



FARĪBORZ

FARĪBORZ, son of Key Kāvūs. Ṭabarī (I, p. 605) and Bal'amī (ed. Bahār, I, p. 603) have recorded his name as Borzāfarah, whereas Ebn al-Balkī (pp. 44-45) has it as Zarāfah. The author of the *Mojmal al-tawāriḵ* (ed. Bahār, p. 29) refers to him as Borzfarī, which, according to him, Ferdowsī changed to Farīborz in order to fit the meter of the *Šāh-nāma*. The name Borzāfarah may be related to Barzapharnes, the name of a Parthian general under Pacorus (Debevoise, pp. 110, 112).

According to the *Šāh-nāma*, upon Kay Ḳosrow's return to Iran from Tūrān, a conflict developed between Ṭōs, the commander of the army, and Gōdarz (q.v.) over whether Kay Ḳosrow or Farīborz, his uncle, should succeed Kay Kāvūs, his grandfather, as king. Ṭōs maintained that Kay Ḳosrow, as the son of Afrāsīāb's daughter, was a dangerous choice for the Iranian throne, and together with his family supported Farīborz, while Gōdarz and his family favored Kay Ḳosrow. To settle the dispute, which was about to lead to civil war, Kay Kāvūs proposed that the succession should go to whichever of the two could conquer Dež-e Bahman (q.v.), a fortress near Ardabīl believed to be the abode of demons. Farīborz and Ṭōs failed to take the fortress, but Kay Ḳosrow was able to capture it (*Šāh-nāma*, ed. Khaleghi, II, pp. 456-67; *Mojmal*, ed. Bahār, p. 47).

After Ṭōs disregarded Kay Ḳosrow's order to avoid Dež-e Kalāt (see FORŪD) and the army of Iran under his command was defeated during the first campaign against Tūrān, Kay Ḳosrow replaced Ṭōs with Farīborz (*Šāh-nāma*, ed. Khaleghi, III, pp. 77-102; Ṭabarī, pp. 605-08; Bal'amī, ed. Bahār, I, pp. 603-6).



Despite making no progress against Tūrān, Farīborz remained with Kay Ƙosrow's armies. Farīborz's most important adventure was his killing of Golbād, the Turanian hero, in a single battle (*Šāh-nāma*, ed. Khaleghi, IV, p. 118). Ṭabarī (I, p. 613) and Bal'amī (ed. Bahār, I, p. 613) also refer to this event, adding that Kay Ƙosrow rewarded Farīborz with many gifts and appointed him governor of Kermān and Makrān. According to a spurious account in the *Šāh-nāma* (Moscow, IV, pp. 315-18), upon Rostam's encouragement, Farīborz married Kay Ƙosrow's mother Farangīs (q.v.).

Farīborz is one of the heroes who accompanied Kay Ƙosrow into the desert as far as a spring (locally believed to be Čašma-ye Mešī in Kohgīlūya; Enjavī, II, pp. 292-93), where Kay Ƙosrow met the angel Soroš and disappeared; the heroes all perished in a snow storm on their return journey (*Šāh-nāma*, ed. Khaleghi, IV, pp. 365-70). A mountain pass called Molla-ye Bīžan in the Kohgīlūya district is believed by the local population to be the place where the heroes died (*Fārs-nāma*, ed. Rastgār, p. 1472; Enjavī, II, p. 274).

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