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CAT. 34. KAY KHUSRAW CAPTURES THE DEMON-OCCUPIED  
BAHMAN CASTLE

IRAN, TABRIZ; 1525-1530

The David Collection, 31/1988

Kay Kaus had become an old man and decided to abdicate. But in addition to his grandson Kay Khusraw, his own son Fariburz also made a claim to Iran's throne. On the Caspian Sea stood Bahman Castle, which had long been unapproachable since it was occupied by bloodthirsty demons. Kay Kaus decided that the one who could capture the castle would succeed him as Iran's king.

Fariburz tried first, but failed when the entrance to the castle magically disappeared. Then it was Kay Khusraw's turn. In a letter, he claimed that it was God's will that he capture the castle. He had the letter thrown over the castle walls while God's name was invoked. Instantly, the wall collapsed. The castle could now be taken and Kay Khusraw, on the black horse at the bottom of the painting, became Iran's new king.

