

Or.4615

دارابنامه

Date	Late 16th century
Title	Muḥammad ibn Ḥasan Abū Ṭāhir Ṭarsūsī, <i>Dārābnāmah</i>
Content	<p>A Mughal imperial copy of the 12th century prose romance, the <i>Dārābnāmah</i>, the story of Dārāb son of Bahman, and Alexander the Great. The present copy is only a fragment of the complete work, ending with the story of Nāhīd, Dārāb's newly-wedded bride and the future mother of Alexander the Great, being returned pregnant to her father Faylakūs (Philip of Macedon). The 157 paintings are ascribed altogether to 43 individual artists, some of the most famous painters of Akbar's reign.</p> <p>Illustrations (click on the links to take you directly to the manuscript viewer):</p> <p>(1v) Zāl with his sons Rustam, Zavārah and Shaghād.</p> <p>(2r) (above). The dying Rustam standing at the edge of the pit of spears shooting Shaghād. (below). Rūdābah watching as Zāl sends his army under Farāmurz against Bahman.</p> <p>(2v) Zāl imprisoned in a suspended cage by order of Bahman. Artist: Mahish.</p> <p>(3r) Bahman, not realising she is his daughter, selects Humāy out of a group of 40 girls.</p> <p>(3v) Bahman and his horse are swallowed by a dragon.</p> <p>(4r) Hurmuz, the washer man who rescued Dārāb as an infant, washing clothes in the river.</p> <p>(4v) Dārāb displaying his strength by throwing a bleacher's or fuller's club in the air, watched by Hurmuz.</p> <p>(5r) Dārāb lifting Hurmuz.</p> <p>(5v) Dārāb kills Gharjah. Artist: Mahish.</p> <p>(6r) Dārāb in battle with Zāḥḥāk who had been sent to collect tribute. Artist: Lālū.</p> <p>(7v) Dārāb and Zāḥḥāk are brought before Darab's mother, Humāy. Artist: Mithrā.</p> <p>(10r) Zāḥḥāk carried in a litter to Humāy's palace. Artist: Iqbāl.</p> <p>(11v) Humāy playing polo with her slaves. Artist: Sānvalah.</p> <p>(12r) Dārāb meets Humāy on the polo ground. Artist: Mithrā.</p> <p>(12v) Dārāb playing polo. Artist: Bhīnī.</p> <p>(14r) The murdered Jahrūn brought before Humāy by his servants who are asking for justice (attribution cut off).</p>

- (15r) Humāy fainting as the fettered Dārāb is brought before her. Artist: Nānhā.
- (16r) Dārāb left by Zāḥḥāk to face the dragon. Artist: Nānhā.
- (17v) Dārāb fights with the *dīv*, Samandūn.
- (18r) Dārāb brought as a prisoner before Ṭamrūsīyah. Artist: Shīvdās.
- (19v) Dārāb in bed between Ṭamrūsīyah and ‘Anṭūshīyah. Artist: Bhagvān.
- (20v) Dārāb and Ṭamrūsīyah in a boat. Artist: Bhūrah.
- (21r) Dārāb and Ṭamrūsīyah watching a battle between the Zangi army and bears on the Island of Angaliyun. Artist: Paras.
- (21v) The battle continued. Artist: Paras.
- (22r) The battle continued. Artist: Paras.
- (23r) Dārāb asking the sage for the name of the Island of Shish Mināreth. Artist: Bhagvān.
- (23v) Dārāb at the top of the minaret while the sage explains to Ṭamrūsīyah that whoever enters the tower cannot escape. Artist: Bhagvān.
- (24r) ‘Umar entertaining Dārāb and Ṭamrūsīyah to a meal in his tent. Artist: Nānhā.
- (25v) Dārāb drawing the mighty bow of Isfandiyār before Sangarūn. The severed head of the son of the ruler of the Island of Katrun, beheaded because he failed to draw the bow, is fixed to the wall above. Artist: Bhagvān.
- (26r) Khavārīq and Ṭamrūsīyah before the Zangi king and his wife while pages and slaves are seized by the Zangis who later ate them. Artist: Mādhū Khurd.
- (27r) Dārāb, having thrown Hamangū to the giant fish, sleeps in the enclosure of Khavārīq. Artist: Mādhū Khurd.
- (27v) Khavārīq attacking the Zangi king on his throne. Artist: Mādhū Khurd.
- (28r) Khavārīq and the pilgrim looking down at Dārāb and Ṭamrūsīyah after putting them in the well on the false pretext of Dārāb's drunkenness. Artist: Tulūk.
- (28v) Dārāb and Ṭamrūsīyah coming before the zāhid after they had escaped from Khavārīq who had tortured them. Artist: Nānhā.
- (29r) Ṭamrūsīyah watching Dārāb throwing Ṭanbalūs, brother of Qanṭarush, into the water. Artist: Ibrāhīm Qahhār.
- (29v) Mihrāsb and Ṭamrūsīyah watching Dārāb fighting the Zangis. The body of Ṭanbalūs is floating in the water. Artist: Ibrāhīm Qahhār.
- (30r) Dārāb (disguised as a merchant) and Mihrāsb brought before Shāhū, son of Ṭanbalūs. Artist: Nānhā.

