



## BEHZĀD

**BEHZĀD**, the name of the black horse belonging successively to Sīāvoš, Kay Ƙosrow, and Goštāsb. Like Raḳš, Rostam's horse, Behzād understood human language and feelings. As he was dying, Sīāvoš whispered in Behzād's ear that he should let no one mount him other than Sīāvoš's son Kay Ƙosrow (*Šāh-nāma*, Moscow, III, p. 143 vv. 2203-10). After Sīāvoš's death, therefore, Behzād stayed away from humans and joined a herd of wild horses. Kay Ƙosrow went looking for him and as soon as Behzād spotted the prince he recognized him at once (*Šāh-nāma* III, pp. 209-11).

The *Šāh-nāma* does not state explicitly that Goštāsb's horse Behzād (*Šāh-nāma* VI, p. 113) was the same Behzād that had belonged to Sīāvoš and Kay Ƙosrow, but one can assume that, when Kay Ƙosrow passed on his crown, throne, and harem to Lohrāsb (*Šāh-nāma* V, pp. 406-10), he also gave him the horse, which Lohrāsb in turn passed on to his son Goštāsb. According to the *Zarātošt-nāma* (ed. M. Dabīrsīāqī, Tehran, 1338 Š./1959, vv. 942-1094), one of the wonders performed by Zarathustra was the healing of Goštāsb's horse, referred to only as "the black horse."

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