

Kohik, and where the Kalmuks feed their sheep,  
The northern Sir;<sup>44</sup> and this great Oxus stream—  
The yellow Oxus, by whose brink I die.”

And, with a heavy groan, Rustum replied :—  
“Oh that its waves were flowing over me ! 765  
Oh that I saw its grains of yellow silt<sup>45</sup>  
Roll tumbling in the current o’er my head !”

[*Sohrab's dying wish. "Draw off your forces ; build for me a memorial pillar in Seistan." He foretells the death of Rustum.*]

And, with a grave mild voice, Sohrab replied :—  
“Desire not that, my father ; thou must live.  
For some are born to do great deeds, and live, 770  
As some are born to be obscur'd, and die.  
Do thou the deeds I die too young to do,  
And reap a second glory in thine age.  
Thou art my father, and thy gain is mine.  
But come : thou seest this great host of men 775  
Which follow me ; I pray thee, slay not these :  
Let me entreat for them : what have they done ?  
They follow'd me, my hope, my fame, my star.  
Let them all cross the Oxus back in peace.  
But me thou must bear hence, not send with them, 780  
But carry me with thee to Seistan,  
And place me on a bed and mourn for me,  
Thou, and the snow-hair'd Zal, and all thy friends.  
And thou must lay me in that lovely earth,  
And heap a stately mound above my bones, 785  
And plant a far-seen pillar over all :  
That so the passing horseman on the waste  
May see my tomb a great way off, and say—

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<sup>44</sup> Sir. Another name for the river Jaxartes.

<sup>45</sup> silt. A deposit of mud or fine earth.