wars of Cyrus are more promising. Indeed, they are the substantial source of information. The stories of Kay Xosrow themselves, which, according to many scholars¹, reflect the life of Cyrus, constitute more than one fifth of the whole epos. Nonetheless, I will try to demonstrate that not all of these stories and not only they may refer to the events from the times of Cyrus' conquests.

In comparison with the story concerning Cyrus' childhood, which introduces us into the already historic events of the Persian liberation war and of the defeat of the Median empire, Herodotus pays less attention to them. Because it is impossible to compare some of the legends contained in the *Šāhnāme* with those which could have been recorded directly from oral tradition by an ancient historian, we shall confront some of those legends with the accounts of modern research in history.

To-day we know² that about 545 Cyrus conquered Varkana i.e. Hyrcania (modern Māzanderān and Gorgān), then Parthava (Xorāsān), then moving further to the East, he defeated Haraiva, i.e. Aria with the capital Artocoana (Herāt), here being aided by the Ariaspi from the region adjoining the Etymandrus (Helmand) river, then he conquered Sogdiana lying between Oxus and Yaxartes with the capital in Maracanda (Samarcand), then the land of the Massagetae and Xorazmians; later, on his way back he seized (probably) Marguš (Marv), then Bactria (previously Zariaspa, now Balx), finally Gandara and Sattagydia (Eastern Afghanistan).³ Nothing definite is known of his route back. We know however, that, "(...) Cyrus made ready to invade the alluvium as soon as he had returned from the eastern campaigns. Before the snows of the

¹ T. Nöldeke, *Das iranische Nationalepos*, GIP, II, p. 132—133; F. Justi, *Geschichte Irans...*, GIP, II, p. 416; Hfd, *Zor*, I, p. 48, 320; T. Kowalski, *Studia nad Šāh-nāme*, I, p. 44.

² Cf. Olmst, pp. 45—49.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 113.

winter of 540—539 could fill the passes, he was on the border.”⁴ We know also that he attacked Babylon from the north-west.⁵ It may be possible then, that he came back to Ecbatana from his campaign to the East.

These campaigns can be detected in the *Šahnāme* in the stories about Feridun, in the three stories about Kay Kāwus (*Pādešāhi-ye Kay Kāwus va raftan-e u be Māzanderān*, *Razm-e Kāwus bā šāh-e Hāmāverān* and *Dāstān-e Seyāvūs*) and in the story of Kay Xosrow (*Ġang-e bozorg-e Kay Xosrow bā Afrāsyāb*).

1. The Hyrcania campaign

This campaign was only the first stage of the great campaign of Cyrus. The next stage was the great march to the East: Parthava, Haraiva, Sogdiana, then the lands of the Massagetae and Xorasmians.

The motives of Cyrus' campaign against the Massagetae are symptomatic (in the work of Herodotus, Cyrus defines them before setting out for the second campaign to the East. (It is worth comparing them with the motives which, according to Asadi from Tus, drove Feridun when he decided to conquer Xāvar.

H., I, 204:

“The greater part of this region is occupied by the Massagetae whom Cyrus wished to attack. There were many things which roused his ambition and gave him courage to undertake this new war, the two most important being the legend of his superhuman origin and the success of all his previous campaigns; for it was fact that till then it had been impossible for any nation to escape, once he had marched against it.”

Kay Kāwus va raftan-e u be Māzanderān, v. 15, 17—18, 35—40:

همی خورد روزی می خوشگوار	چنان بد که در گلشن ز رنگار
همی رای زد شاه بر بیش و کم	ابا پهلوانان ایران بهم
بیامد که خواهد بر شاه بار	چو رامشگری دیو زی پرده دار
برآورد مازندرانسی سرود	ببربط چو بایست بر ساخت رود
یکی تازه اندیشه افگند بن	چو کاوس بشنید از او این سخن
که لشکر کشد سوی مازندران	دل رزمجویش بیست اندران
که ما سر نهادیم یکسر بیزم	چنین گفت با سرفرازان رزم
نگردد ز آسایش و کام سیر	اگر گاهلی پیشه گیرد دلیر
فزونم ببخت و بفر و بداد	من از جم و ضحاک و از کیقباد
جهانجوی باید سر تاجور	فزون بایدم زان ایشان هنر

“It was some time ago when Kay Kāwus was sitting in a golden garden and, full of bliss, was drinking wine (...) and was disputing with the warriors of Iran about this and that, devil disguised as a harpist asked the doorkeeper to let him to the king. (...)

