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MINIATURE FROM A COPY OF FIRDAWSI'S *SHAHNAMA*. 'THE COURT OF GAYUMARTH'

IRAN, SHIRAZ; 1575-1590

LEAF: 42.5 × 27.3 CM

Gayumarth was the first of Iran's mythical kings. Under his rule, men learned to clothe themselves in animal skins, but otherwise lived in harmony with their four-legged fellow creatures. The idyll was shattered when Ahriman, the symbol of evil, sent his son, the Black Div, to conquer Iran.

Gayumarth's son, Siyamak, goes forth to fight the *div*, but is killed. Then Gayumarth himself and his grandson, Hushang, go to war and slay the *div*.

In the center of the picture is Gayumarth, seated on a throne of boulders. On his right, Hushang is standing, while Siyamak is seated, announcing to the king and the people that the *div* has attacked.

Published in:

Joachim Meyer and Peter Wandel: *Shahnama: the Colorful Epic About Iran's Past*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2016, cat.nr. 2;
Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer: *The Human Figure in Islamic Art – Holy Men, Princes, and Commoners*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2017, fig. 39, p. 151;