



GOSTAHAM

GOSTAHAM (< OI.*Vistaxma, "wielder of far-reaching power"; New. Pers. Gostaham, BestĀm; see Justi, *Nāmenbuch*, pp. 371-72), name of two heroes in the *Šāh-nāma*.

1. Son of Nōḍar and younger brother of Țōs (*Šāh-nāma*, ed. Khaleghi, I, p. 302). Gostaham is first mentioned in the *Šāh-nāma* in the reign of his father, but his major adventures are in the episodes performed in the reign of Kay Țosrow. He is installed by Kay Țosrow as the ruler of a part of Turān after its conquest (ibid., IV, p. 306). He is one of the five heroes who accompany Kay Țosrow into wilderness until Kay Țosrow meets the angel Sorōš and disappears (according to the local tradition, in a cave called Ġār-e Kay Țosrow in Kohgiluya; Enjavi, II, pp. 278, 293-95). They all die in a snow storm on their return journey (*Šāh-nāma*, ed. Khaleghi, IV, pp. 365-69). A mountain pass called Molla-ye Bižan in the Kohgiluya district is believed by the local people to be the place where they died (*Fārs-nāma*, ed. Rastgār, p. 1472; Enjavi, II, p. 174). According to *Mojmal al-tawārikò* (ed. Bahār, pp. 27, 91), Gostaham had the titles *rāst-andāz* (sharpshooter) and *saḳt-kamān varāz* (sharp-shooting paladin). He is probably identical with the Avestan Vistarav (Yt. 5.76, 13.102), descendent of Naotara, i.e., Nōḍar (Darmesteter, II, p. 385).

2. Son of Gaždaham, and brother of Gordāfarid (qq.v.), and one of the paladins of the reign of Kay Țosrow (*Šāh-nāma*, ed. Khaleghi, III, pp. 11, 35). In the *Šāh-nāma*, he is presented as the friend of Bižan (q.v.; III, pp. 50-51). Since Gōdarz (q.v.) does not choose him for single combat in the battle of the Dawāzdah Roḳ (q.v.), Gostaham, to purge his name of this disgrace, pursues the two brothers



of Pirān, Lahhāk and Faršēd, on his own and kills them. He himself suffers, however, serious injuries and is taken by Bižan to Kay Ҷosrow, who saves his life by tying a panacean bead around his arm (ibid., IV, pp. 135-65).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

James Darmesteter, *Le Zend-Avesta*, 2 vols. in 3, Paris, 1960.

Abu'l-Qāsem Enjavi Širāzi, *Mardom wa qahramānān-e Šāh-nāma*, n.p., n.d.; repr. as *Ferdowsi-nāma: Mardom wa Šāh-nāma*, 3 vols., Tehran, 1369 Š./1980.

Ḍabiḥ-Allāh Šafā, *Ḥamasa-sarā'i dar Irān*, 4th ed., Tehran, 1363 Š./1984, pp. 41, 209, 295, 479-80, 591-92.