⁴ Ibid., p. 49.

⁵ Cf. F. Justi, *Geschichte des alten Persiens*, pp. 38—39.

The king ordered to let him in and to seat him before the musicians. He tuned the strings properly, then began a Māzanderān song. (...)

When Kāwus heard these words from him, a new affliction arose in his soul. And in his courageous heart he instilled a thought that he would lead his troops to Māzanderān. Thus spoke he to the proud warriors:

— We are all here enjoying this feast. When a warrior idles away his time, he has never enough of bliss and comforts. In happiness, glory and in justice, I am greater than Ġamšid, Zohāk and Kayqobād. I should surpass them in the warfare; the greed for conquering the world becomes the kings.”

Asadi of Tus, *Geršāspnāme*.⁶

به هر کشور انگيخت کار آگاهان
به خاور زمین با درفش و سپاه
دل هرکس آرد به پیمان او
به نزد سپهدار گیتی ستان
جهان پهلوان کرد زاول خدای
به ما کرد تاج شهی ارجمند
به هر مهر و منشور بر نام ماست
که بر تن بود پادشاه از نخست
هش و رای دستور و دانش سپاه
شدم نیز بر خسروان شهریار

نشستگه آمل گزید از جهان
فرستاد مر کاوه را کینه خواه
که راند بدان مرز فرمان او
دگر نامه یی کرد زی سیستان
به گر شاسب کین جوی کشور گشای
تو را مژده بادا که چرخ بلند
دل هر شهی بستۀ کام ماست
کسی را سزد پادشاهی درست
خرد افسرش باشد و دادگاه
مرا این همه هست از کرد کار

“From among many lands, chose (Feridun) Āmul as his seat. He dispatched his scouts to all countries. He sent the revengeful Kāveh to the land of Xāvar⁷ with the banner and the army, to carry his order to this land, and to induce submission in the hearts of everyone. Such letters sent he to Sistān, to the hero conquering the world, to Geršāsp, eager for revenge, the conqueror of the lands, the pahlavān of the world, the lord of Zāvul:

— Listen to the good news that the high heaven entrusted me at last with the crown of the kingdom, that the hearts of all kingdoms depend on my will, that they stamp all letters with my name. That man is entitled to the true kingdom who is superior to the previous kings, who is both wise and just, who instead of dasturs has wisdom and reason, and instead of the army, knowledge. And all these the Creator gave unto me, so I became the ruler of the kings.”

Āmul is situated in Māzanderān. Asadi's account of Āmul as Feridun's capital is not isolated.⁸ As we know, Cyrus deemed himself to be the king of the defeated countries.⁹ This might be the source of information that Feridun was

⁶ Cf., FNA, I, p. 395.

⁷ The term used here, Xāvar zamin denotes probably Xorazm (Xuvārazm — OP huvāra'zmin), cf., AirWb, pp. 1855—1856; cf. also, E. Herzfeld, *The Persian Empire*, p. 325. NB, Wolff notices that the statement Xāvar zamin appears in the Šn twice (p. 34) and the expression ze Xāvar tā Bāxtar — nine times (p. 101), and never ze Bāxtar tā Xāvar. — Cyrus' army, having conquered Xorazm, marched to Bactria, but not the other way round. Cf. also p. 79 of this work.

⁸ Cf., *Māzanderān*, p. 81f.

⁹ Cf. e.g., Olmst., pp. 49—52.

building a palace in Varena (Gilān), that Kay Kāwus was the king of Balx or that he moved there his capital from Irāq¹⁰

According to Herodotus then, Cyrus undertakes his north-east campaign to satisfy his own pride. According to Ferdousi, the same motive underlies Kay Kāwus campaign against Xāvar Zamin (Xorazm).¹¹

We know, that besides Āmul, Xorazm was an equally important stage of Cyrus' campaign. As we shall see, according to Ferdousi, it was also an important stage of Kay Xosrow's campaign.

