

## SOHRAB AND RUSTUM

AND the first gray of morning fill'd the east,  
And the fog rose out of the Oxus<sup>1</sup> stream.  
But all the Tartar<sup>2</sup> camp along the stream  
Was hush'd, and still the men were plunged in sleep;  
5 Sohrab alone, he slept not; all night long  
He had lain wakeful, tossing on his bed;  
But when the gray dawn stole into his tent,  
He rose, and clad himself, and girt his sword,  
And took his horseman's cloak, and left his tent,  
10 And went abroad into the cold wet fog,  
Through the dim camp to Peran-Wisa's<sup>3</sup> tent.  
Through the black Tartar tents he pass'd, which  
stood  
Clustering like beehives on the low flat strand  
Of Oxus, where the summer floods o'erflow  
15 When the sun melts the snows in high Pamere<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> *Oxus*. The principal river of Central Asia, 1400 miles in length, and emptying into the Sea of Aral. It separates Turan from Iran, or the Persian Empire.

<sup>2</sup> *Tartar*. The Tartars, or Black Tartars, fierce Turanian tribes, who, on being overthrown in China, moved westwards and founded an empire which stretched from the Oxus to the desert of Shamo.

<sup>3</sup> *Peran-Wisa* (Pē'rān-Wē'sä). A Turanian chief, and the commander of King Afrasiab's Tartar forces.

<sup>4</sup> *Pamere*. The Pamir is an extensive plateau region, 13,000 feet high, in Central Asia, north-east of Afghanistan. The Oxus River has its source in this plateau.