- (31r) Dārāb in a boat, with Majallat holding an astrolabe and standing on a bank. Elephants carrying wood nearby. Artist: Jagan.
- (32r) Dārāb looking at the dishes of food left by the sun-worshippers on the mountain. Farrukh Khurd.
- (32v) The battle between the armies of Dilkunād and Kandarūn which was waged with hooks on ropes. Artist: Farrukh Khurd.
- (33r) Dārāb going into battle against the Zangis (attribution partly cut off). Probably Artist: Narāyan.
- (33v) Dārāb receiving homage from the defeated Zangis. Artist: Narāyan.
- (34r) Shāpūr who helped Ṭamrūsīyah search for Dārāb telling her that all the slaves have been sold. Artist: Basāvan.
- (35r) Mihrāsb having lost all his possessions and become a woodcutter found Ṭamrūsīyah in Shāpūr's house. Nānhā.
- (35v) Mihrāsb comforting Ṭamrūsīyah who is overcome by joy at seeing him. Artist: Nānhā.
- (36r) Shāpūr and Ṭamrūsīyah embracing at Nurūz watched by Mihrāsb who crouches in the woodstore. Artist: Banvāri Kalān.
- (37r) Shāpūr returning to his house to find it ransacked. Artist: Sarvan.
- (38r) Mihrāsb and Shāpūr fighting after Shāpūr had accused Mihrāsb of ransacking his room. Artist: Dhanū.
- (39r) Mihrāsb and Ṭamrūsīyah throwing Shāpūr into the sea. Artist: Sānvalah.
- (39v) Mihrāsb opening the door into the walled garden. Artist: Sānvalah.
- (41r) Mihrāsb making love to an ape to placate it and save his own life and that of Ṭamrūsīyah in the land of fierce apes. Artist: Dhanū.
- (41v) Ṭamrūsīyah carrying Mihrāsb from the apes' palace. Artist: Dhanū.
- (42v) The apes sailing in turtle shells and carrying fishbone weapons attacking the boat in which Ṭamrūsīyah is travelling. One defender has a gun. Artist: Bhūrah.
- (43v) Ṭamrūsīyah weeping by the bound Mihrāsb under the Waqwāq Tree. Artist: Narāyan.
- (44r) Ṭamrūsīyah and Mihrāsb under the Waqwāq Tree. Artist: Mukhliṣ.
- (45r) Mihrāsb and the water maiden on the roof of the hut with Ṭamrūsīyah nearby. Artist: Dharmdās.
- (45v) The water people bringing pearls from the sea watched by Ṭamrūsīyah, Mihrāsb and the water maiden on the hut. Artist: Dharmdās.
- (46r) The water maiden's husband, insane with jealousy because of her love for Mihrāsb, tearing their children's bodies apart in front of her, watched by Mihrāsb and Ṭamrūsīyah. Artist: Kisū Kalān.
- (47r) The watchman on the tower of the Island of Malakūt warning the one-eyed people of Mihrāsb's approach by ringing a bell. Artist: Sarvan.