2. The Massagetae campaign

Razm-e Kay Kāwus bā šāh-e Hāmāverān, v. 1—6:

<p>که در پادشاهی بجنید زجای گذر کرد ازان پش بمکران زمین میانها ندید ایچ رنج از گره نکرد آزمون گاو با شیر تاو جهانجوی با تخت و افسر شدند زمانه دگر گونه تر شد برنگ</p>	<p>ازان پش چننین کرد کاوس رای از ایران بشد تا بتوران و چین زمکران شد آراسته تا زره پذیرفت هر مهتری باژ و ساو چنین هم گرازان ببربر شدند شه بربرستان بیاراست جنگ</p>
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“Afterwards Kay Kāwus resolved to march out in the royal glory. He set out from Iran to Turān and China. and then he crossed the land of Mekrān; from Mekrān he went to the Zere and nowhere any army disturbed him. He collected tributes from all the noble, as the timid game did not dare to struggle against the lion. In that manner he entered Barbar with dignity, he marched avid of the world, with the throne marched he and with the crown. The king of Barbaristān welcomed him with the war and the fate turned otherwise.”

A similar rout, but in a different order, is described by Ferdousi several lines later:

Ibid., v. 20—25:

<p>برآمد ابا ناله کره نای سوی کوه قاف آمد و باختر نیایش کنان بر گرفتند راه بسرببر نهادند باژ گران بی آزار رفتند شاه و سپاه بمهمانی پور دستان کشید</p>	<p>وزانجایگه بانگ سنج و درای چو آمد بر شهر مکران گذر چو آگاهی آمد بریشان ز شاه پذیره شدندش همه مهتران چو فرمان گزیدند بگرفت راه سپه را سوی زابلستان کشید</p>
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“Then the peal of the bells and the gongs began to ring and the horns to sound. When (the king) crossed the land of Mekrān, he marched for the Qāf mountains and for Bāxtar. There, when they heard about him, all came out on the road, bowing. All the powerful entertained him and paid heavy tributes. When he saw their submission, he set forth and they marched undisturbed — the king and his army. He led his troops to Zābulistān, to call upon the son of Dastān.”

¹⁰ Cf., *TabTar*, II, p. 535, cf., also Mas'udi, *Les prairies d'or*, I, p. 202.

¹¹ Cf. note 7 to this chapter.

Ġang-e bozorg-e Kay Xosrow bā Afrāsyāb, b. 340—344:

گرازیدن و ساز لشکر بدید	سپهدار چون در بیابان رسید
همه ریگ و دشت از در رزم بود	سپه را گذر سوی خوارزم بود
میان ریگ و پیش اندر افراسیاب	بچپ بر دهستان و بر راست آب
بیاراست روی زمین یکسره	چو خورشید سر زد ز برج بره
بزد نای رویین و صف بر کشید	سپهدار ترکان سپه را بدید

“When the Lord reached the desert, he saw the march and drawing up the troops in the battle-array, and the army moved towards Xorasm, and the war spread on the steppe and on the sands. To the left was Dahestān, to the right the water, all around the sand, in front of them Afrāsyāb.

When the sun emerged from the Tower of Aries and adorned the whole earth, the lord of the Turks saw these troops, he ordered to blow the flutes and aligned his army.”

Ibid., v. 616:

بدانجایگه مرز خوارزم بود	بیابان که آن از در رزم بود
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“The desert where they fought the battle was within the confines of Xorazm.”

In a letter sent from the campaign to Kay Kāwus, Kay Xosrow writes:

Ibid., v. 860:

سه جنگ گران کرده شد در سه شب	رسیدم ز ایران بریگ فرب
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“I came from Iran to the sands of Farab, I fought three hard battles in three nights.”

After the lost battles, Afrāsyāb withdrew behind the Ġeyhun:

Ibid., v. 874:

همی خواست کآیند شیران بجنگ	همی بودش اندر بخارا درنگ
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“He rested in Buxārā and still wished the lions to begin to fight.”

The troops of Afrāsyāb, in fear of the Iranian offensive:

Ibid., v. 888:

همه دیده پر آب و دل پر ز خون	برفتند یکسر بگلزریون
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“All set off towards Golzarreyun, with their eyes full of tears, and their hearts full of blood.”

Ibid., v. 890:

بجایی نبودش فراوان درنگ	برفتند زان جایگه سوی گنگ
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“From there they went towards Gang and nowhere did they linger.”

Ibid., v. 1086—1087: