

- Thou know'st if, since from Ader-baijan<sup>1</sup> first  
 I came among the Tartars and bore arms,  
 I have still served Afrasiab well, and shown,  
 45 At my boy's years, the courage of a man.  
 This too thou know'st, that while I still bear on  
 The conquering Tartar ensigns through the world,  
 And beat the Persians back on every field,  
 I seek one man, one man, and one alone —  
 50 Rustum, my father; who I hoped should greet,  
 Should one day greet, upon some well-fought field,  
 His not unworthy, not inglorious son.  
 So I long hoped, but him I never find.  
 Come then, hear now, and grant me what I ask.  
 55 Let the two armies rest to-day; but I  
 Will challenge forth the bravest Persian lords  
 To meet me, man to man; if I prevail,  
 Rustum will surely hear it; if I fall —  
 Old man, the dead need no one, claim no kin.  
 60 Dim is the rumor of a common fight,  
 Where host meets host, and many names are sunk;  
 But of a single combat fame speaks clear.”  
 He spoke; and Peran-Wisa took the hand  
 Of the young man in his, and sigh'd, and said:—  
 65 “O Sohrab, an unquiet heart is thine!  
 Canst thou not rest among the Tartar chiefs,  
 And share the battle's common chance with us  
 Who love thee, but must press forever first,  
 In single fight incurring single risk,  
 70 To find a father thou hast never seen?  
 That were far best, my son, to stay with us  
 Unmurmuring; in our tents, while it is war,  
 And when 'tis truce, then in Afrasiab's towns.

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<sup>1</sup> *Ader-baijan* (Azer-bī'yān). A province of north-western Persia, on the Turanian frontier.