- (47v) Sīṭarūsh, who knew all languages, questioning Mihrāsb in Pahlavi, watched by four of the one-eyed people. Artist: Sarvan.
- (48v) Gawharāsā, widow of Farṭalūs, accusing the bound Sīṭarūsh of placing Mihrāsb on the throne to succeed her husband as King of Malakūt. Artist: Nānhā.
- (49r) Gawharāsā having been killed by a cobra in her husband's tomb is discovered by her daughters. Artist: Sarjan.
- (49v) Mihrāsb's supporters killing the daughter of Farṭalūs and her supporters. Artist: Sarjan.
- (50v) Dārāb ordering Liknād to release Mihrāsb. Artist: Nānhā.
- (51v) A gigantic white serpent drinking watched by Ṭamrūsīyah. Artist: Mukhlis.
- (52r) The parents of the white serpent who were in the form of human-headed winged serpents greeting Ṭamrūsīyah. Artist: Bhagvān.
- (52v) The winged serpents relating their story to Ṭamrūsīyah. Artist: Bhagvān.
- (54r) Ṭamrūsīyah brought before Zangdilīsā, the queen of the Zangis. (Attribution cut) Artist: Bhurah?.
- (54v) Ṭamrūsīyah and Zangdilīsā in a boat.
- (55r) Zangdilīsā offering wine to Ṭamrūsīyah in the boat. Artist: Chaturbhūj.
- (56v) (above). Ṭamrūsīyah thrown into the sea by Zangdilīsā's maidens. Artist: Manī. (below). Two men rescuing Ṭamrūsīyah from the sea. Artist: Manī.
- (58v) Ṭamrūsīyah weeping by the shore is comforted by Satarūn's slaves who are offering her food. Artist: Chaturbhūj.
- (59v) Ṭamrūsīyah recognising Zangdilīsā in the house of Haranqālīs the Greek, where she had been left by Sanṭāraq. Artist: Shankar.
- (62r) Haranqālīs embracing Ṭamrūsīyah having discovered her to be his niece. Artist: Bhagvān.
- (63r) Miniature lost except for the lower half of a seated man on the left and dishes on the right. Artist: Sarjan.
- (64v) Ṭamrūsīyah posing as an envoy in an attempt to end the fighting between Dārāb and Faṣṭaliqīn. Artist: Mithrā.
- (65v) Dārāb fainting as he recognises Ṭamrūsīyah. Artist: Mithrā.
- (66v) Gifts being brought to Dārāb from the besieged fortress including an elephant mounted on wheels. Artist: Sānvalah.
- (67r) Dārāb enthroned receiving the gifts brought by the envoy Shalshaliyūn, including the elephant on wheels. Artist: Nānhā.
- (68r) Ṭamrūsīyah in disguise with her uncle Faṣṭaliqīn in the besieged fortress. Artist: Ibrāhīm Lāhūrī .

- (69v) Dārāb kneeling beside Hartafālis and looking at Faṣṭaliqīn who lies stabbed before the idol. ‘Abqarhūd, who is shown hurrying away, had dreamed of this incident and awoken to find it all true.
- (70v) ‘Antūshiyeh, mother of Ṭamrūsīyah receiving ‘Abqarhūd. Outline by Kālū Lāhūrī and faces by Ibrāhīm Qahhār.
- (73r) ‘Abqarhūd ordering soldiers to go to the prison and murder Ṭamrūsīyah and Kharīṭīnūs. Artist: Tirīyā.
- (73v) Kharīṭīnūs and the daughter of the gaoler's wife (who was substituted for Ṭamrūsīyah) lying dead before ‘Abqarhūd who did not know of the deception. Artist: Tirīyā.
- (74r) ‘Abqarhūd being acclaimed king by his followers. Artist: Mādhū Khurd.
- (75r) Ṭamrūsīyah feasting with the gaoler and his wife and a sailor who did not recognise her. Artist: Dhanū.
- (76v) (above). Dārāb and Hartafālis waiting with twenty men under the ramparts in a boat until the sailor could guide them across the moat into the fortress. (below). Reunion of Dārāb and Ṭamrūsīyah. Artist: Mukhliṣ.
- (77v) Miniature by Narāyan lost except for part of a boat.
- (78v) Dārāb receiving Ṭamrūsīyah's aged grandmother while ‘Abqarhūd stands bound in the foreground. Artist: Karm Chand.
- (79v) Dārāb enthroned with Ṭamrūsīyah beside him. Artist: Kālū Lāhūrī .
- (80v) Ṭamrūsīyah telling Dārāb about ‘Abqarhūd's murderous plot as he stands bound before them. Artists: Sarvan and Paras.
- (81r) Dārāb celebrating his accession to the kingdom of Ḥanṭarash. Artist: Kisū Qahhār.
- (82r) Dārāb watching ‘Abqarhūd being tortured. Artist: Mukhliṣ.
- (82v) ‘Anṭūshīyah and Hartafālis asking the idol oracle the fate of Ṭamrūsīyah. Artist: Mukhliṣ.
- (83r) Dārāb watching the reunion between Ṭamrūsīyah and her mother, ‘Anṭūshīyah. Artist: Bhūrah.
- (83v) Zangdilīsā and the Zangis arriving by boat watched by Ṭamrūsīyah. Artist: Bhūrah.
- (84v) During the quarrel between the crews of the boats Ṭamrūsīyah is killed by Zangdilīsā. Artist: Farrukh Khurd.
- (85r) Dārāb and Haranqālīs discover the body of Ṭamrūsīyah in the boat with her baby. Artist: Shankar.
- (85v) The weeping Dārāb being rowed home whilst Ṭamrūsīyah's coffin and a woman holding her baby are in another boat with Zangdilīsā.
- (87r) Dārāb, watched by Haranqālīs, having consulted the idol oracle to find out the cause of Ṭamrūsīyah's death tying Liknād's arms. Artist: Chaturbhūj.

