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CAT. 45. ISFANDIYAR SLAYS THE SIMURGH

IRAN, TABRIZ; 1525-1535

The David Collection, 32/1988

Isfandiyyar's next ordeal was to slay the *simurgh*. It was an enormous bird that nested on a mountaintop from which it swooped down on every creature that passed by. Isfandiyyar had already slain a dragon. On that occasion he had devised a special weapon that could be used once again: a carriage fitted with sharp blades and with an armored coach where he himself could take refuge.

Isfandiyyar rode off alone to the *simurgh's* mountain, where the bird caught sight of the curious carriage and attacked. But the carriage's sharp blades pierced its body and wings, and the bird finally fell to the ground, bleeding from numerous wounds. Then Isfandiyyar could spring out of his hiding place and put an end to the bird.