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CAT. 49. ISKANDAR CONTEMPLATES THE PEOPLES YAJUJ AND MAJUJ

IRAN, SHIRAZ; 1341

The David Collection, 13/1990

On his journey around the world, Iskandar came to a distant city by a mountain inhabited by creatures that caused death and misfortune among its inhabitants. These creatures, the Yajuj and Majuj, had black animal heads with red eyes and fangs. Their bodies were covered with hair and their ears were like those of elephants. When they slept, they could lie on one ear and use the other as a cover.

Iskandar decided to help the poor inhabitants. He had large quantities of iron, copper, bronze, and stone as well as twigs, coal, and oil collected and set fire to the material. After burning for a few days, the mixture had melted into a gigantic, impenetrable wall that kept the Yajuj and Majuj shut away from the rest of the world.