(88r) (above). Zangdilīsā and Liknād dying as the result of snakebite on 'Arūs Island watched by the countryman who was the only witness of their death. (below). Mihrāsb, by now old and feeble, rescued from the chest by Dārāb on the Island of Malakūt.

(88v) Mihrāsb, blinded by being in the dark so long, being robed and having his eyes attended to by order of Dārāb. Dārāb is being shown the magic stone brought from Mt. Balāvarān. Artist: Paras.

(89v) Dārāb in a boat on his way to Iran to see his mother Humāy. Artist: Khim Qarān.

(90r) Dārāb, reunited with his year-old-son, in a boat with Haranqālīs, 'Anṭūshīyah and Maṭrūshiyeh on their way to Ḥanṭarash. Artist: Mahish.

(90v) Dārāb and his son watching one of the boats accompanying them being wrecked off the Arabian coast near Mt. 'Umān. Artist: Mahish.

(91r) Dārāb's child playing with his nurse at an inn after being saved from the shipwreck. Artist: Bhagvān.

(91v) The inkeeper watching Dārāb who is raking the caravansaray. Artist: Bhagvān.

(92v) Dārāb fighting the slaveboys whose taunting had infuriated him. Artist: Qabūl Chelah (not Farrukh Chelah as previously suggested).

(93v) The merchant having learned Dārāb's story ordered a private room for him in the caravansarai. Artist: Qabūl Chelah.

(94r) Dārāb praying in the temple where he had gone to seek divine guidance. Artist: Bhurah.

(94v) Dārāb with the aged fuller and Jānispar before Muṣṭaliq, the King of Rabat.

(95v) Dārāb and his companions eating in a caravansaray having left Muṣṭaliq. Artist: Tārā.

(96r) Muṣṭaliq and his vizier Shūyārbak, before Dārāb. Outline by Mādhū Kalān, portraits by Chaturbhūj.

(98r) 'Anṭūshīyah discovering the body of Muṣṭaliq after he had been murdered by his two sons. Artist: Nānhā.

(98v) 'Anṭūshīyah, Mihtantasiyah and a suckling child in the house as Dārāb rides off to rescue Humāy from the Qayṣar of Rūm. Artist: Nānhā.

(99v) Humāy being seized and bound by order of the Qayṣar of Rūm. Artist: Mithrā.

(100v) Dārāb pulling up a tree to use as a weapon as Humāy is abducted by Kuh Āsā and the Qayṣar of Rūm. Artist: Miskīnah.

(101r) Dārāb untying Humāy's bonds after he defeated Kuh Āsā and his men. Artist: Mādhū Khurd.

(102r) Dārāb, with Humāy beside him, throwing rocks at the Qayṣar of Rūm's army. On the right the Qayṣar is shown with Kuh Āsā. Artist: Ibrāhīm Qahhār.

- (102v) Rashnavād walking in the tomb in the city of Ray, where he hid, to find himself being bound up by his son, neither recognising the other. Artist: Ibrāhīm Qahhār.
- (103v) Rashnavād having been abandoned by the Qayṣar's men on Mt. Tabark near Ray telling Dārāb and Humāy of his adventures. Work by Bihzād, corrected by ‘Abd al-Ṣamad.
- (104v) A council of war between the treacherous Iranians and Kuh Āsā secretly watched by Dārāb, Humāy and Rashnavād. Dhanū.
- (105r) Dārāb watched by Humāy and Rashnavād, attacking the Qayṣar's army with a tree trunk. Ibrāhīm Qahhār.
- (106r) Dārāb continuing his battle with the Qayṣar's army. Artist: Tulsī Kalān.
- (106v) The goat, sent in answer to their prayers, which saved Humāy and Rashnavād from thirst (attribution cut). Artist: probably Tulsī Kalān.
- (107r) Humāy and Rashnavād arriving at the house of Nūrshān, the merchant who hid them. Artist: Ibrāhīm Lāhūrī.
- (108r) Nūrshān and his wife entertaining Humāy and Rashnavād. Artist: Sānvalah.
- (108v) Humāy, having been recognised as the Queen of the Iranians, being honoured in the house of Yulīmān, the goldsmith. Artist: Sānvalah.
- (109v) Humāy promising Yulīmān he will be appointed amīr of Ray as a reward while Ghammāz the traitor who informed on the m stands behind him. Artist: Chaturbhūj.
- (110r) Ghammāz telling his story to the Qayṣar who disbelieves him and orders him to be bound (attribution cut).
- (111r) Ghammāz captured by Yulīmān and brought before Humāy and Rashnavād as the traitor who tried to reveal their whereabouts to the Qayṣar. Artist: Paras Qahhār.
- (111v) Neighbours of Yulīmān reading a letter and discovering the body of Ghammāz who had been killed by Yulīmān who himself then fled with Humāy and Rashnavād. Humāy ordered Yulīmān to leave a letter on the body telling of Ghammāz's treachery. Artist: Paras Qahhār.
- (112v) The dragon outside its mountain cave explaining to Dārāb that it had been sent by God as His servant on earth. Artist: Narāyan.
- (113r) The reunion of Dārāb (dismounting from his horse) with Humāy and Rashnavād watched by the dragon. Artist: Qisū Qahhār.
- (113v) Humāy presenting Dārāb as her successor to the throne of Iran. Artist: Qisū Qahhār.
- (114r) Humāy watched by Dārāb as she dictates letters announcing Dārāb's accession and appoints Yulīmān to be amīr of Ray and Rashnavād to be Dārāb's personal assistant. Artist: Dharmdās.

