

“his hands signs bidding them to keep quiet. They did so and returned to their homes.

“The deception had been successful; but, anticipating worse, were the populace to come to know the truth as was necessary, because the death of the king could not be kept indefinitely concealed, the sagacious lady ordered that all the militia then collected at Qazwin should be placed under the control of those seven ‘captains’ . . . and when all had been assembled she disclosed to them the death of the king, exhorting them to keep the country in peace and quiet until the arrival of the new king. In order that this might the more easily be contrived, the town was divided into seven quarters, and the control of them allotted to the seven ‘captains’ severally. . . . She was then able to arrange for tents and other things necessary from Qazwin and surrounding towns to be dispatched, so as to have the new king brought from Shiraz,¹ where he still is, as has been said.

“He” (Muhammad Khudabandeh) “at once set out, and entered Qazwin 25.1.1577,² being then 45 or 46³ years of age, and quite grey, although he dyed his beard, handsome in features and his body well proportioned; but he had an impediment in his sight, so that when he looked down he could see nothing, but when he raised his eyes aloft he could see as well as anyone. But, before he came to Qazwin he sent to summon Samal [*sic*] Sultan, a good captain and liked more than any other by the soldiers, an uncle of Piri Khanum, his” (the king’s) “sister, to have him killed and so that he should not prevent him (the king) from doing the like to his sister, notwithstanding all she had done to preserve the crown for him.

“ . . . Although he suspected the good faith of the king and apprehended that the latter would put him to death, nevertheless he went, but first caused his niece to retire to her house, which he had had fortified, leaving to guard her a large number of men, to whom he entrusted her, giving her everything valuable he possessed, so that they might be the more ready to die in her defence. When he reached the king, he was received affectionately, without the least sign of any evil intention being displayed, and, the more to reassure him, he (Muhammad Khudabandeh) confirmed him in the position of ‘grand chancellor’” (? chief secretary) “which he had held under Shah Isma’il. But no sooner had the king left him than he was at once miserably strangled, according to orders previously given. And at once he” (Muhammad Khudabandeh) “sent to have the like done to Piri Khanum, his sister, who deserved so well of him: and that was to please the queen his wife, who hated her, more on account of the jealousy she bore her for being so wideawake and sagacious a lady. At the same time he had also put to death Aqa Wali Sultan, one of the seven ‘captains’ who had preserved the crown for him, merely because Aqa Wali Sultan formerly while governor of Shiraz had behaved harshly towards him (Muhammad Khudabandeh) when he resided there, and because he had been a great friend of his brother (Shah Isma’il), to a son of whom, aged 4 months, he was acting as guardian and who was also put cruelly to death.

“When the king had entered the town, he made very liberal gifts of hundreds and thousands of ducats, and recalled the old servants of his father, who had been sent into exile by Isma’il, and restored to them their property and customary dignities. He had immediately liberated the ambassadors from the Tatars, who were confined in a fort where his brother had put them, and with gifts and courteous words he manifested to them the displeasure he felt at the ill-procedure and wrong done them by his brother, and that he was very ready to preserve the like friendly relations which

¹ Fr. du Cerceau’s edition of *Fr. Krusinski’s Memoirs* gives not Shiraz but “in the province of Khurasan,” which agrees more than Shiraz with the contemporary account by A, i.e. “a small government in the province of Khurasan, called Cheri” (? *sic* Harat). One English historian, however, has it that Khudabandeh Mirza had been governing Khurasan, but was later appointed to Fars.

² The year being reckoned as beginning in March this would be 25.1.1578 according to modern computation.

³ This tallies with Alessandri’s statement of 1574 in A that he was about 43 then.