

“sick increased daily, and that he was unable to reach the Persian camp, he determined to  
 “cease the pursuit, and ordered that the army should march on Nakhchiwan; but, arrived  
 “there, they found that it was completely evacuated, not a single man there. All had left  
 “and taken with them everything, nor had there remained anything save empty houses,  
 “and those largely in ruins. . . . The troops were diminishing in numbers daily, and as  
 “the Sultan saw that there was a great scarcity of victuals and everything . . . and that  
 “the winter was already approaching, he decided to turn back to his country; but, before  
 “leaving, news was brought to him that Isma’il, son of the Sufi, with a large number of  
 “Georgians had fallen on 3,000 camels laden with provisions sent from Cappadocia for  
 “the (Turkish) camp, and badly handled all, cutting to pieces their guards. This was  
 “very bitter news to the Turks, who would have been no little recuperated by these supplies  
 “from the starvation they had suffered for no small length of days. At this news the Sultan  
 “was seized with such a fit of rage that he was on the point of turning back the troops  
 “straightway to the country of the Georgians, who, he well realized, had been responsible  
 “for all these losses inflicted, because for the most part the cavalry with Isma’il were  
 “Georgians. Nothing stopped him from doing this but the rapid approach of winter,  
 “which in those regions is excessively rigorous. . . . So he judged it the better plan to  
 “return to winter in Cappadocia, intending in the new year to revenge himself on the  
 “Georgians.”

The narrative then tells at length how a remarkable old Persian came into the Turkish camp and harangued the Sultan, exhorting him as a Muslim not to do ill to other Muslims, for that was contrary to their law, in such eloquent fashion in the Persian language, which Sultan Sulaiman knew well, that he was moved to tears.

“At the end of his harangue he adjured Sulaiman to make peace with Tahmasp king  
 “of Persia, in such a fine way that Sulaiman was brought to wish to do so. The old man  
 “admitted that before coming to his Majesty he had been to Tahmasp, and fulfilled a like  
 “mission and had found the Persian monarch very disposed to make peace, provided always  
 “that Persian dignity would not be wounded. In order to keep up the reputation (*izzat*)  
 “of the Turks Sulaiman wanted some conditions by which Persian dignity would not have  
 “been preserved. Finally . . . it was proposed that peace should be made on the terms  
 “that each of these monarchs should retain what he had at the beginning of the campaign,  
 “on condition that all subjects and tributaries of the one should be respected by the other:  
 “and so Sulaiman gave his word, and was made to promise by the old Persian man par-  
 “ticularly that, neither then nor after peace was made, would he do any harm to the  
 “Georgians.

“When this decision had been taken the old Persian promised Sulaiman that within a  
 “month he would arrange that Tahmasp would send an ambassador with authority to  
 “conclude peace. With that the old man took leave of Sulaiman, to whom he gave that  
 “book, which he held in his hand while speaking to him, the value of which is said to be  
 “6,000 gold ducats, in return for which Sulaiman gave him double the value. As soon as  
 “the old Persian had left for Tabriz, Sulaiman moved his army, sending it to Amasia in  
 “Cappadocia, where he had given orders for the ambassador from the Persian king to  
 “come: and when he reached Erzerum he sent to inform the provinces of his own return  
 “and that peace with the Persians was about to be made, and for that reason for eight days  
 “there was festival in Aleppo day and night. When Sulaiman arrived in Amasia he dis-  
 “missed the greater part of the Janissaries so that they should return to their houses in  
 “Constantinople. . . .”

The Persian ambassador did not arrive in Amasia before March 1555. The Sultan wished to get him to Constantinople in order to dazzle him with its splendour, but the Persian replied that it would be contrary to the instructions given him.