- (114v) Dārāb leading his army against the Qayṣar of Rūm. Artist: Dharmdās.
- (115v) The Qayṣar falling from his elephant and Dārāb recapturing the Iranian standard from the standard bearer. Artist: Jagan.
- (116r) Rashnavād bringing the Qayṣar as a prisoner before Humāy and Dārāb (attribution cut).
- (117r) Dārāb receiving a letter from Faylaqūs (Philip of Macedon), brother of the Qayṣar of Rūm. Artist: Mithrā.
- (117v) The Turanians buliding the city of Dārābgīrd in the sea, as part of their reparations, directed by Dārāb. Artist: Mithrā.
- (118v) Humāy's groom, who had a secret passion for her, murdering her at night when she would not submit to him. Artist: Manī.
- (119v) Dārāb having his armour put on before he set out to avenge the murder of Rashnavād. Artist: Bhagvān.
- (120r) (above). Dārāb attacking Shu‘ayb, the Arab who had killed Rashnavād. (below). Dārāb carrying Shu‘ayb away.
- (121r) Shu‘ayb about to be executed reminds Dārāb that they are both descended from the lines of Zāḥḥāk and Jamshīd and is pardoned by Dārāb. Artist: Tirīyā.
- (122r) Faylaqūs and Shu‘ayb together. Artist: Jagan.
- (123r) Dārāb receiving the homage of Faylaqūs and Shu‘ayb. Artist: Mukhliṣ.
- (123v) Dārāb realising the treachery of Faylaqūs and Shu‘ayb seizing them both by their throats during the meal. Artist: Mukhliṣ.
- (126r) Faylaqūs reunited with his family, embracing his wife. Artist: Shīvdās.
- (127r) Dārāb capturing the town of ‘Amurīyah where Faylaqūs lived. Faylaqūs is shown on the roof which had been decorated with arms and standards to deceive Dārāb into thinking the fortress was heavily guarded. Artist: Manī.
- (128r) Filāsūn, vizier to Faylaqūs bringing gifts to Dārāb. Artist: Darkah.
- (129r) Dārāb is offered Nāhid, daughter of Faylaqūs, in marriage.

Language Persian

Physical description

Material: Paper.

Foliation: ff 129, but the original enumeration extended apparently up to 160.

Dimensions: 35.6 x 23.5 cm. [leaf].

Script: Nasta‘liq.

Decorations: 157 miniatures (out of at least 200 according to the original enumeration); gold-ruled margins; decorated ‘*unvān*’.

Binding: The miniatures have been mounted separately in frames. European binding.

Ownership Part of the imperial Mughal library ([f 1r](#): 'class 2'); seals dated between 1828 and 1847 indicate that it subsequently belonged to the royal library of the kings of Oudh ([f. 129v](#)). Bought from 'Mr. Quaritsch' 15 February 1893.

Bibliography Charles Rieu, *Supplement to the Catalogue of the Persian Manuscripts in the British Museum* (London, 1895), no. 385.

Norah M. Titley, *Miniatures from Persian Manuscripts: a Catalogue and Subject Index of Paintings from Persia, India and Turkey in the British Library and the British Museum* (London, 1977), pp. 8-11.

J. P. Losty and Malini Roy, *Mughal India: Art, Culture and Empire* (London, 2012), pp. 32-7.

Blog: [The tales of Darab: a medieval Persian prose romance](#)